

**THE ESSEX COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH & JUSTICE SYSTEM TASK FORCE** was established in 1995 to bring together community partners to monitor and address the specialized needs of individuals with serious and persistent mental illness who had become involved in the criminal justice system.

In July of 2007, 672\* Court started up locally as a fully-functional mental health court. "672" denotes the section of the Criminal Code of Canada dealing with Mental Disorders and its use affords individuals privacy.

#### **672 COURT STRIVES TO:**

- Adopt a "problem solving" approach to prosecutions involving special needs individuals in the local community.
- Provide timely access to mental health treatment and support in the Mental Health System.
- Add a treatment component to court dispositions.

672 Court is supported by the Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, the Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services, the Ontario Ministry of Children and Youth Services, Legal Aid Ontario, and the Canadian Mental Health Association, Windsor-Essex County Branch.

## **PHONE NUMBERS TO REMEMBER**

Lawyer:

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Legal Aid Ontario:

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Mental Health Court Support Worker:

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For more information contact:  
**Canadian Mental Health Association**  
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Visit us on the Web at  
[Http://www.cmha-wecb.on.ca](http://www.cmha-wecb.on.ca)

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**THE ESSEX COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH & JUSTICE SYSTEM TASK FORCE PRESENTS:**



# **672 COURT**

**A Specialized Court for  
Persons with a Serious Mental  
Illness who come into conflict  
with the Law**

## 672 COURT DESCRIPTION

This specialized court allows dedicated judges, crown attorneys, duty counsel, court clerks, court reporters, and mental health court support workers to add a treatment component to court dispositions involving mentally ill offenders in the local community in order to help prevent or reduce repeated contact with the Criminal Justice System.

## WHO QUALIFIES FOR THIS COURT?

The Windsor-Essex County 672 Court is designed to hear criminal cases involving residents of Windsor and Essex County who are experiencing a serious mental illness and/or mental health symptoms and who have become involved with the Criminal Justice System as a result of their mental health symptoms.

Individuals not yet diagnosed but experiencing symptoms are eligible for an assessment.

## PROGRAM GOALS

- To divert mentally ill persons from the legal system into the mental health system.
- To provide a cost-effective approach to addressing the mental health needs of offenders.
- To reduce recidivism, provide community protection, ease the caseload of the courts and help to alleviate the problem of increasing jail populations.

## SERVICES OFFERED IN 672 COURT

- The Court may sit as either a Youth or Adult Court .
- The Court speaks to ongoing matters, hears guilty pleas, and imposes various dispositions.
- Assessment orders may be made with respect to fitness to stand trial or with respect to criminal responsibility pursuant to the Criminal Code.
- Assessment orders may be made pursuant to the Mental Health Act where the administration of justice would benefit from a psychiatric assessment of the accused.
- Mental Health Diversion may be granted pursuant to the parameters of the Crown Policy Manual in regard to eligibility.

**NOTE: 672 COURT IS NOT A TRIAL COURT**

## SPECIALIZED COURT SUPPORT WORKERS AVAILABLE

- Mental Health Court Support Workers through the Canadian Mental Health Association, Windsor-Essex County Branch
- Transitional-Aged Youth Mental Health Court Coordinator through Regional Children's Centre, Windsor Regional Hospital
- Justice System Dual Diagnosis Case Manager through Regional Support Associates

## HOW TO ACCESS THIS COURT

- Defense counsel or duty counsel may request the transfer of a case into 672 Court.
- The Crown may review and endorse a file as appropriate for resolution in 672 Court.
- Matters are transferred into 672 Court through # 1 Court in the Ontario Court of Justice.

*Early intervention is optimal when treating a mental illness. For this reason, it is requested that a referral be made as soon as mental health symptoms are identified. This ensures that the appropriate mental health court support worker will become involved at the earliest opportunity.*