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Over the last several years my office, along with local law enforcement, has focused on the problems created by human sex trafficking. When cases are forwarded for prosecution, we often learn that prosecutors are searching for appropriate sentencing options for convicted offenders of the sex trade. I hope this letter will inform you about an important tool to consider.

In 2015, I formed the state's Human Trafficking Commission. The Commission was tasked with combating human trafficking in North Dakota, including a focus on human trafficking prevention. The Commission, in conjunction with the University of Mary, developed a Demand Reduction Program, commonly referred to as a "john's school". After exploring successful programs in other states, the framework for the program emerged. The concept behind this type of program is that certain offenders of solicitation crimes will not reoffend once they more fully understand the effect of their behavior on themselves and others. Similar programs in other states report an average recidivism rate of only 1.88%.

The **Demand Reduction Program** is designed to make participants aware of the effect of prostitution and sex trafficking on communities, survivors, spouses, and children. It is also designed to reduce recidivism through a sentence and diversion education program. The program is authorized by N.D.C.C. § 12.1-29-07 and is intended as a sentencing option. It takes place in just one day, which includes five sessions. The cost of the program is \$500, and is paid by the offender. Detailed information is on the attached sheet.

The Demand Reduction Program is now available as an option when sentencing offenders. It is offered through the University of Mary and will be available in Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Watford City, and Minot, beginning in September 2017. It is anticipated the program will be offered four times a year, in September, December, March and June.

We recently presented information on this program to the District Judges, and later at a meeting of North Dakota's state's attorneys, but it appears the municipal prosecutors and judges may not be aware of it. For additional information about the program, please contact Chad Litton at the University of Mary at (701) 355-3753, [demandreduction@umary.edu](mailto:demandreduction@umary.edu), or [umary.life/nddemandreduction](http://umary.life/nddemandreduction).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wayne Stenehjem".

Wayne Stenehjem  
Attorney General

Enc: DRP Information

# Demand Reduction Program (DRP)

An intermediate sentencing, diversion and education option for offenders.

**1. What It Is:** This program is designed to reduce recidivism of participants through a sentence and diversion aspect involving an education program.

- Impact of prostitution and sex trafficking on communities, survivors, spouses, and children
- Cost is \$500 for the offender to attend
- Make participants aware of services available in their community for issues specific to DRP

**2. Program Curriculum:** The program is designed to span over the course of one day, eight to ten hours including lunch break with a total of five sessions. Sessions include:

- Cause of human trafficking — connection between prostitution, trafficking, and criminal activity
- Impacts of human trafficking on the buyer — legal ramifications, medical and health risks of further criminal activity
- Impacts of human trafficking on the victim — connection between their criminal activity and health, psychological, and social impacts on the victim
- Impacts of human trafficking on the community — local, regional, and global aspect
- Developing healthy relationships and communities — conditions of healthy relationships, services available to aid individuals, responsibilities as a member of a community to develop healthy personal attitudes regarding intimacy and sexuality

**3. Mission Statement:** Improve the health of relationships and communities in our region through educating offenders about the impacts of their action on themselves and others.

## 4. Goals:

- Make an intermediate sentencing/diversion and education option available for ND offenders charged with purchasing prostitution
- Decrease recidivism of participants through education regarding the impacts of participation in prostitution and sex trafficking
- Make participants aware of services available in their community for issues covered in DRP

## 5. Locations & Months:

- Programs can be offered in Bismarck, Fargo, Grand Forks, Watford City, and Minot
- Programs will be offered in September, December, March, and June

## North Dakota Century Code 12.1-29-07 Offender education program

A sentence for an offense under section 12.1-29-06 or chapter 12.1 - 41 may include an order for the offender to participate in an offender education program on the negative consequences of the commercial sex industry, including health and legal consequences and the impact on communities, survivors, spouses, and children. The court may order the offender to pay the cost of the offender education program.

**65th Legislative Assembly.** In the summer of 2016, in conjunction with CAWS North Dakota and the Attorney General's Human Trafficking Commission the University of Mary's Criminal Justice Program began working to develop the curriculum for the Demand Reduction Program or as it is more commonly known as "john's school." After completing research on successful programs in other states, the University of Mary settled on the basic framework of the First Offender Prostitution Program in San Francisco and the Breaking Free Program in the Twin Cities. The concept behind this type of intermediate sentencing option is that certain offenders will not reoffend once they more fully understand the impact of their behavior on themselves and others. These programs, and other similar programs, have an average recidivism rate of 1.88%.

### CONTACT:

(701) 355-3753 || [demandreduction@umary.edu](mailto:demandreduction@umary.edu) || [umary.life/nddemandreduction](http://umary.life/nddemandreduction)

Made possible by cooperation from FUSE, CAWS, Youthworks, ND Attorney General's Office, and the University of Mary. The content of the curriculum is the product of this cooperation and is supervised by the Criminal Justice Department at the University of Mary as part of its commitment to a healing justice for the whole community.