



# Support SB 218: Expand Conditional Discharge - Greater Access to Specialty Courts

## Specialty Courts Defined

Specialty Courts are problem solving courts that operate under a specialized model to provide supervision and treatment to individuals struggling with behavioral health challenges in lieu of traditional criminal courts. They allow justice system partners to collaborate and develop innovative ways to address root causes of problematic behavior in order to hold individuals accountable for their actions while helping them avoid future criminal justice involvement and get the treatment and services they need.

## Currently in Oregon

Oregon law currently allows specialty “Drug Courts,” which focus on drug addiction criminal cases, to offer a “conditional discharge” to successful participants pursuant to ORS 475.245. Under this statute, a person who successfully completes their specialty “Drug Court” supervision can have their case dismissed, ultimately without a criminal conviction on their record. Program requirements vary and can include drug treatment, mental health therapy, peer support, parenting classes, maintaining employment, completing a GED program or paying restitution to their victim.

## Benefits of Expanded Access

The benefits of conditional discharge are currently limited to only certain drug and property crimes. SB 218 expands this tool to other specialty courts such as Mental Health Specialty Courts, Veterans Treatment Specialty Courts, and Domestic Violence Specialty Courts. SB 218 will enable more defendants to come through programs that are proven to be effective, receive treatment and services and leave the system without a criminal record.



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