

Facts Myths about the First Offender Prostitution Program:

Myth: The FOPP is voluntary.

Fact: The FOPP is one of the diversion programs run by the SF District Attorney's office and is in many cases cheaper than defending one's self in a criminal proceeding where a conviction could result in a jail sentence.

Myth: Only men are attend the FOPP.

Fact: Women, transgender as well as men who are arrested for prostitution are mandated to attend the FOPP.

Myth: Diversion programs mean that offenders won't have a criminal record.

Fact: Any diversion program and arrest will show on a criminal record.

Myth: If a migrant person with no work card or documentation gets arrested and goes through the diversion program, they will not be deported.

Fact: Anyone who is arrest and isn't an American citizen can be deported if they are arrested for anything. Additionally, they will not be able to extend a visa or obtain a work card or apply for citizenship.

Myth: Stopping the city from operating the FOPP will take away funds from those who want to transition out of working as prostitutes.

Fact: The FOPP contractor, SAGE Project Inc. doesn't provide transition services for prostitutes. They provide 'referrals to medical, vocational and legal services' as well as "wrap around services". That means that they don't provide direct services by qualified professionals.

Myth: Stopping the city from operating the FOPP will take away funds from programs for women and girls involved in prostitution.

Fact: Stopping the city from enforcing the prostitution laws will make more money available for services. Stopping the city from funding services that involve forced attendance in reeducation programs is the only way to get truly non-coercive voluntary participation.

