

Selected ACJC Recommendations and SB 91-Related Statutes

ACJC Recommendation: Focus ASAP resources to improve program effectiveness

Alaska's Alcohol Safety Action Program ("ASAP") provides screening and treatment referral services for thousands of misdemeanor offenders who are referred by the court. Unfortunately, the Commission finds that under-funding of ASAP has limited the program's effectiveness.

This Commission believes that the best policy would be to increase funding for ASAP to allow the agency to provide more robust screening and treatment resources to all offenders struggling with substance abuse. The Commission also recognizes that, in the current fiscal climate, this is unlikely – and in light of that, recommends focusing available ASAP resources on a smaller subset of high-risk misdemeanants to achieve better results.

Specific Action Recommended: To increase the effectiveness of the ASAP program, the Commission recommends:

- a. Focusing ASAP resources on offenders at the highest risk of taking up future prison resources through one of the following means:ⁱ
 - i. Limiting the offense categories that courts would be authorized to refer to ASAP to those currently mandated by statute (DUI, refusal to submit to a chemical test, and habitual minor consuming).
 - ii. Alternatively, limiting the offense categories that courts would be authorized to refer to ASAP to second-time misdemeanor DUI and refusal to submit to a chemical test offenses, as well as alcohol-related assault 4 offenses.
- b. Requiring ASAP to expand the services it provides to include:
 - i. Using a validated assessment tool to screen for criminogenic risk;
 - ii. Performing a brief behavioral health screening; and
 - iii. Providing referrals to treatment programs designed to address offenders' individual high priority criminogenic needs including, but not limited to, substance abuse.
- c. Requiring ASAP provide increased case supervision for moderate to high risk offenders as resources permit.

ⁱ The Commission chose to forward two iterations of this policy to the legislature for its consideration.