

Welcome!

Whatever your reason for being here, and however you feel about it right now, we welcome you into this program. The main purpose of our diversion program is to offer you an opportunity to hold yourself accountable for your past behaviors, to heal from the wounds those behaviors caused, and to learn what it takes to never repeat them. We also offer you opportunities to further build on and develop your strengths and a healthy and happy life!

This curriculum allows facilitators to guide class participants to critically evaluate their behavior and its sources and identify appropriate changes. This class will be interactive, with encouraged communication to offer perspectives on how the topics relate to participants personally. The program is designed to assist in the exploration of more useful coping styles, and to identify behavioral issues that can be addressed through additional therapy and referrals.

Prostitution has a serious impact on every sector in our community. Not only does it affect the neighborhood and the people that live in it, the monetary value of the community decreases when prostitution is present. Because of the deep impact prostitution has on the community, this diversion program was implemented with an excellent strategy to re-educate the participants. In the past, this problem was addressed by placing the victims being prostituted into custody and allowing the “John” to only pay a fine. This did not deter the activity and gave no positives results. This problem has had a negative impact on the neighborhood, the community as a whole, and the women involved in prostitution. It also has proved to be costly to the County in terms of returning women over and over to jail where there is no response to their issues while seeing “Johns” return to the same behavior with little to no consequence. In response, this program was implemented to target the demand, to educate and attempt to sensitize the offender to the social, community, and personal consequences of their behavior.

About the Program

This class has been ordered as a Community Court ordered sanction, in addition to paying court fees and fines for soliciting prostitution. This class consists of a seven-hour educational program in which various facilitators and survivors of prostitution, as well as community members provide a series of educational components to the participants.

Although the program is not individualized, we believe that different people need different types, different levels, and different amounts of treatment, and treatment must be aimed at the needs of each individual if it is to be effective. Different people have different treatment needs, and different risk and protective factors at play in their lives. Additional resources will be made available to participants to seek further assistance. Our main goal is to help you to grow in positive ways, and help reduce behaviors that may be harmful to yourself and others.

Program Objectives

- Ensure that participants take personal responsibility for their actions
- Educate participants about the nature of prostitution law
- Increase participant's awareness of victims of street prostitution
- Increase participant's awareness of the dangers of street prostitution
- Increase awareness that they may have a problem with their own sexual behavior
- Change attitudes towards prostitution
- Deter from engaging in future prostitution-related activities.

Program Curriculum

The curriculum will feature the following 5 primary content areas:

Sex Socialization

Purpose: Participants will gain understanding of the socialization of sex process and its impact on relationships; identify and understand how socialization affects behavior; and gain insight into personal treatment of victims.

Sexual Messages

Purpose: Participants will gain perspective about distorted views of sexual relationships; obtain insight into their evaluation of their sexually deviant behavior; and recognize healthy alternatives to the sexual treatment of others.

Sexual Health Education and Prevention

Purpose: Participants will gain knowledge to decrease the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted infections between victims, buyers of sex, and their partners.

Personal Empowerment

Purpose: Participants will be encouraged to make healthier decisions about their lives; to differentiate between healthy and unhealthy interpersonal and sexual relationships

Insightful Discussion

Purpose: Participants will have an opportunity to address any area of uncertainty; dispel myths about prostitution; and learn how prostitution impacts victims.

Agenda

Time	Topic	Presenter(s)
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Register	
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Prostitution Law and Street Facts	Law Enforcement Professional
10:30 am – 11:30 am	Dynamics of Pimping, Recruiting, and Trafficking	Law Enforcement Professional
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Effects of Prostitution on the Victim and the Community	Survivor
12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch	
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Health Education	Health Care Professional
2:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Deviant Sexual Behavior	Sexual Violence Treatment Professional
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Panel Discussion	
4:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Closing	

1. **Prostitution Law and Street Facts (Presented by Law Enforcement Professional)**
Focusing on the legal consequences of subsequent offenses and addressing johns' vulnerability to being robbed or assaulted while involved in prostitution.
Understanding the history, current laws, and the impact of prostitution on women and communities.
2. **Dynamics of Pimping, Recruiting, and Trafficking (Presented by Law Enforcement Professional)**
Featuring discussions of how pimps and traffickers recruit, control, and exploit women and girls for profit, and the links between local street prostitution and larger systems of human trafficking.
3. **Effect of Prostitution on Victims and the Community (Presented by Survivor)**
Focusing on numerous negative consequences for women serving as prostitutes, such as vulnerability to rape and assault, health problems, drug addiction, and various forms of exploitation. Understanding the role of emotions and defenses in engaging and rationalizing prostitution.
4. **Health Education (Presented by Health Care Professional)**
Describing the elevated risk of HIV and STD infection associated with prostitution, and stressing that many STDs are asymptomatic and/or difficult to detect and have long term negative impacts on health. Among the topics covered are discussion of local outbreaks and symptoms. Brochures about sexually transmitted infections are provided.
5. **Deviant Sexual Behavior (Presented by Sexual Offender Treatment Professional)**
Focusing on how involvement in commercial sex may be driven by sexual addiction, and where help for this condition can be sought. Understanding the reasons for seeking prostitutes; introduction to change strategies, including self-awareness, thought-behavior sequence, and reducing resistance to change. The effects of prior abuse and neglect, and its residual effects and connections to adult psychopathological behavior. Understanding relationships with self and others, patterns and intimacy, emotional and relational needs, and motivations for seeking prostitutes. Understanding the need for intimacy; normalizing non-sexual contact; differentiating between sex and intimacy, normal versus compulsive behaviors.
6. **Questions and Answers Session/ Panel Discussion**
Processing all prior session information, and putting a viable plan together to prevent future sexually deviant behaviors, and offering continued individual and/or group psychotherapy.