In 2017, the California Legislature created a mental health diversion statute that authorizes courts to divert the mentally ill from the criminal justice system and into treatment, under certain conditions. (Pen. Code §1001.36.) The expressly stated purpose of the new mental health diversion statute is to “promote [the] increased diversion of individuals with mental disorders.” (Pen.Code 1001.35.)

**How a Mental Health and Criminal Law Attorney Can Help**

When a person with a mental illness is arrested, a criminal lawyer with expertise in mental illness can make a difference in the outcome. Mieke has that expertise. Since 2017, she has effectively defended individuals who have been arrested due to criminal behavior resulting from their mental illness. Mieke's hands-on approach involves actively seeking and assembling the client's treatment team, maintaining ongoing collaborative involvement with the mental health team, and maintaining transparent and open communication with judges and prosecutors. These plans showcase the client's commitment to meaningful, comprehensive treatment and are presented to the court and prosecution, leading to the granting of mental health diversion. As a result, she has established herself as one of the most successful defense attorneys in obtaining mental health diversion and achieving positive outcomes.

Contact Us

For mental health and criminal law services, contact the Law Offices of Mieke ter Poorten. She recognizes the broad spectrum of mental disorders and issues that may affect a person’s ability to defend themselves. She’s here to help her clients get the therapeutic support they need, while effectively guiding them through mental health diversion.