



# NEW MEXICO COURTS

Administrative Office of the Courts  
Behavioral Health

## AOT

# Assisted Outpatient Treatment A Civil Court Program

### What is AOT?

- A civil court order that provides community based, outpatient treatment to individuals with severe mental illness
- A means of motivating an adult with mental illness to fully engage in their treatment plan
- Focused attention on the treatment providers to work diligently to keep individuals engaged in effective treatments

### How does it work?

- Hospitals, certain family members, and mental health providers can petition the court to consider whether AOT is an appropriate option for an individual with mental illness
- The court hears testimony and considers alternative options
- If the Court determines that AOT is appropriate, based on current law and treatment recommendations, the Court orders an individual to engage in treatment

### What are the goals?

- Reduce mental health hospitalizations and lengths of stay
- Reduce re-arrest for the population AOT serves
- Increase connection to community mental health services
- Reduce instances of homelessness for these individuals