



United States District Court
Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division
219 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois 60604

NOTICE

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, will be accepting recommendations for the Sentencing Options that Achieve Results (SOAR) program beginning March 27, 2023 through April 17, 2023

Beginning March 27 through April 17, 2023, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois will be accepting recommendations from attorneys of record to the Sentencing Options that Achieve Results (SOAR) program. The link for applications will be made available on the Northern District of Illinois U.S. District Court's website.

To be eligible for recommendation, a defendant must have a federal criminal case pending in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; must have been released on bond; and must reside in the Northern District of Illinois. Defendants with no prior felony conviction, no violent conviction history, no sex offense history, and whose pending federal offense was not violent and/or sexual in nature may be recommended. Only those under consideration for the program will be contacted by the SOAR Court team by May 30, 2023. Acceptance into the SOAR program is by agreement of the SOAR Court team of Assistant U.S. Attorneys, Federal Defenders, and U.S. Pretrial Services Office.

SOAR participants meet in bi-monthly court sessions with members of the SOAR Court Team to discuss participants' progress in efforts to succeed: sobriety, stability, constructive employment, education and crime-free and productive lifestyle. Participation in the SOAR program lasts from eighteen to twenty-four months. Successful completion of the program results in either the imposition of a non-custodial sentence, reduction to a misdemeanor conviction, or possible dismissal of the criminal charges.

The number of defendants accepted is predicated upon the court program size. Currently, the SOAR program has capacity for up to 20 participants at one time.

All incoming SOAR participants must be fully vaccinated (i.e. at least two weeks after last dose) for COVID-19 or have an approved exemption to this requirement on the basis of a sincerely held religious belief or medical condition.

Date of notice: March 20, 2023