

## **STEP POLICY ON PARTICIPANT'S ASSOCIATION WITH OTHER FELONS 5/22/08**

Standard Condition of Supervision #9 states that "the defendant shall not associate with any persons engaged in criminal activity and shall not associate with any person convicted of a felony, unless granted permission to do so by the probation officer."

Based upon the advice of the treatment providers, as a general proposition, the STEP Team will discourage participant's development of any romantic relationships while participants are engaged in STEP.

### Process to obtain permission for contact with a felon:

- Participants who wish to request permission to have contact with another felon should make that request to the STEP USPO.
- The STEP USPO will investigate the other felon and provide the request and the information about the other felon to the STEP Team.
- The STEP Team will evaluate each request on a case-by-case basis taking into account factors such as the following:
  - 1) whether the STEP participant has developed a base line of total compliance with STEP requirements;
  - 2) Whether the other felon is in compliance with the terms of supervision, or if not on supervision, whether the person appears to be doing well and living a law abiding life - no indications of drug use, stable employment, and stable living situation; and
  - 3) Whether the relationship would be harmful in any respects to the STEP participant.

If permission is not granted, the Team can advise the participant of what is required before permission might be granted.

If permission is is granted, the participant should be advised that the permission for contact with a felon is dependant on the participant's continued compliance with STEP requirements and the other person's continued law abiding life style.

Exception: Married or children in common. If the participant and the other felon are married or have children in common, the decision will likely be to grant the request for contact, with possible conditions if the relationship is seen as possibly harmful to the STEP participant.