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POLICY MEMORANDUM

Guiding Principles for Effective Prosecution (Effective March 1, 2018)

1. Treat all with dignity and respect.

This includes offenders, victims, witnesses, law enforcement officers, community partners, and court staff.

2. Reduce risk in our communities.

Every case presents an opportunity to make a meaningful impact on the community and lives of those involved.

3. Support crime victims and respect their rights.

Empathy and understanding are critical to ensure victims are not further traumatized by the judicial process.

4. Support and cooperate with our partners in law enforcement, the Department of Corrections, Department for Children and Families, diversion, and community justice centers.

We are all in this together and share a common vision for safer communities.

5. Focus on restorative and rehabilitative outcomes that benefit all parties.

Creativity and flexibility are critical to arrive at outcomes that make sense for community safety, the interests of victims, and the offender.

6. Show understanding and empathy to offenders with a history of poverty, trauma, past victimization, mental health concerns, addiction, or intellectual limitations.

A defendant today could be our victim or witness tomorrow. If we don't try to understand what drives an offender's criminality we cannot craft effective outcomes that meaningfully reduce risk in the community.

7. Connect with our communities and those we serve.

We are, first and foremost, public servants. We must effectively represent the State and ensure we act in a manner our residents are proud of.

APPROVED February 27, 2018