

Handbook for Drug Court Participants

Important names and numbers:

My Attorney: _____
Phone # _____

My Probation Officer:
Name: _____
Phone # _____

My Treatment Program:

Phone # _____

Drop Line # _____
Your Assigned PIN is _____

Visit the web site at

<http://www.stlouisco.com/circuitcourt>

Welcome to

St. Louis County Adult

Drug Court

This Handbook is designed to:

 **Answer Questions**

 **Address Concerns**

 **Provide information about Drug Court**

As a participant in the program, you will be required to be open, honest and truthful. You must follow all directives of the Judge, your Probation Officer (PO), and Treatment Provider and comply with the treatment plan developed for you. Throughout the time you are in Drug Court, your PO and Treatment Provider will work closely with you. They will also promptly report your progress and any problems to the Drug Court Team.

You will be required to pay a monthly drug court fee of \$80.00 while in the program.

What is a Drug Court?

Drug court is a court-supervised treatment program for defendants with non-violent criminal charges who also have a drug and alcohol addiction. Drug Court is a voluntary program that includes regular court appearances before the Drug Court Judge.

What is a Treatment Plan?

If you are accepted into drug court, you will be required to follow a Treatment Plan. This begins with an evaluation, and will require all or some of the following:

- ✚ Outpatient treatment
- ✚ Inpatient treatment/residential treatment
- ✚ Transitional housing placement
- ✚ Regular and random drug testing
- ✚ Counseling (individual and group)
- ✚ Self help/sober support activities
- ✚ Educational/vocational programs.

Your probation officer will also help you with other areas of your life according to your individual needs. This may include referrals for these and other needs:

- ✚ Skills testing and education assessment
- ✚ Job training and job-readiness training
- ✚ School or other educational services
- ✚ Family counseling
- ✚ Life skills classes
- ✚ Public assistance

How can I participate in the Drug Court Program?

Following the filing of a felony charge or violation of probation (VOP), you may be offered the opportunity to participate in the Drug Court Program or remain in the traditional criminal court. Successful completion and graduation from the program may result in your withdrawal of a guilty plea and the Prosecutor's Office dismisses the charge or your probation may be terminated early.

Failure or dismissal from the program will result in your being sentenced to jail on the charge(s) to which you pled at the time you signed your contract.

How long will I be in the program?

The amount of time you spend in the program will be determined by **your individual progress**, but will be no less than 15 months.

While we recognize that addiction is a treatable disease, it is important for you to remember that you are in the program because of your criminal behavior.

What is in it for me?

A Second Chance

This program offers you the chance to move forward in your life with a new outlook and new skills.

A Healthy Lifestyle

The program will help you take control of your life in many ways. Even more important than what you will learn not to do (such as abusing drugs and alcohol and committing any more crimes) are the things you will learn to do; being honest and truthful, eating right, reducing stress, becoming fully employed, rebuilding family relationships, and becoming a productive member of the community.

We are here to Help!!!! But...

No one said it would be easy

On the following pages you will find the steps involved in the program and information about some of the resources that you will need to use in order to succeed. Remember that there are many people who make up the Drug Court Team, and they all want to see you succeed. If you take advantage of the assistance offered by the Drug Court Team, you will discover many ways to make a better life for yourself.

Rules:

What are the Rules of the Program?

To remain in the Drug Court Program you are required to follow rules. They are summarized here.

1. You must complete all required **paperwork**.
2. You must participate in **regular court supervision** (in other words, you must show up at Drug Court and for meetings with your probation officer on time.)
3. You must **attend all** scheduled treatment and support service **appointments**.
4. You must be **honest and truthful** in every respect, in Court, in treatment and with your Probation Officer.
5. You must successfully **complete all phases** of the program.
6. You must **stay clean and sober**.
7. You must **comply with all Terms and Conditions of Probation and of your Drug Court Contract**.
8. You must perform **40 hours of community service**.
9. You may not own, possess, purchase, receive, sell, or transport any firearms, ammunition or explosive device, or any dangerous weapon.

