



## Douglas County Drug Court

### Douglas County Drug Court-Participant Handbook

#### Welcome

Welcome to the Douglas County Drug Court. This handbook will explain in detail what is expected of you as a drug court participant. You are encouraged to share this handbook with family and friends. You are expected to know the information contained in this handbook to help you maintain compliance in the Drug Court program. The Drug Court program seeks to enhance public safety by reducing recidivism of individuals with a substance use disorder involved in the criminal justice system by offering community treatment services and a therapeutic court setting. Drug Court provides the opportunity to develop a structured, law abiding, and recovery supportive lifestyle.

#### 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

Lawrence Police Department Officer

Douglas County Reentry

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 with 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. Incentives and Sanctions will be given based upon your 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 are based upon your current Phase of Drug Court. If you fail to appear in court, a warrant will 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.

### **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. Participants can earn early advancements in the last two phases of the program (Phase III & Phase IV). Earned Participation Credit (EPC) allows participants who are in compliance with program requirements to advance 30 days earlier in these phases. 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 – EPC can be earned in this phase</li> </ul>	<b>Length of Phase:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 20 weeks – EPC can be earned in this phase</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>6-12 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>Recommend obtaining a Sponsor</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>Recommended 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>Recommended continued 12-Step Work With Sponsor</li> <li>Employment Maintained</li> <li>Compliance With Aftercare Plan And Treatment (Attend Peer Support as scheduled &amp; DC Exclusive Group)</li> </ul>
<b>Criteria for Advancement:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>30 Consecutive Days Of Clean UA's</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>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>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>Successful Completion Of Outpatient Treatment And Attendance Of Individual Sessions</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>Aftercare Plan Compliance</li> <li>Drug Court Team agreement on Graduation And Judge Approval</li> </ul>

### **DRUG COURT RULES**

All participants in Drug Court are required to abide by the rules outlined in the participant contract, including but not limited to:

1. Tell the truth;
2. Do not use, possess, distribute, or sell any drugs or alcohol;
3. Do 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;
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. Respect others in Treatment Court. Verbal and or physical threats toward anyone in the program, in the courtroom, or on the Drug Court team are not allowed. This kind of behavior will be reported immediately to the Court and may lead to serious sanctions including termination from the Drug Court Program.
9. Do not associate with known felons with the exception of attending Drug Court or treatment programs;
10. All associates must be pre-approved for contact with participants.
11. Do not bring any drugs, alcohol or weapons to treatment sessions or into Court;
12. Remain in the courtroom for the duration of the Drug Court Docket.
13. Complete high school diploma or GED (if you do not have one);
14. Obtain and maintain employment per phase requirement
15. Notify Law Enforcement you come into contact with that you are a Drug Court participant and notify your Adult Services Officer of any Law Enforcement contact;
16. Do 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. Do not move, change residence, or living environment without the prior approval of the Drug Court Team.
19. Follow all directives of the Court, Adult Services Officers, and Treatment Providers
20. Do not participate in or commit any new crime

## INCENTIVES AND SANCTIONS

Douglas County Drug Court uses incentives 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, and the winner of the drawing receives a basket full of prizes.

Each participant has punch cards that are used to track positive progress. These punches are earned in a variety of ways throughout the program (see examples): prosocial living/networking, treatment attendance/homework completed, supervision/drug testing compliance, employment verification/promotions and recovery-based behaviors.

Examples of Incentives include:

- In Court praise
- Reduction in Court appearances
- Drug Court Plinko-Chips are presented by the Judge and District Attorney's Office. These are awarded to recognized participants on the First Friday of each month.
- Letters of Support-can be written to other Courts, dual supervision officers and employers about program compliance
- Phase up Rewards-these include a variety of Recovery items, based on the phase
- Earned Participant Credits in Phase III & IV- 30 days credit can be applied in the last two phases
- Restoration of lost privileges
- Reduction in curfew (if one was imposed)
- Punch Cards track program compliance and progress in program. Once a card is filled with punches a "goody bag" filled with a selection of prizes is awarded

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: (see sanction guideline grid)

- Admonishment from the Drug Court Team
- Writing assignment/essay
- Community Service Work
- "Day In Court"
- Curfew and Travel restrictions
- Increased Court appearances
- Demotion of Phase or extension of current Phase
- Electronic Monitoring
- Increase in drug and/or alcohol testing
- 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;
- 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 is imposed);
- Possessing drugs, alcohol, drug paraphernalia, or "designer drugs" that can be purchased, possessed or used legally.
- 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 of sanctions imposed can be found by viewing the Drug Court Sanction Guidelines.

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

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is an important part of recovery for many people with substance use disorders. Drug Court participants may request or be considered for Medication Assisted Treatment while in the Drug Court program. Drug Court participants must get court approval before beginning MAT or before changing their prescribed medications because some MAT medications create the potential for misuse.

Participants who are receiving MAT services must authorize communication between the Drug Court team and all medical professionals involved in the MAT treatment plan. MAT may be approved by the court if it is prescribed lawfully by a licensed medical provider, who has personally examined the participant, diagnosed the participant as having a substance use disorder, and determined that the medication is appropriate to treat the disorder.

The court does not provide medical treatment; however, before approving MAT, the court will consider the risks and benefits for the participant, including the specific medication and its potential for misuse, alternative treatments, and whether use of the

medication might present a barrier to sober living options. The Drug Court supports use of MAT when medically necessary and appropriate for the specific participant.

### **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 the participant for all the hard work he or she put into achieving a Life Changing Gift- Recovery!

### **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. Follow up studies and requests may include: background checks, letters, phone calls, questionnaires, possible speaking engagement opportunities, and alumni group opportunities. We will try to minimize inconvenience to individuals, but your voice is important and may help others in the community.

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