



## Douglas County Drug Court

### Douglas County Drug Court-Participant Handbook

#### Welcome

Welcome to the Douglas County Drug Court. Drug Court was created as an alternative to incarceration for defendants who have been charged with a felony and have a substance use disorder. This program will hold you accountable in efforts to lead a clean and sober life. This handbook will outline the program and provide you overall information about the Douglas County Drug Court. You are expected to follow all the guidelines outlined and instructions given in Drug Court by the Judge and by treatment providers. In order to address your personal needs, the treatment team will develop an individual treatment plan.

#### The Drug Court Team

The Drug Court Judge will make all decisions regarding your participation in Drug Court with input from the Drug Court Team. Prior to your appearances in Court, the Drug Court Team will review your progress to assist you in continuing to advance in the program and recovery. The Drug Court Team consists of the following members:

Judge  
District Attorney  
Adult Services Officer  
Treatment Providers  
Law Enforcement Liaison  
Defense Attorney

### **Progress Reports**

Prior to every Drug Court hearing, the Drug Court team reviews progress reports prepared by the supervising Adult Services Officer and Treatment Provider(s). In the reports, the Team is provided your drug and alcohol test results; information regarding your participation in treatment, your attendance at probation appointments; your employment status, and any additional information requested. The Judge will use this information to discuss with you your progress in Drug Court. Rewards and Sanctions may be given based upon progress in Drug Court.

### **Drug Court Hearings**

While in Drug Court, you are required to attend court on a regular basis as directed by the team. The frequency of your court appearances will be based upon your current Phase of Drug Court. If you fail to appear in court, a warrant may be issued for your arrest and you will be held in custody until you can be seen by the Judge. If you are unsure of a court date or time, you should contact your Adult Services Officer. During the pandemic, drug court participants have appeared via Zoom for court. The Court now asks that participants appear in court in person on the first Friday of each month. Otherwise, appearances are by Zoom.

### **Confidentiality**

Federal and State law requires your privacy be protected. Douglas County Drug Court has strict policies and procedures to guard your privacy. You will sign a Consent for Disclosure of Confidential Substance Use Information. The disclosure is for the sole purpose of your participation in Drug Court.

### **Phases of Drug Court**

Drug Court is approximately 14 months, divided into four (4) phases. Each phase must be successfully completed prior to transitioning to the next phase. All phases must be successfully completed prior to your graduation.

