

**KSTP.COM — 5 EYEWITNESS NEWS****New Program Calls for Longer Sentences for Dangerous, Repeat Criminals**

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Dangerous and repeat offenders may see more prosecution under a new program in Ramsey County.

The Dangerous and Repeat Offender Program was initiated by Ramsey County Attorney John Choi.

According to the Ramsey County Attorney Office, research shows that a large percentage of all felony crimes are committed by a small percentage of criminals.

The program seeks to address the threat to public safety posed by dangerous and repeat criminals by calling for longer sentences.

To be considered a "dangerous" or "repeat" offender, the following conditions must be met.

Dangerous Offenders must have:

Two or more prior convictions for violent crimes;

The fact finder must determine that the offender is a danger to public safety;

The offender's past criminal behavior, such as the offender's high frequency rate of criminal activity or long involvement in criminal activity; and

The fact that the present offense of conviction involved an aggravating factor that would justify a durational departure under the Sentencing Guidelines.

Repeat Offenders must have:

A presumptive sentence for the current offense is a commit to prison;

At least five prior felony convictions on separate dates; and

The current offense appears to have been committed as part of a "pattern of criminal conduct."