



**DRUG COURT
PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK**

LYON AND CHASE COUNTIES

NOVEMBER 2006

MISSION STATEMENT

Drug Court in the 5th Judicial District will strive to reduce recidivism of alcohol and drug offenders in the criminal justice system and provide community protection with a cost effective, integrated continuum of care through the development and utilization of community resources. Drug Court will hold defendants accountable and will assist them to achieve long-term recovery to become law-abiding citizens and successful family/community members.

WELCOME

Welcome to the Fifth Judicial District's Felony Drug Court Program. This handbook is designed to answer questions, address concerns and provide overall information about the Adult Drug Court Program. As a participant, you will be expected to follow the instructions given to you by the Judge, Intensive Supervision Officer/Case Manager and the Treatment Staff. There will be an approved treatment plan developed specifically for you and you will be expected to comply with that plan. This handbook will detail what is expected of you as a Drug Court participant and review general program information. It is intended to be a standard guide to Drug Court participants within the Fifth Judicial District. Some guidelines may vary at the discretion of the Drug Court team. All participants are encouraged to share this handbook with family and friends. Your supportive family and friends are always encouraged and welcome to attend Drug Court sessions with you.

ABOUT DRUG COURT

Drug Courts are an innovative alternative to prison with emphasis on accountability and intensive monitoring for individuals charged with a drug related offense. In 1989, the first Drug Court was established in Dade County, Florida, when a group of concerned Miami leaders noticed that the criminal justice system was unable to adequately address drug addiction or combat the crime that this problem causes. The types of Drug Court programs vary across the country. All programs use a new type of courtroom environment where the offender undergoes treatment and counseling, submits to frequent and random drug testing, makes regular appearances before the Judge, and is monitored closely for program compliance. While Drug Courts vary widely in scope, organization, and points of intervention, all share an underlying premise that drug use is not simply a law enforcement or criminal justice problem, but a public health problem with roots deep in society. Drug Court programs see the Court, and specifically the Judge, as filling a role that goes beyond that of adjudication.

ABOUT THE DRUG COURT PROGRAM

The Fifth Judicial District's Drug Court Program began as a result of the passage of Senate Bill 123 in the 2003 legislative session. This law established a non-prison sanction of certified drug abuse treatment programs for certain offenders sentenced on or after November 1, 2003, for convictions of felony drug possession. The law also provided for mandatory evaluations and treatment of those so convicted, prior to the court sending the offender to a penal institution, unless there were specific departure criteria, or the offender had previously been unsuccessfully discharged from a SB123 treatment program. All offenders convicted under the provisions of SB123 and placed on Community Corrections to be supervised by the 5th Judicial District will be assigned to the Drug Court Program. Certain non-SB123 offenders will be considered for assignment to Drug Court if the sentencing Judge refers them for evaluation by the Drug Court team and the team agrees to accept the offender into the program.

The Drug Court team meets every Thursday afternoon for the call of the docket for that week. Unless excused by the Judge, all participants will be required to attend and remain in the courtroom until the end of the session. Prior to the docket call, the treatment team will have met and reviewed each participant's progress.

The Drug Court Program is for addicted offenders. The program treats a drug as a drug and an addict as an addict, regardless of the drug of choice.

DRUG COURT RULES

Attend all ordered treatment sessions.

This includes individual and group counseling, educational sessions and other treatment as directed. Unexcused missed treatment sessions will result in a sanction.

Be on Time.

If you are late for treatment, you will not be allowed to participate and will be considered non-compliant. Contact your counselor if there is a possibility that you may be late.

Do not make threats toward other participants or staff or act in a violent manner.

Violent or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Court. This behavior may result in a sanction or termination from the Drug Court Program.

Attend all scheduled Drug Court sessions.

You must attend all court sessions as directed by the Judge or Probation Officer. You must dress appropriately for court. Clothing bearing drug or alcohol related themes, promoting or advertising alcohol or drug use is considered inappropriate. Sunglasses, hats and bandanas are not to be worn

inside the Court, treatment center or probation office. Please remain in the courtroom until the session has ended unless excused by the Judge.

Submit to drug and alcohol testing as requested.