<b>PHASE I</b> <u>Stabilization</u> Personal Responsibility/Accountability	<b>PHASE II</b> <u>Acceptance</u> Integration of Early Recovery Tools	<b>PHASE III</b> <u>Change</u> Active Recovery with Independent Choices	<b>PHASE IV</b> <u>Maintenance</u> Living Centered on Recovery
<b>Length of Phase:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 10 Weeks</li> </ul>	<b>Length of Phase:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 12 Weeks</li> </ul>	<b>Length of Phase:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 20 Weeks</li> </ul>	<b>Length of Phase:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 20 weeks</li> </ul>
<b>Requirements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Court Attendance Weekly</li> <li>Meetings With Adult Services Officer (ASO) As Directed</li> <li>Random UA's</li> <li>Development Of An Individual Treatment Plan</li> <li>Group Treatment Sessions</li> <li>Individual Treatment Sessions</li> <li>6-10 Hours Of Treatment Per Week</li> </ul>	<b>Requirements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Court Attendance At Least Two (2) Times Per Month</li> <li>Meetings With ASO As Directed</li> <li>Random UA's</li> <li>Group And Individual Treatment Sessions</li> <li>Secure Employment Or Enroll In Vocational Or Education Program</li> <li>Seek And Obtain A Sponsor</li> <li>Enroll In Cognitive Based Program</li> </ul>	<b>Requirements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Court Attendance At Least One (1) Time Per Month</li> <li>Meetings With ASO As Directed</li> <li>Random UA's</li> <li>Treatment Sessions As Recommended</li> <li>Individual Treatment Sessions</li> <li>Regular Attendance, Or Completion Of Cognitive Based Program.</li> <li>12-Step Work With Sponsor</li> <li>Employment Or Education Program Maintained</li> </ul>	<b>Requirements:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Court Attendance As Directed</li> <li>Meetings With ASO As Directed</li> <li>Random UA's</li> <li>Individual Treatment Sessions</li> <li>Continued 12-Step Work With Sponsor</li> <li>Employment Maintained</li> <li>Compliance With Aftercare Plan And Treatment</li> </ul>
<b>Criteria for Advancement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 Consecutive Days Of Clean UA's</li> <li>No Level III sanctions in last 15 days</li> <li>Compliance With Individual Treatment Plan</li> <li>Compliance With UA Submission, Appointments With ASO And Court Attendance</li> <li>Submit Request To Phase Up</li> <li>Drug Court Team agreement on Advancement And Judge Approval</li> </ul>	<b>Criteria for Advancement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60 Consecutive Days Of Clean UA's</li> <li>No Level III sanctions in last 30 days</li> <li>Compliance, Or Completion Of Outpatient Treatment And Attendance Of Individuals Sessions</li> <li>Compliance With UA Submission, Appointments With ASO And Court Attendance</li> <li>Regular Attendance To Cognitive Based Program</li> <li>Sponsor Obtained</li> <li>Employment Or Enrolled In Educational Program</li> <li>Submit Request To Phase Up</li> <li>Drug Court Team agreement on Advancement And Judge Approval</li> </ul>	<b>Criteria for Advancement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90 Consecutive Days Of Clean UA's</li> <li>No Level III sanctions in last 45 days</li> <li>Successful Completion Of Outpatient Treatment And Attendance Of Individual Sessions</li> <li>Successful Completion Of Cognitive Based Program</li> <li>Compliance With UA Submission, Appointments With ASO And Court Attendance</li> <li>Aftercare Plan Created</li> <li>Attendance In Aftercare Treatment</li> <li>Request To Phase Up</li> <li>Drug Court Team agreement on Advancement And Judge Approval</li> </ul>	<b>Criteria for Graduation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum Of 120 Consecutive Days Of Clean UA's</li> <li>No Level III sanctions in last 60 days</li> <li>Completion Of Cognitive Based Program</li> <li>Sponsor Obtained</li> <li>Aftercare Plan Compliance</li> <li>Write A Letter To Read To The Court Reflecting On Time During Participation In Drug Court Program And Goals For The Future</li> <li>Drug Court Team agreement on Graduation And Judge Approval</li> </ul>

**DRUG COURT RULES**

As a participant in Drug Court you are required to abide by the rules outlined in the participant contract, including but not limited to:

1. Tell the truth;
2. Not use, possess, distribute, or sell any drugs or alcohol;
3. Not associate with any person selling, manufacturing, possessing, or using controlled substances;
4. Report to your Adult Services Officer as directed and follow all lawful directives given;
5. Attend and participate in all ordered treatment sessions;
6. Be on time for Court, all treatment sessions, and any other required meetings or appointments;
7. Dress appropriately for Court and treatment sessions;
8. Not make threats towards other participants or staff, or behave in a violent manner;
9. Not associate with a known felon with the exception of attending Drug Court or treatment programs;
10. Not bring any drugs, alcohol or weapons to treatment sessions or into Court;
11. Remain in the courtroom for the duration of the Drug Court Docket.
12. Complete high school diploma or GED (if you do not have one);
13. Obtain and maintain employment;
14. Notify Law Enforcement you come into contact with that you are a Drug Court participant;
15. Notify your Adult Services Officer of any Law Enforcement contact;
16. Not possess, own, or use a firearm and/or ammunition;
17. No sexual contact, dating, or intimate relationship with any current Drug Court participant, or other member of your treatment program;
18. Not move, change residence, or living environment without the prior approval of the Drug Court Team.

## **REWARDS AND SANCTIONS**

Douglas County Drug Court uses rewards and sanctions to reinforce compliance with program requirements.

The Court will place your name into a monthly drawing for every week you are sanction free. A name will be drawn at random each month, the winner of the drawing receives a basket full of prizes.

