



STAR PROGRAM REFERRAL FORM

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Candidate Name: _____ Candidate Phone Number: _____

Probation Officer: _____ PACTS No.: _____ (if submitted by USPPPO)

Criminal Case Number: _____ Originating Judge: _____

REFERRING PARTY INFORMATION

Referring Party: _____ Referring Party Phone Number: _____

Referral Date: _____ Referring Party Email: _____

Referral made by: ___ Probation Officer ___ Judge ___ AUSA ___ Defense Attorney ___ Other

Eligibility Checklist

- ___ Must be on Supervised Release, NOT Probation
- ___ Must have at least 24 months remaining on term of supervision (or be willing to extend term of supervision to 24 months)
- ___ Must have drug treatment order as condition of supervised release
- ___ Must have documented substance abuse history
- ___ Must demonstrate a need for increased accountability and supervision as evidenced by, for example, recent relapse, noncompliance, or pending violation
- ___ Must reside in area supervised by one of the following USPO offices: LA, Orange, Riverside, or San Bernardino County
- ___ No conviction for a sex offense (current or past)
- ___ No pending investigation for a sex offense
- ___ No mental health issues so severe they would prohibit effective participation¹

Please Note: for a candidate to be eligible for STAR, the referring party must be able to answer "yes" to **all** of the eligibility criteria listed above. On occasion, STAR may make an exception to one or more of these criteria. If a candidate would require an exception in order to be eligible for STAR, please contact USPPPOs Kristie Rzonca (LA), Krystal Ward (Riverside) or Theodore Cha (Santa Ana) to discuss the referral.

¹ Application to the STAR program includes a review of clinical/medical records, and when indicated, completion of behavioral health and cognitive assessments (including assessment for mental health disorder, substance use disorder, and/or cognitive/psychological impairment) to determine if the STAR program can meet the applicant's needs. The STAR program does not restrict admission based on behavioral health or cognitive/psychological diagnosis. However, the program is careful to admit only those participants whose needs can be met by the program's services.

To complete the referral, email the referral form to FPDO Paralegal, Joyce Delaney at Joyce_Delaney@fd.org **and** either USPO Kristie Rzonca at Kristie_Rzonca@cacp.uscourts.gov (for Los Angeles candidates) or USPO Krystal Ward at Krystal_Ward@cacp.uscourts.gov (for Riverside candidates) or USPO Teddy Cha at Theodore_Cha@cacp.uscourts.gov (for Santa Ana candidates)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE STAR PROGRAM CANDIDATE REFERRAL AND ACCEPTANCE PROCESS

- The referral process is complete once the completed referral form has been emailed to Joyce Delaney and either Kristie Rzonca, Krystal Ward, or Teddy Cha. No other application is necessary.
- To be provisionally accepted into STAR, a candidate **must**:
 - Observe four consecutive STAR Program court sessions; **and**
 - Meet with the STAR Program Judicial Officer.
- For final acceptance into STAR, the candidate must sign the STAR Contract and the candidate's originating judge must consent to transfer.
- The evaluation of candidates is conducted at the end of each month and may take up to 30 days to complete.
- The STAR Program probation officer will contact the candidate once a decision has been made regarding the referral.
- The Los Angeles STAR Program meets the first two Thursdays a month at 11 a.m. in Courtroom 5D of the First Street Courthouse at 350 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012; one Thursday a month at 11 a.m. by zoom; and one Thursday a month at the LA Food Bank to perform community service / The Riverside STAR Program meets the first, second, and third Tuesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. in Courtroom 3 of the George E. Brown Courthouse at 3470 Twelfth Street, Riverside, CA 92501; and the final Tuesday of the month at a food bank / The Santa Ana STAR Program meets the first, second, and third Wednesday of the month at 3:00 p.m. in Courtroom 10D of the Ronald Reagan Courthouse at 411 W. 4th Street, Santa Ana, CA 92701; and the final Wednesday of the month at a community service location.
- For more information about STAR, please see <https://www.cacd.uscourts.gov/judges-requirements/court-programs/substance-abuse-treatment-and-reentry-program-star>, and <https://www.fpdcdca.org/resources/casa-star/star-program/>. For answers to frequently asked questions about STAR, please see <https://www.fpdcdca.org/blog/category/faqs/star/>.
- With additional questions, please contact Kristie Rzonca at (562) 244-8755, or FPD Collaborative Courts Chief Neha Chisterna at (213) 894-4104, Deputy Federal Public Defender Deborah Gonzalez at (213) 894-7867, or FPD Paralegal Joyce Delaney at (213) 894-5058.