

Handbook for DWI Court Participants

Important names and numbers:

My Attorney: _____
Phone # _____

My Probation Officer:
Name: _____
Phone # _____

My Treatment Program:

Phone # _____

Drop Line # 314-332-2140
My PIN# _____

Visit the web site at

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

Welcome to

St. Louis County Adult

DWI Court

This Handbook is designed to:

+ Answer Questions

+ Address Concerns

+ Provide information about DWI 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), Treatment Provider and comply with the treatment plan developed for you. Throughout the time you are in DWI Court, your PO and Treatment Provider will work closely with you. They will also promptly report your progress and any problems to the DWI Court Team. You will be required to pay all fees associated with DWI Court which includes SCRAM monitoring, alcohol and drug testing, treatment services and court costs.

Indigent Policy

No potential participant will be denied entry into DWI Court due to lack of financial resources. A Statement of Financial Condition is required from a participant seeking an adjustment of fees or financial assistance for costs associated with the program. If deemed indigent, the Judge may waive a portion or all court fees or may authorize a loan from collected program fees to cover treatment and monitoring costs. If their financial situation improves, loan repayment is expected. If this is not possible, then community service in lieu of payment at the rate of \$10.00 per one hour of service is an option. This community service is separate from, and in addition to, the 100 hours required by statute to be completed while in the program. Depending on the individual's circumstances, the Judge may decide to forgive the loan which requires a Court order for the record.

What is a DWI Court?

DWI court is a court-supervised treatment program for defendants with non-violent criminal charges who have a substance use disorder. DWI Court is a voluntary program that includes regular court appearances before the DWI Court Judge.

As part of the screening process, your attorney will contact the prosecutor's office regarding the pending case. The prosecutor will determine if the case is eligible to be screened for Treatment Court based on certain criteria. If deemed eligible, the prosecutor will send an approval letter to your attorney advising of the proposed disposition if the participant successfully completes the program. Normally, the case will be amended to a lesser felony or possibly a misdemeanor charge based on the degree of the felony. Some accompanying charges may garner dismissal. Based on the approval letter, the Court Administrator will request that the probation office conduct an investigation. The officer will explain the program requirements and provide all forms that will be signed during the plea if the participant decides to enter Treatment Court. The probation officer's investigation report will also summarize the participant's criminal record and other pertinent information regarding education, employment, family and housing arrangements and driving status. If the participant has been monitored on SCRAM prior to program entry, the officer will also note any detection of alcohol use, tamper events and compliance during the monitoring period.

What is a Treatment Plan?

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

- ✚ Outpatient treatment, possible medication assistance treatment (MAT)
- ✚ Inpatient treatment/residential treatment
- ✚ Transitional housing placement
- ✚ Regular and random alcohol and drug testing
- ✚ Counseling (individual and group)
- ✚ Self-help/sober support activities
- ✚ Educational/vocational programs
- ✚ Family counseling

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
- ✚ Life skills classes
- ✚ Public assistance

How can I participate in the DWI Court Program?

Following the filing of a felony charge you may be offered the opportunity to participate in the DWI Court Program or remain in the traditional criminal court. The 21st Judicial Circuit Treatment Court is a self-pay treatment program for repeat and persistent DWI offenders in lieu of incarceration. This program is a minimum of fourteen (14) month intensive outpatient program for defendants with clear indicators of alcohol and/or other drug abuse/dependence. However, depending on the success rate of each individual participant, program completion time can vary. Failure or dismissal from the program will result in a termination hearing and sentencing for the original charge.

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 14 months.

While we recognize that addiction is a treatable disease, it is important 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 that will help you maintain sobriety.

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 alcohol, drugs 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 DWI Court Team, and they all want to see you succeed. If you take advantage of the assistance offered by the DWI Court Team, you will discover many ways to make a better life for yourself. The time requirements decrease as you advance through the Phases so it does become more manageable over time.

Rules:

What are the Rules of the Program?

To remain in the DWI 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 that includes DWI Court appearances and meetings with your probation officer on time.
3. You must attend all scheduled treatment and support services 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 are expected to maintain sobriety.
7. You must comply with all Terms and Conditions of Probation and of your DWI Court Contract.
8. You must perform community service, as ordered.

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. Once you plea into the program, you must sign a release form 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 urinalysis, attendance, and all aspects of your participation in your treatment program. These reports are submitted by 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, and all of your scheduled court dates. Treatment will include both group and individual counseling sessions, alcohol and 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.

Phases

The DWI Court is a five-phase program that lasts a minimum of fourteen (14) 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 program overview provided by your probation officer during screening. You will also sign this document as part of your plea paperwork when entering treatment court.

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 alcohol and drug use, it will take longer to complete the phases.

Graduation Requirements

- a. Development of an aftercare plan
- b. Minimum of six (6) months of sobriety immediately preceding graduation
- c. Consistency in keeping appointments with PO, Treatment Provider, etc.
- d. Consistency in complying with the terms of the treatment plan
- e. Stable housing
- f. Stable employment
- g. Completion of community service
- h. Completion of HiSet or GED
- i. Engagement in community-based support groups
- j. Have a sponsor or other mentor to provide support
- k. Demonstrate involvement in the community
- l. Completion of Victim Impact group
- m. All DWI Court fees and criminal case costs paid in full

Requirements for graduation must be completed thirty (30) days before graduation.

Termination from Program Criteria

A participant may be terminated from the program if he/she commits a new criminal offense or the DWI 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 DWI 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.

DWI 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 DWI Court will:

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

The case plan and individual program expectations you set up with your Probation Officer may 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 DWI Court.

Treatment of others:

You must respect the opinions and feeling of other people in DWI 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. Remember that what goes on in group counseling is confidential and you should not discuss this outside of the group setting.

Courtroom Etiquette:

When you speak to the Judge, don't be overly familiar. Address him/her as "Your honor" or by their title - Judge or Commissioner. Do not chew gum or yawn when speaking with the Judge. Do not lean on the ledge or reach your arms across the front of the Judge's bench. All can be signs of disrespect. While waiting for your turn, remember to be quiet, always clap for a participant when the Judge gives verbal praise for a promotion or other good news.

No Possession or use of alcohol and/or drugs:

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

- ✚ Substance use is sanctionable and may require increased treatment attendance.
- ✚ Failure to report or falsely reporting alcohol or drug use may result in a jail sanction.
- ✚ Any drugs that a doctor prescribes for you must be reported to your probation officer and treatment provider before filling the prescription.
- ✚ Do not consume any item that contains poppy seeds – this cannot be used as an excuse for a positive opiate result.

Alcohol and Drug Screening:

One of the primary goals of the program is to help you remain abstinent from alcohol and all non-prescribed drugs. Random urinalysis is the method used to monitor compliance. You will be tested throughout the entire program. The Judge will have access to all test results including dilutes, missed, failures or refusals to test. While testing is random, the Judge may order urinalysis at any time. A positive test or admission of alcohol or drug use will result in a sanction and/or change in treatment. If you question a positive test result, you may request confirmation of the sample. If it comes back not confirmed, DWI Court will cover the testing cost. If the initial positive result is confirmed positive then the participant is responsible for the cost (\$35.00). Being dishonest about use normally increases the severity of a sanction.

No Violations of the Law

You are required to obey all laws. Additional offenses may result in being terminated from DWI Court. If you drive a vehicle without a valid license or a Limited Driving Privilege or fail to have IID equipment with camera on the vehicle it is an automatic 30 day jail sanction. This behavior jeopardizes the entire program.

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