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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

NO. 110-10-1

In re: STEP PROGRAM

**ORDER APPROVING STEP
PROGRAM**

On March 6, 2006, the Judges of the District authorized the development of a drug court program for the Eastern District of Washington. Cooperation for the program was sought and obtained from the United States Attorney and the Federal Defender. Following research and study, in April 2007, a "Memorandum of Understanding For Managing Supervision of Offenders Through A Sobriety Treatment and Education Program "[STEP] was entered between Senior Judge Wm. Fremming Nielsen on behalf of the Court, the Chief United States Probation Officer, the United States Attorney and the Federal Defender. The STEP Program was described in a Manual which set forth the overview of the program, all operating procedures, and all forms that would be used in the program. The Spokane STEP Program was instituted on June 28, 2007. The Yakima STEP Program was instituted on January 6, 2009. The focus of the program is to assist the substance-addicted offender to remain drug/alcohol- and crime-free in the community.

The Manual for the STEP Program governs the practices for the Program and it is revised by the STEP Program from time to time to incorporate evidence

1 based and best practices. The Manual provides that the participating Judge, either
2 an Article III Judge or a Magistrate Judge,¹ may engage in the following judicial
3 activities, including but not limited to:

4 1. accepting a transfer of jurisdiction to the STEP Program of criminal cases
5 from the sentencing judge, including those cases with pending supervised release
6 violations;²

7 2. imposing all consequences and sanctions on participants that are
8 authorized by the STEP Program, including placement in a Residential Re-entry
9 Center or jail; and

10 3. reducing the participants term of supervised release upon successful
11 completion of the program.

12 This Order is entered to memorialize the prior approval of the STEP Re-
13 entry Program and to authorize its operation by the Judges of this District, pursuant
14 to the policies and procedures of the STEP Manual.

15 Accordingly, **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED**, that:

16 1. The STEP Re-entry Program of the Eastern District of Washington is
17 approved.

18 2. The Article III Judges and Magistrate Judges of this District are
19 authorized to participate in the program and engage in all judicial activities
20 provided for in the STEP Manual.

21 3. The STEP Program shall be governed by the STEP Manual which is
22 revised by the STEP Program as needed.

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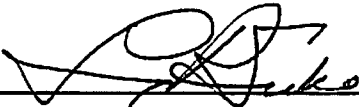
25 ¹ The Magistrate Judge's participation is pursuant to Local Magistrate Rule
26 8 (p).

27 ² Policy of accepting a participant with a pending supervised release
28 violation was approved by the Judges on December 7, 2009.

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Adopted by the Court this date. IT IS SO ORDERED. The District Court Executive is directed to enter this Order.

DATED this 4th day January, 2010.



FOR THE COURT
LONNY R. SUKO
Chief United States District Judge