

# ASAP

## Driver Alcohol Education Programs

*An Alcohol & Substance Abuse Program (ASAP) for persons convicted of driving while under the influence of alcohol*

### Program Description

Chelsea ASAP operates a first offender driver alcohol education program in accordance with Massachusetts Statute 24D. Chelsea ASAP also operates a second offender driving program that serves those individuals who have been arrested twice for driving under the influence of alcohol in their lifetime and who have completed a two week second offender inpatient treatment program. Both the first and second offender programs are licensed by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

The primary goal of ASAP's first and second offender driving programs is to reduce alcohol related highway fatalities. The primary objective of both programs is for participants to take responsibility for their previous drinking and driving behaviors and make the necessary changes in their behavior in order to cease further driving after drinking. Support for this objective is offered through referral to appropriate substance abuse treatment services where participants are identified as having dependency on alcohol and/or other drugs.

### History

Initially, Drunk Driving cases were disposed of by a "guilty" or "not guilty" sentence. Some time ago, however, the statewide drunk drivers' educational program offered courts an alternative in the form of the "continued without a finding" sentence combined with participation in a program such as ASAP's Driver Alcohol Education (DAE) program. In place of incarceration, drinking drivers were enrolled in education counseling groups. For many, this was the first time they had been in a group



*ASAP outpatient services are located on the second floor of a two-story office complex in Chelsea, MA.*

where their drinking-and-driving behavior was confronted. Since the initiation of the DAE programs, public awareness of the danger of driving while intoxicated has been greatly heightened and instances of drunken driving are down by 42%.

### The First Offender Program

- A maximum of ninety (90) minute evaluation
- A service/treatment plan and mid point service/treatment plan
- Thirty-two (32) hours of psycho-educational group sessions
- Two (2) hours of impact awareness
- Four (4) hours of attendance at community-based self-help meetings
- A minimum of thirty (30) minutes individual discharge (exit) session

### The Second Offender Program

- An initial ninety (90) minute evaluation
- A service/treatment plan
- Phase II eight week evaluation/treatment sessions
- Phase III sixteen week group sessions (referral based on service plan)
- Additional outpatient treatment when indicated
- A monthly follow-up session co-terminus with probation
- Mandatory self-help meetings three times weekly
- Random urine and breath tests

### Multiple DUI offenders

Persons with three or more convictions for driving while intoxicated are sentenced to a

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90-day prison program administered by the Department of Corrections.

### **Maintaining Sobriety**

ASAP requires that all persons remain alcohol and drug free while attending sessions. Breathalyzer tests and urine screens are utilized to give support for abstinent behavior. A consent form to perform these tests and to release the results to the court is signed by the individual at the initial evaluation. When a person receives a positive test, he or she is not allowed to stay in the group, and the court is notified of the violation along with a recommendation from the counselor.

### **Attendance**

The rules for attendance are extremely strict. Individuals are expected to attend all group sessions to which they are assigned. If an emergency should occur preventing individuals from attending, they must immediately notify ASAP. A person who is late beyond fifteen minutes will not be allowed into the group and will be marked absent. When a person misses one session, he or she will be expected to make up the session at additional cost to that person at the current group rate. All absences are reported to the court.

If more than one absence occurs, the individual will be removed from the group and notified to report back to probation. ASAP will then forward a letter to the probation officer. If a person is terminated from the program unfavorably and is ordered to re-enter, all new services will be billed at the established rate.

### **Program Costs**

Enrolled individuals are personally responsible for paying program costs unless the court has waived the fees and a copy of this finding is presented at the time of the initial assessment evaluation. Payment must be made by Postal Money Order or a bank's Cashier's Check. (Cash or personal checks will not be accepted.)

The First Offender program costs a total of \$526.32, with an initial payment of \$250 and weekly payments of \$25 until the full balance due is paid off. The Second Offender program costs a total of \$385.00, with an initial payment of \$100 and weekly payments of \$25 until the full balance due is paid off. A missed evaluation costs an additional \$40 and a missed group session is \$25. The re-entry fee is \$100.

### **Building and Location**

ASAP's Driver Alcohol Education evaluations and group sessions are conducted on the second floor of a two-story condominium complex called Patriot Park, next to the Mystic Mall in Chelsea, Massachusetts. The street address is 100 Everett Avenue (Unit 4). There is public transportation to ASAP from Revere, East Boston, Winthrop and Boston. Free parking is available within the Patriot Park complex.

### **Accessibility for People with Disabilities**

Bay Cove ASAP maintains a wheelchair lift and is structured to accommodate the disabled. Materials and equipment are available for the hearing impaired, deaf and visually impaired.

### **Security**

Security for the ASAP space is maintained through an internal alarm system that electronically notifies the Chelsea police and a designated property supervisor at Bay Cove Human Services. Both the police and fire departments are in close proximity, which enables a rapid response in emergencies.

### **Referral/Program Fees**

Call (617) 884-6829 for more information. These services are available in Spanish and English.

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*For more information about ASAP  
(the Alcohol & Substance Abuse Program),  
please contact Amy Harris,*

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### **Bay Cove**

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