



Drug Courts/Deferred Entry

and the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act
A California Voter Initiative — November 2000

The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act is a diversion program for non-violent drug offenders who would be better served by treatment than incarceration. While this initiative does set up a new process for diversion, it is complementary to the established Drug Courts and Deferred Entry programs.

The Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act expands services for non-violent, addicted persons by creating a state-wide diversion system that is available to all defendants who qualify, regardless of their location. By contrast, Drug Courts programs are available only in certain counties, with varying rules in each location.

Also, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act allocates enough funds for treatment services so that all diverted defendants may be placed in high quality treatment programs. The two existing diversion systems often depend on minimal treatment resources now available. Treatment programs that currently receive clients from Drug Courts and Deferred Entry may also accept clients through the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act. Therefore, the \$120 million allocated annually for five years by this initiative will benefit all of the diversion systems by increasing funding for all available treatment programs.

Diversion programs have proven to be both financially and socially successful across the United States. Like the Drug Court and Deferred Entry programs, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act will save money and stop the cycle of addiction and crime.

The average cost to California taxpayers per inmate, per year, is \$23,406.

— *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, BJS, '97*

The average cost for a full treatment program ranges from \$1,800 to \$6,800 per client.

— *National Treatment Evaluation Study, CSAT, '97*

All research references are available upon request.

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