You will be tested throughout the entire program by both probation and treatment providers. During the first phase, you will be tested frequently and randomly. As you progress through the program, testing will be required on a less frequent basis. Adulterated urine, which may include diluting, tampering or falsifying, will be considered as a positive test and may result in sanctions or termination from the program. You must submit to drug testing pursuant to the drug and alcohol testing guidelines. The goal of the Drug Court Program is to help you achieve total abstinence from alcohol and illicit drugs. Dishonesty concerning use will result in a more harsh sanction.

Always tell the truth.

Overcoming chemical dependency is not easy. This will take your best effort. Always remember that the end result is to assist you in maintaining a clean and sober life.

You are prohibited from using or possessing any surveillance equipment or devices, including web cameras.

You will be subject to immediate arrest if you quit your job without the prior permission of your officer or you are fired from your job.

You are required to consent to the search of any vehicle or residence that you may occupy to ensure compliance with probation terms by any law enforcement or probation officers.

You must follow all rules as established by the phases of the program.

PHASES

Phase I – Assessment and Primary Treatment Phase

Length, Approximately 30 to 90 days

Requirements to progress to Phase II:

- (1) The initial assessment will be done and will be staffed with the entire treatment team.
- (2) Develop an individualized treatment plan.
- (3) Individual counseling as recommended by your treatment provider.
- (4) Group therapy three to six hours per week.
- (5) Attend a minimum of 4 AA/NA meetings per week.
- (6) Call in daily for drug and alcohol testing instructions.
- (7) Probation meetings twice a week or as instructed after LSI-R completed.
- (8) Obtain an approved sponsor.
- (9) Drug Court appearances weekly.
- (10) Gain/Maintain full time W-2 employment unless otherwise modified by the Court.
- (11) Abide by a 10 pm curfew.
- (12) Complete required assignments in the Drug Court Journal.
- (13) Recommendation of treatment team for movement to Phase II.

Phase II – Treatment Phase

Approximate Length, 6 to 12 months

Requirements to progress to Phase III:

- (1) Treatment plan will be updated.
- (2) Individual counseling one hour per week or as needed.
- (3) Group therapy as recommended by your treatment provider.
- (4) 3 AA/NA meetings per week.
- (5) Call in daily for drug and alcohol testing instructions.
- (6) Probation meetings per LSI-R level.
- (7) Drug Court appearances every 2-6 weeks. This will be determined by each participant's progress.
- (8) Utilize your sponsor and show evidence of 12-Step work.
- (9) Maintain full time W-2 employment or as modified by the Court.
- (10) Abide by a 10 pm curfew.
- (11) Complete assigned portion of the Drug Court Journal.
- (12) Complete required number of Community Service Work hours.
- (13) Recommendation of treatment team for movement to Phase III.

Phase III – Continuing Care and Graduation

Length, Up to 6 months

Requirements:

- (1) This phase is for completion of treatment and aftercare.
- (2) Individual counseling as recommended by your treatment provider.
- (3) Group therapy as recommended by your treatment provider.
- (4) Attend a minimum of 2 AA/NA meetings per week.
- (5) Call in daily for alcohol and drug testing instructions.
- (6) Probation meetings per LSI-R
- (7) Drug Court appearances every 1 to 2 months.
- (8) Continued evidence of 12-Step work and utilization of your sponsor.
- (9) Maintain full time W-2 employment unless modified by the Court.
- (10) Completion of the Drug Court Journal.
- (11) Abide by an 11 pm curfew.
- (12) Submit the Drug Court Graduation Application a minimum of 6 weeks prior to graduation. After approval you must submit your graduation essay at least 2 weeks prior to graduation.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- (1) Satisfactory attendance at all treatment services.
- (2) Six months continuous clean drug tests.
- (3) Full time W-2 employed and/or involved in an academic program unless modified by the Court.
- (4) Completed a continuing recovery plan with treatment provider.
- (5) Submission of a graduation application after completion of at least one full year in the Drug Court program. This should be turned in 6 weeks prior to your anticipated graduation date. It is your responsibility to request the application from your probation officer. After it is submitted with two letters of reference, it will be reviewed by the treatment team.
- (6) Following approval of your graduation application you must submit a graduation essay at least 2 weeks prior to graduation. This is a neatly written or typed 3 to 4 page essay that addresses your understanding of personal problems of addiction, criminal thinking, and relapse prevention.

GRADUATION CEREMONY

You will be given the opportunity to speak at the graduation ceremony but keep in mind that no grandstanding will be allowed. You should not make any inappropriate comments about the Judge or your Officer. Please limit your speech to 2-3 minutes.