



FLCourtDogs.com

For Court Personnel:

5 Steps for Developing a Courthouse Therapy Dog Program in Your Jurisdiction.

- 1) Contact Allie Phillips at the National District Attorneys Association (<http://www.ndaa.org/>) . Her contact info is aphillips@ndaa.org She is the Deputy Director of The National Center for the Prosecution of Child Abuse and the co-author of the T.A.S.K. Manual (Therapy Animals Supporting Kids). She can tell you if there are therapy teams working in or near your jurisdiction.
- 2) If you cannot immediately find teams in your area, go to the internet and search therapy animal organizations in your area. There are currently over 100 organizations that evaluate/register/certify and insure therapy animals; some of these are national in their scope.
- 3) Identify a “champion” in the courthouse that will assist in the effort to create a Courthouse Therapy Dogs Program. This is usually a State Attorney, judge, prosecutor, victim advocate, court administrator, etc.
- 4) Talk with your facilities and risk managers about bringing teams into court facilities and work out agreements as to what policies and procedures will be followed.
- 5) Be collaborative in creating policies, procedures and protocols to follow for the various manners in which therapy teams will be used. Refer to the documents posted elsewhere on this website to assist you.