Required Paperwork

Contract

All participants will be required to sign a Contract in Court. Before you sign your Contract you will have an opportunity to review it with your attorney and have your questions answered.

Release of Information

All members of the Team must be able to communicate about your eligibility and progress in the program. Upon entry into the program, you must sign Releases so that the Team has access to information relevant to your treatment.

Regular Court Supervision

You will be required to appear in front of the Judge on a regular basis. The Judge will be given progress reports regarding your drug tests, attendance, and all aspects of your participation in your treatment program. These reports will come from your probation officer, and treatment counselor. The Judge will ask you about your progress and discuss any problems you are having. You must truthfully answer all of the judge's questions. As a participant you are required to attend all of your scheduled treatment sessions, probation appointments, all of your other appointments, and all of your scheduled court dates. Treatment will include counseling, substance abuse education and other appointments as directed. You are required to be on time. Your treatment schedule will vary according to your needs and progress. It is **your responsibility** to schedule all needed appointments.

Phases

The Drug Court is a four-phase program that lasts a minimum of 15 months. Total program length is based upon individual progress. Each phase consists of specific treatment goals, activities and requirements that you must meet before moving to the next phase. The phases are explained in detail on the following pages.

Remember: While there are certain things you must complete, your ability to move along in the program and graduate will depend mostly on your own actions. If you are not honest and truthful, if you miss appointments, ignore other requirements, or fail to stay away from drug and alcohol use, your time in the program could be longer, or you could be terminated from Drug Court.

Phase I – Assessment and Intensive Supervision 12 weeks*

Phase I begins after you have entered a plea of guilt before the Drug Court Judge.

- a. Comprehensive assessment to identify treatment, employment, educational, family, and other pertinent issues and needs.
- b. Development of treatment plan with the Drug Court Team.
- c. Begin treatment which could include detoxification, in-patient treatment, and/or intensive out-patient treatment. Treatment will be available in the evening hours for offenders who are employed. Treatment may also include significant others and sponsors.
- d. Weekly appearance before Drug Court Judge.
- e. Random urinalysis.
- f. Two weekly, face-to-face contacts with probation officer. This may include a home visit and treatment contact.
- g. Bi-weekly contact with significant other.
- h. Initial home visit followed by monthly home visits.
- i. Employment or school verification.
- j. Pay monthly drug court fees.

**This timeframe may be increased based upon lack of progress in treatment.*

Phase II – Primary Treatment

20 weeks*

- a. Continuation of treatment with provider based on individual needs.
- b. Court appearance every two weeks.
- c. Random urinalysis.
- d. One weekly face-to-face contact with probation officer.
- e. Monthly contact with significant other.
- f. One home visit per month.
- g. Monthly employment or school verification.
- h. Pay monthly drug court fees.
- i. Twenty (20) hours of community service to be completed
- j. Must be engaged in 12 Step program and obtain a sponsor (A.A, N.A. SMART, Celebrate Recovery)

**This timeframe may be increased based upon lack of progress in treatment.*

Phase III – Continued Care and Treatment 20 weeks*

- a. Continued treatment, aftercare with provider as needed.
- b. Court appearance once a month.
- c. Random urinalysis.
- d. Minimum of two face-to-face contacts per month with probation officer.
- e. Monthly contact with significant other.
- f. One home visit per month.
- g. Monthly employment verification (if applicable).
- h. Must be engaged in a 12-Step program and continue working with sponsor
- i. Twenty (20) hours community service to be completed.
- j. Pay monthly drug court fees.

**This timeframe may be increased based upon lack of progress in treatment*

Phase IV – Minimum Supervision 13 weeks*

- a. Submit breath or urine sample upon request. (Defendant must continue to phone the drop-line).
- b. Court appearance once a month.
- b. Minimum of one face-to-face contact with probation officer per month.
- c. Possible monthly home visit.
- d. One hour of individual counseling treatment per month.
- e. Possible continuance of interlock device or other chemical monitoring device.
- f. Pay monthly drug court fees.