You will be given a punch card you can use to earn punches and turn in for prizes. Punches will be given for a variety of prosocial, treatment, supervision and recovery-based positive actions.

Examples of **Rewards** given may include:

- In Court praise
- Reduction in Court appearances
- Community Service Work in lieu of court costs/fines
- Gift certificate(s)
- Letter of recognition
- Early advancement to next Phase
- Restoration of lost privileges
- Reduction in curfew (if one was imposed)
- Your case called first on the next Drug Court Docket with permission to leave court early after speaking with the Judge.
- Selection of prize(s) from the "goody bag"

When the Judge determines that you have violated or not complied with Drug Court rules, the Judge may impose a sanction. The Team will make a recommendation whether to sanction and what sanction to impose. The Drug Court Judge will make the final decision.

Examples of **Sanctions** given may include:

- Admonishment from the Drug Court Team
- Writing assignment
- Letter of apology
- Community Service Work
- "Day In Court"
- Curfew restrictions
- Increased Court appearances
- Demotion of Phase or extension of current Phase
- Electronic Monitoring
- Increase in drug and/or alcohol testing (You may also be required to pay a % of the cost of the testing equipment.)
- Jail Sanction

## **BEHAVIORS THAT MAY RESULT IN SANCTIONS AND/OR TERMINATION**

Examples of Behaviors That May Result in Sanctioning and/or Termination Include:

- Being Dishonest with Drug Court Team;
- Having a Positive drug or alcohol test; failing to show for a drug or alcohol test; producing a diluted or adulterated sample;
- Being late or failing to attend treatment; probation appointments; or Court;
- Failing to report contact with law enforcement;
- Failing to disclose to law enforcement your involvement in drug court;
- Being arrested and/or convicted of a new offense;
- Leaving Douglas County or the State without prior authorization, or moving outside Douglas County;
- Violating Curfew-(if one was imposed);
- Possessing alcohol, drugs or drug paraphernalia;
- Willfully not complying with a Court order or Team recommendations.

## **DRUG AND/OR ALCOHOL TEST PROCEDURE**

The Drug Court requires random drug and alcohol testing in addition to testing as requested by the Drug Court Team or treatment provider(s). You will be assigned a pin code and enrolled in the random pin code calling system. You are expected to call as directed and outlined in the Drug Testing Pin Code Agreement. All drug screens will be observed to ensure compliance and proper chain of evidence is followed. Your sobriety is important to your success in Drug Court. Your drug and/or alcohol usage while in Drug Court is taken seriously. If a positive drug or alcohol test is submitted, you may receive an immediate sanction. Examples for sanctions imposed can be found by viewing the Violations and Sanctions Continuum.

## **Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

During your involvement in the Drug Court, you may request or be considered for medication assisted treatment. Approved medications may be prescribed to reduce your cravings and urges to use alcohol and/or opiates. This will be considered especially for those clients who have a history of relapse, or report cravings as an issue in staying sober. If you begin receiving MAT, you are expected to remain active in Drug Court and follow treatment guidelines and protocols. You must meet with a nurse and/or doctor on a monthly basis to discuss prescribed medication and report any concerns or complications immediately. If you are currently receiving MAT services, you must authorize communication between the Drug Court Team and all medical professionals involved in your MAT treatment.

### **Graduation**

Eligibility for Graduation is based upon successful completion of the Treatment Program and satisfaction of all court requirements. Graduation from Drug Court is recognized as an important event. Your loved ones will be invited to join you at a Special Ceremony. The Drug Court Team will congratulate you for all the hard work you put into achieving a Life Changing Gift- Recovery! You will withdraw your guilty plea, and the State will file a Motion to Dismiss your case.

### **Post-Graduation Follow Up**

To help the Douglas County Drug Court provide the best possible treatment options for future participants, we ask graduates to participate in post-graduation follow ups. These are conducted in a manner to provide the least inconvenience to the graduate. Follow up studies and requests may include: background checks to check continuing drug-free status, letters, phone calls, questionnaires, possible speaking engagement opportunities, and alumni group opportunities.