

RULE 60. INTERDISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE ON SPECIALIZED DOCKETS

Section 1. Interdisciplinary Committee.

(a) Purpose. The interdisciplinary committee on specialized dockets is established as a collaborative mechanism to acquire and analyze relevant information related to the need for and feasibility of establishing specialized dockets. A "specialized docket" is a juvenile or district court that oversees a therapeutic program comprised of interdisciplinary teams, enhanced judicial involvement, court-supervised treatment programs, and other components designed to achieve effective alternatives to traditional case dispositions.

(b) Membership. The committee consists of:

(1) a justice of the supreme court appointed by the chief justice;

(2) two district judges appointed by the chief justice upon recommendation by North Dakota Judges Association;

(3) If agreed to by the department, a representative of the department of human services appointed by the director.

(4) If agreed to by the department, a representative of the department of corrections and rehabilitation appointed by the director.

(5) The state court administrator or the administrator's designee.

(c) Chair. The chief justice will appoint a chair from among the members of the committee.

(d) Terms. Committee members serve for a term of three years beginning \_\_\_\_\_. Members are limited to three consecutive terms.

(e) Temporary Members. The chair may temporarily supplement membership to assist the

24 committee in reviewing whether establishment of a specialized docket should be recommended.  
25 The presiding judge of the district in which a specialized docket is being reviewed or proposed  
26 and the unit administrator of the district must be included as temporary members.

27 (f) Meetings. The committee will meet at least semiannually but may meet more  
28 frequently if necessary to timely consider any requests for establishment of a specialized docket  
29 or review of an existing court.

30 Section 2. Functions and Duties.

31 (a) The committee will:

32 (1) acquire and analyze information and data, including budgetary requirements and  
33 funding sources, regarding whether establishing, reducing or closing a specialized docket in a  
34 judicial district should be considered;

35 (2) determine the feasibility of establishing or maintaining a specialized docket in a  
36 judicial district, including the availability of judicial and nonjudicial resources;

37 (3) based on relevant data and analysis, recommend to the presiding judge of a judicial  
38 district and the supreme court whether a specialized docket in the judicial district should be  
39 established;

40 (4) review requests to establish specialized dockets and submit recommendations to the  
41 supreme court regarding whether a particular specialized docket should be established;

42 (5) establish a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of established  
43 specialized dockets and related treatment services.

44 (b) In carrying out its functions, the committee must consider:

45 (1) the funding required for the specialized docket and the source of necessary funding;

46 (2) the extent that the proposed services are needed in the geographic area where the

47 specialized docket will be located;

48 (3) the availability of adequate judicial resources to support operation of the specialized  
49 docket;

50 (4) the availability of potential members of the specialized docket team and the roles to be  
51 played by each potential member;

52 (5) the availability of a potential coordinator for the specialized docket and support staff;

53 (6) the population of eligible participants in the specialized docket;

54 (7) the geographic area to be served by the specialized docket;

55 (8) the availability of participant monitors and treatment resources in the specialized  
56 docket's area of operation.

57 Section 3. Request to establish a specialized docket; Submission; Review.

58 (a) A request for establishment of a specialized docket may be submitted to the  
59 committee for review and recommendation.

60 (b) The committee will promptly review any information submitted in support of the  
61 request and consider the committee's own analysis, if any, regarding the need for a specialized  
62 docket.

63 (c) Following its review, the committee will promptly submit to the supreme court its  
64 recommendation regarding the need for and feasibility of the requested specialized docket.

65 (d) The supreme court may withdraw approval of a specialized docket or suspend  
66 operation of the specialized docket. Such action may be taken if adequate funding, judicial  
67 resources, or support services are not available. Such action also may be taken if evaluation of a  
68 specialized docket fails to indicate the specialized docket is effectively addressing the needs for  
69 which it was created.

70 Section 4. Staff Services. The office of the state court administrator will provide staff for  
71 the committee on specialized dockets.

72 EXPLANATORY NOTE

73 Rule 60 took effect\_\_\_\_\_.