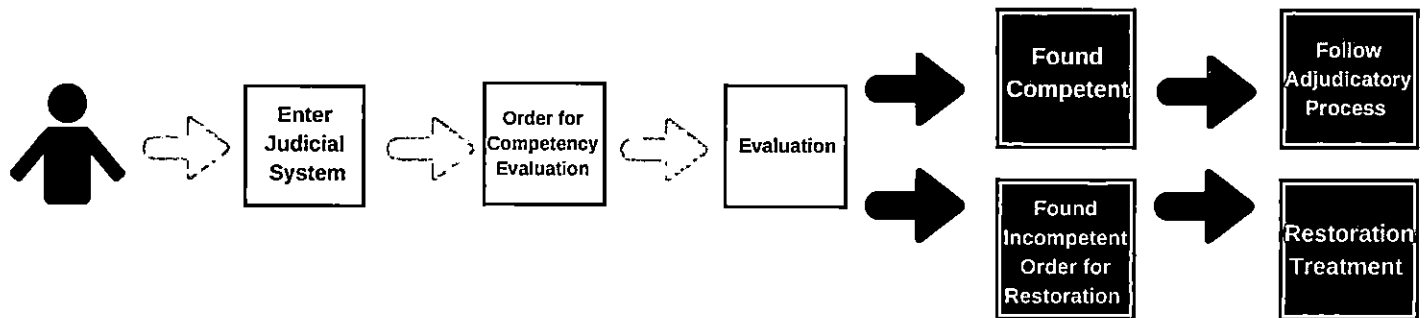


Please Vote YES on SB 223

In 2018, many stakeholders and the legislature tried to enact sweeping legislation to reform Colorado courts' competency restoration system (SB 252). However, for many there were fatal flaws in that legislation, but we have saved and expanded upon many of the great provisions. Here are some highlights:



Aligns State Law with the Consent Decree

- Reduces risk of fines or penalties by providing agreed-upon resources
- Takes advantage of the work generated from a decade of litigation
- Uses expert input from the Special Masters



Protects People from Languishing in Jail & Focuses on Community Resources

- Utilizes the Bridges Court Liaisons created in statute last year to help find, treat and move identified individuals into the community with appropriate resources
- Promotes community competency evaluations and restoration treatment, while allowing courts to closely monitor defendants
- Establishes a “tier” system so that individuals most in need will be admitted for hospitalization and treatment sooner than others with less severe conditions
- Creates an efficiency in treatment by allowing the state to begin restoration treatment immediately upon a finding of incompetency
- Constructs timelines for dismissal of charges and release of individuals deemed incompetent after receiving treatment



Fosters Collaboration Among Departments and Stakeholders

- Requires communication between courts, hospitals and community providers to ensure the development of successful treatment plans
- Calls for maintenance and stabilization of on-going treatment or medication between jails, hospitals and community providers



Provides Necessary Training & Direction

- Requires training for forensic evaluators, district attorneys and defense counsel
- Strengthens competency reports by establishing guidelines and direction on issues that must be addressed and evaluated
- Allows for more informed court decisions determining an individual to be permanently incompetent to proceed and/or a risk to the community



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