

**“If you can get in this program,
definitely do if you are serious
about getting clean and being
forced to take the resources that
are available. It will change your
life.”**

– Recovery Court Participant



**“It’s allowed me to overcome
challenges that would have
normally landed me back to being
incarcerated.”**

– Recovery Court Participant

**“I hope you’re ready to
drastically change your life
for the better.”**

– Recovery Court Participant

Additional Information and Referrals

<https://www.dgcoks.gov/drug-court>

**“No matter what put in 100%,
because it’s
worth it.”**

– Recovery Court Participant

**“This program will change
your life if you let it.”**

– Recovery Court Participant

Douglas County Recovery Court

Judge Mark Simpson

The Douglas County Recovery Court (formerly Drug Court) was established in January 2020 as a four-phase (now a five-phase) program for adults who are charged with a felony or a violation of felony probation, have a substance use disorder, and are willing to engage in treatment.

The Recovery Court is a collaboration among the Court, Douglas County District Attorney’s Office, Criminal Justice Services, Defense Attorneys, Local Law Enforcement, DCCCA and other community-based treatment providers.

Prospective program participants should consult with their Attorneys, who in turn will contact the District Attorney’s Office.



Douglas County Recovery Court

Structure/ Model

Post-Plea, Pre-Sentence, and Probation Violations

Participants with pending charges must enter a plea of guilty pursuant to a plea agreement with the District Attorney's Office with the recommendation of Recovery Court.

Sentencing is postponed during participation in Recovery Court.

Upon Graduation from Recovery Court, the plea of guilty is allowed to be withdrawn and the case is dismissed.

Graduates may be eligible to apply for expungement.

Sentencing will proceed if the participant exits Recovery Court without graduating.

Participants who are on probation for a felony with a pending probation violation may be eligible for Recovery Court.

Participants with pending probation violation allegations must stipulate to the probation violation(s) pursuant to an agreement with the District Attorney's Office with the recommendation of Recovery Court.

If participants who are on probation successfully complete the program, the probation violation will be withdrawn, and probation terminated.

Participants who are on probation who successfully complete the program will not have the underlying charges dismissed but may be eligible to apply for expungement.

If participants who are on probation exit Recovery Court without graduating, disposition on the probation violation will proceed.

Eligibility

- Douglas County, Kansas, resident
- 18 years of age or older
- Assessed as high risk on a standardized risk assessment tool: at significant risk for committing a new crime or not successfully completing less intensive dispositions like probation.
- Assessed as high need: diagnosed with a moderate or severe substance use disorder that includes a substantial inability to reduce or control their substance use.
- Recommended for a higher level of substance use treatment
- Agree to engage in recommended substance abuse treatment
- Felony charges pending or on Felony Probation with a pending probation violation
- Agree to participate in Recovery Court and follow program requirements
- Approval of the Recovery Court Judge and the District Attorney

Recovery Court Mission

The Douglas County Recovery Court 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. Recovery Court provides the opportunity to develop a structured, law-abiding, and recovery supportive lifestyle.

Exclusions

- Current case involves sex crimes or use of a firearm
- District Attorney's office denies the application due to public safety risk or victim opposition
- Recovery Court team determines the defendant is a public safety risk and is unable to be appropriately supervised
- Pending charges include Driving Under the Influence
- Defendant is a larger dealer or distributor of drugs
- The Recovery Court Team determines that the defendant is not able to successfully participate in the program for specific, objective reasons such as unresolved pending charges in other jurisdictions that could prevent program participation.
- Severe or persistent mental illness or cognitive function that impedes successful completion of program requirements
- Conflict with other participant, team member, or treatment provider

Goals

- Reduce recidivism among Recovery Court participants.
- Promote and enhance public safety.
- Provide accountability and alternatives to incarceration for those with substance use disorders.
- Engage the community in the recovery process through education and awareness
- Help participants develop and maintain long-term recovery skills by taking part in substance use treatment.