

Georgia Public Defender Council's Client Support Services Unit Fact Sheet



What is the GPDC Client Support Services Unit?

The Client Support Services Unit (CSSU) comprises of skilled case Specialists who work with public defenders throughout the state of Georgia. The Unit provides alternatives to incarceration and support the transition from punishment to purpose for individuals facing criminal charges. Specialists will collect information from clients to assist public defenders in advocating for individualized community-based options as alternatives to jail or prison sentences.

Who Can Participate?

Adults who have been accused of a criminal offense and **without** a hold in another county, state, or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

What is Involved if I Agree to Services?

If you agree to participate, you will be assigned to a specialist who will work with you and your public defender to make recommendations to the court.

Also, you will have an opportunity at the end of the mitigation process to participate in post-services that can connect you to other community-based options such as: mental health treatment, vocational training, or employment resources, etc.

Two primary requirements for participation are:

1.) Full cooperation with your assigned Specialist

You will be asked to meet with your assigned case specialist and cooperate with the entire mitigation process. Your cooperation is necessary as your specialist works with your public defender to explore alternatives to time spent in jail or prison and to make recommendations to the court.

2.) Family & Social Support Contacts

You will be asked to provide contact information of supportive individuals who can work with us to develop letters of support for your court case.

How Long do I Need to Participate?

We ask that you work with us for at least 3 months. We are committed to helping you get the support you need to be successful in the community and out of jail or prison. Ultimately, your cooperative participation depends on you.

Is There a Cost to Participate?

No, our services are free to you.

What if I Don't Want to Participate?

Your participation is completely voluntary. You have the right to refuse or to stop working with the case specialist at any time.

If you decide not to participate in services or stop participating at any time, you will continue to receive the same public defender services that you would normally.

Who do I Ask for Questions about CSSU?

If you have questions about our services, ask your public defender or assigned CSSU case specialist to get more information.

Do You Wish to Participate?

If you would like to participate, please discuss the next steps with your assigned public defender.