

Mental Health Disorder Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for consideration into the Nova Scotia Mental Health Court Program (NSMHCP) applicants must have a mental disorder. The NSMHCP defines a mental disorder as a significant disturbance in an individual's ability to think and/or problem solve, their control over their emotions, and/or their ability to control their behavior. Examples of mental disorders that clearly fit this definition are schizophrenia (or other psychotic disorders), bipolar disorder, and major depressive disorder.

Applicants whose sole diagnosis is substance-related will not be considered nor will applicants whose only diagnosis falls within the spectrum of paraphilic disorders (e.g., pedophilia or exhibitionism).

The NSMHCP may consider individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders or brain injury on a case-by-case basis.

The program may review other cases where there is a diagnosable mental disorder that does not clearly fit our criteria (e.g., personality disorders or attention deficit / hyperactivity disorder). However, these cases will only be reviewed under exceptional circumstances where there is a clear nexus to the offending and reasonable expectation that the intervention of the NSMHCP will be of benefit. Individuals whose sole diagnosis is Antisocial Personality Disorder will not be considered.

In all cases, an applicant's acceptance to the NSMHCP will be considered with respect to the program's ability to support the individual in the community.