

OPERATION DRIVE FACT SHEET

- 44TH District Court began license restoration efforts as early as 2013 and started keeping statistics in March 2016.
- Eventually the Court utilized the specialty court model, with regular reviews and assistance provided by court-appointed attorneys through MIDC special budget accommodation.
- The goal is to provide STRUCTURE, INFORMATION, and ENCOURAGEMENT.
- Once someone is identified as an Operation Drive candidate, their sentencing is delayed, all payment obligations are suspended, and a review date is set up. Individuals are NOT on probation – no unnecessary drug/alcohol testing, reporting to probation officers, etc. However, the regular reviews help participants stay on task.
- The Operation Drive docket is scheduled every Thursday afternoon and participants are allowed to connect remotely to the court session to alleviate the significant transportation issues they face. In the days leading up to review sessions, the attorneys will reach out to provide reminders of court dates and provide advice.
- The review sessions are crucial because the Court and the specialty attorneys help the participants develop a plan to resolve whatever outstanding matters exist that prevent the acquisition of a license. Particularly important in circumstances where there are significant barriers to a valid license, the review allows the participant to set "action items" to take care of before the next review, making a seemingly impossible task manageable. Additionally, there are some challenges that participants can't do on their own and the Court and the attorneys can take steps to help (i.e., reaching out to another Court, getting explanations from the SOS, etc.)
- Once a participant acquires a license, the Court then offers a significant reduction in fines and costs (usually 80%) and will also allow a long-term payment plan if necessary.
- Current number of licenses restored since March 2016: 1562
- Current number of individuals in the program: 558 active participants