



Courthouse Dogs Program Development Consultation

Courthouse Dogs consultants will assist you in designing and implementing a successful courthouse dog program for your jurisdiction or agency..

The basic steps in the overall process of development of a dog program are:

- Assessment of the need for a courthouse dog
- Building support among the professional staff for the program
- Writing protocols and procedures for the dog
- Development of a detailed plan – who will handle the dog, where will it stay during office hours, who will have priority in its use, and so on
- Application for a professionally trained dog from an accredited assistance dog organization
- Integration of the dog into the office environment.

Program development begins with an initial site visit by consultants who will give presentations to all groups involved in decision making about the dog program – judges, prosecutors, child advocacy center staff and board of directors, victim advocates, and law enforcement officers.

While working closely with your office, Courthouse Dogs will develop a detailed job description for your dog, along with customized policies and protocols. This will include meeting with your risk assessment team to work out the details of insurance coverage and limitations on the dog's usage.

Courthouse Dogs will contact the various accredited assistance dog training organizations that serve your geographical area and help you determine the best one to work with. We will also assist you with the application process for an assistance dog.

After you acquire your professionally trained dog, we will be available to answer any questions that arise and help you problem solve during the inevitable adjustment period. During this time you will have access to unlimited email and phone consulting support throughout the entire process.