**This timeframe may be increased based upon lack of progress in treatment.*

This is the last phase of your program before graduation. The final decision about your readiness to graduate will be made by the Judge and Team.

Graduation... a time to celebrate your transition to a healthy lifestyle.

You will be able to invite your family and friends to join you at your Graduation Ceremony.

This special event is a celebration of your accomplishments and marks the beginning of your new way of life.

Termination from Program Criteria

A participant may be involuntarily terminated from the program if participant commits a new criminal offense or the Drug Court Team determines it is unlikely the participant will be able to successfully complete the program based on repeated violations.

A participant may voluntarily cease participation in the program, at any time, upon consultation with an attorney, and with written notification to the Drug Court Judge.

Any termination or withdrawal from the program shall not entitle the participant to any refund of fees paid and/or withdrawal of his/her guilty plea.

Drug Court Expectations

What else is expected of me?

As you can see, you are expected to follow a set of basic rules. Some other expectations have to do with how you act in Court and the things you must do to follow your own treatment plan.

The Rules require that everyone in Drug Court will:

- ✚ Be honest and truthful;
- ✚ Treat others with respect;
- ✚ Follow a dress code;
- ✚ Comply with urine and alcohol testing;
- ✚ NOT possess, sell or use drugs or alcohol
- ✚ NOT break the law.

The expectations you set up with your Probation Officer will probably also cover areas of:

- ✚ Housing;
- ✚ Healthcare;
- ✚ Employment and education; and
- ✚ Life skills education.

Honesty and truthfulness are essential to your recovery and to every aspect of Drug Court.

Treatment of others:

You must respect the opinions and feelings of other people in Drug Court. Verbal or physical threats to anyone in the program or any member of the team will not be tolerated. Any such behavior will immediately be reported to the Court and may result in a severe sanction or your termination from the program.

You will not be asked to be an informant in this program. You will not be expected or be encouraged to discuss any information concerning anyone's behavior or progress except your own.

Courtroom Etiquette and Dress Code:

When you speak to the Judge, say "Your Honor." Dress appropriately for all Court sessions. Do not wear hats in the courtroom. Inappropriate clothing includes shorts, tank tops, crop tops, muscle shirts, sweat pants or shirts, clothes with drug or alcohol related themes, or those with sexual words or pictures, and attire that is sexually provocative. Sunglasses are not to be worn in court unless approved by a doctor. Your probation officer will provide a separate list with these restrictions.

No Possession or use of drugs and/or alcohol:

If you possess, sell, or use alcohol or illegal drugs, you are violating your drug court contract and your probation. You are required to truthfully report all drug or alcohol use to the Judge at each court appearance.

- ✚ Substance abuse will result in sanctions and may require increased treatment attendance.
- ✚ Failure to report or falsely reporting drug or alcohol use **will** result in a jail sanction.
- ✚ Any drugs that a doctor prescribes for you must be reported to your probation officer and treatment provider **before** you fill the prescription.
- ✚ Do not consume any item that contains poppy seeds.
- ✚ Do not use supplements or other “health products” for example, Kombucha tea.

Drug and Alcohol Screening:

One of the primary goals of the program is to **HELP YOU** remain abstinent from alcohol and all non-prescribed drugs. You will be tested throughout the **entire** program. The Judge will have access to all drug results including failures or refusals to test and may order a drug test at any time. **A positive test or admission of alcohol or other drug use will result in a sanction and or change in treatment. Lying about use will result in a sanction.**

No Violations of the Law

You are required to obey all laws. Additional offenses may result in being terminated from Drug Court, revocation of probation and sentence to jail.

WEAPONS

You may not own, possess, purchase, receive, sell, or transport any firearms, ammunition or explosive device, or any dangerous weapon.

NO LYING ABOUT ANYTHING!!!!

REMEMBER!!

FOR PEOPLE IN RECOVERY, TRIGGERS AND CRAVINGS ARE NOT EXCUSES TO USE – THEY ARE REASONS TO GO TO A MEETING AND TO CALL A RECOVERING FRIEND FOR MORE SUPPORT.