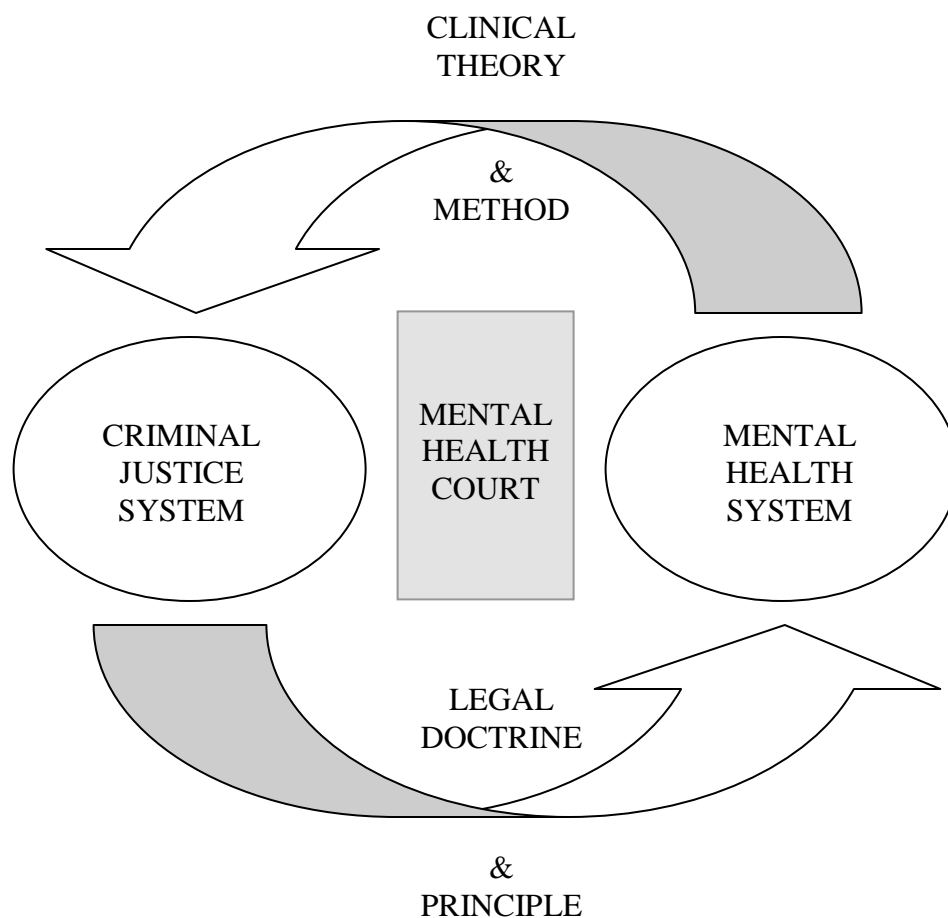


# FIRST DISTRICT MENTAL HEALTH COURT

## The Reciprocal Relationship between Criminal Justice and Mental Health

A Partnership for Recovery



It is important to understand that the mental health court system is not merely a fusion of terms, but represents an interdependent relationship within an interactionist perspective whereby each system is reciprocal with respect to theory and practice. Legal actors incorporate clinical theory and methodology in the therapeutic operation of the court and clinical practitioners employ legal doctrine and principle in the treatment setting.

Subsequently, criminal justice staffs utilize therapeutic tools such as motivational and solution-focused interviewing, while mental health providers incorporate the issues of human agency, accountability, and moral reasoning into clinical practice with the mentally ill offender.