



For Immediate Release

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Summit County Common Pleas Reentry Court Announces New Program MENTOR (Mentors Empowering Now to Overcome Recidivism)

Summit County, Ohio: The Summit County Common Pleas Court Reentry Program has developed a new mentor program called MENTOR (Mentors Empowering Now to Overcome Recidivism)

MENTOR is a court-based program, coordinated by Reentry Court Judges Mary Margaret Rowlands, Tammy O'Brien and Alison McCarty, that matches Reentry Court participants with volunteer mentors.

Mentoring is not a cure for all the problems and decisions facing Reentry Court participants as they transition back to their community after incarceration. Rather, the essence of mentoring is a sustained human relationship: a one-on-one relationship that, with a commitment to work and support, can empower participants to make a successful and positive transition back into society.

After completing specialized mentor training, mentors are paired with a mentee by Reentry Court Mentor Specialist, Nicole Argenio. Mentors are asked to meet with their mentees at least one time per month with additional options of communication including virtual meetings, phone calls, and e-mails. Mentors are tasked with assisting their mentees with setting specific, measurable, and achievable life goals.

Over the course of the program, mentors provide emotional support and encouragement to their participants, as well as practical assistance to overcome some of the traditional barriers to successful reentry. MENTOR also empowers its participants to take advantage of additional resources provided through a network of community-based partner organizations.

When a participant successfully completes Reentry Court, the assigned mentor works with the participant to address any needs and be support for the participant up to one year after they complete the program.

Who can mentor?

Those interested in being a Reentry Mentor must meet the following criteria:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Have lived experience with recovery or the justice system and have success.
- Be willing to meet at least once a month with your assigned mentee.
- Fill out a Reentry Mentor Application and submit to a background check (a past criminal record does not automatically disqualify someone from becoming a Reentry Mentor!)
- Attend Certified Volunteer training and Reentry Mentor training provided by E-Based Academy.
- Be dedicated to changing lives one person at a time!

How do I become a mentor?

If you wish to become a mentor, please complete and submit an application to Nicole Argenio at ReentryMentorProgram@cpcourt.summitoh.net.

Questions?

If you have questions or are interested in serving as a mentor, please contact our Reentry Court Mentor Specialist Nicole Argenio at 330.643.6515.or ReentryMentorProgram@cpcourt.summitoh.net

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Contact: Susan Sweeney, Assistant Court Executive Officer
ssweeney@cpcourt.summitoh.net