

COLQUITT SUPERIOR COURT  
SUBSTANCE ABUSE/MENTAL HEALTH  
TREATMENT COURT PROGRAM  
PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK  
for  
DRUG COURT TRACKING

Colquitt Superior Court  
Southern Judicial Circuit

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## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

This Treatment Court Program lasts an average of 20-24 months and has been developed to help you achieve total abstinence from drug dependency. The program is designed to promote self-sufficiency and to return you to the community as a productive and responsible member. The program is voluntary and is your personal choice. The Judge, the court staff and your treatment counselor are present to guide and assist you, but the final responsibility is yours. You must be motivated to make this change and commit to a drug-free life.

## **DRUG COURT SUPERVISION**

As a drug court participant, you will be required to appear in Court on a regular basis (at least twice a month; no less than once per month during your last phase of the program) and will be subject to field supervision. Field supervision will include unannounced home and workplace visits, as well as curfew checks. Frequency and level of field supervision will depend on your level of risk as assigned by the Probation Office.

Before each court session, the Judge will receive a progress report prepared by the Drug Court Team regarding your drug test results, attendance, and participation in the program. The Judge may ask you questions about your progress, and discuss any specific problems you have been experiencing.

The goal of the Drug Court Program is to help you achieve total abstinence from illicit and illegal drugs; however, a positive, dilute or adulterated drug test does not automatically disqualify you. A positive screen may, however, result in increased jail time, more frequent drug testing, increased counseling sessions, increased meeting attendance, further residential treatment in the community or any other sanction deemed necessary.

Failure to appear in Court on the date and time you are scheduled could result in a warrant being issued for your arrest and you being placed into custody. If you cannot appear in Drug Court as scheduled, you must notify the Drug Court Coordinator and/or the Drug Court Probation Officer as soon as possible to explain why you cannot appear. If you have any questions regarding your court appearances, you may contact the Drug Court Coordinator between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Telephone Number: 229-616-7445.

New/additional charges acquired after enrollment in the program are monitored by the Treatment court team and tracked by the Court Coordinator. New/additional charges and/or arrests could result in your termination from the Drug Court Program. You could also be terminated from the

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program for missing drug tests, not participating in the program, or making threats of violence towards treatment staff or other clients.

While a participant in the Drug Court Track you will be responsible for repayment of any/all restitution to the victim. You must also complete a set number of community service work hours (if applicable). Repayment of restitution and fulfillment of community service work hours are tracked and monitored by the Moultrie Probation Office.

### **DRUG COURT PROGRAM RULES**

As a Drug Court participant, you will be required to abide by the following rules and comply with all Treatment Court requirements while enrolled in this program:

**1. Attend all treatment sessions.**

This includes individual and group counseling, educational sessions, community-based support groups (12-step meetings), relapse prevention, anger management counseling, trauma focused counseling, medically managed detoxification (if applicable), and crisis intervention. If you are unable to attend a scheduled session you must personally contact your treatment counselor immediately. The treatment counselor will then determine if you will be excused.

**2. Be on time.**

If you are late, you may not be allowed to attend treatment sessions and will be considered non-compliant. You must personally contact your treatment counselor immediately if you are going to be late.

**3. Do not make threats towards other participants or staff, or behave in a violent manner.**

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

**4. Dress appropriately for Court and treatment sessions.**

Each participant must dress appropriately for Court and treatment sessions. No shorts, tank tops, or flip flops are allowed in the courtroom. Clothing with drug or alcohol related themes or the promotion of alcohol or drug use is not appropriate. Sunglasses are not to be worn inside unless medically necessary.

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## TREATMENT

Following your acceptance into the Drug Court Track, you will be instructed to report to the applicable treatment center.

Failure to report as instructed may result in the following sanctions:

- **First** missed *individual* session (without excuse) - **\$10.00 fee**
- **Second** missed *individual* session (without excuse) - **\$25.00 fee**
- **Third** missed *individual* session (without excuse) – **jail sanction**

Multi-component inpatient and outpatient programs have been developed which may include:

### **Treatment Plans**

An “initial” treatment plan will be developed by you and your counselor following an overall assessment of your problems and needs. The plan will act as a guide for your first 45 days of treatment, during which a more permanent “master” treatment plan will be developed. This plan will help you set goals for addressing factors that reduce recidivism and promote recovery. You and your counselor will also select methods for meeting your goals, and developing target dates for achieving those goals. The plan will aide in referring you to community services that may be needed, and give you structure and support for using these community services. The plan will be kept in your treatment file for regular review and necessary updates as you progress through the program. Any revisions to the plan will be made and signed by you and your counselor. This plan will help facilitate communication between you, the Court and your Counselor.

### **Intensive In-Patient Treatment**

After acceptance into the program, based on your level of need, you may be admitted to Turning Point Hospital for 10-14 days of intensive in-patient treatment and counseling that may (if needed) include medical detoxification.

- While at Turning Point hospital, you are not allowed to have any visitors or access to a cell phone.
- When you discharge from Turning Point, you must leave with a previously verified friend and/or family member, who has provided proof of identity and/or a valid driver’s license, to Turning Point staff, as directed.

**Failure to adhere to any of these polices, while at Turning Point will be a sanction-able offense and may result in your being removed from Turning Point’s campus and taken back into the custody of the Colquitt County Sheriff’s Office.**

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## **Drug Tests**

You will be tested throughout the entire treatment process. These may consist of your urine, blood, saliva, or hair. During the first few weeks, you will be tested randomly. As you progress through the program, testing may be done on a less frequent basis. The Judge will have access to all drug test results including any failures to test, and may order a drug test at any time. A dilute or adulterated test will be considered a positive/failed urinalysis. The goal for the Drug Court Track is to help you achieve total abstinence from illicit or illegal drugs; however, a positive, dilute or adulterated drug test will not automatically warrant termination from the program, the Judge will be reviewing your overall performance in the program.

## **Counseling**

Substance abuse counseling is comprised of three separate formats; individual, group and educational sessions. As part of your treatment plan, you will be required to participate in all three types of counseling. Together they are designed to develop self-awareness, realize self-worth, and practice self-discipline. The individual and group counseling sessions will include problem identification and alternative solutions. The workshops will include videos, lectures and question/answer sessions. Your attendance at counseling sessions will be reported to the Judge as part of your progress report. You must immediately contact your counselor if you are unable to attend or will be late to a scheduled session.

During substance abuse treatment, your counselor may determine the need for additional counseling. This may focus on areas of family, marital, mental health or trauma related counseling. A referral will be made to a qualified provider and would become a part of your program. Your progress or lack of progress will be reported to the Judge.

## **Educational Classes**

As part of your program, you may be required to attend additional classes, such as domestic violence, budgeting and finance, and parenting classes as identified by the drug court staff.

## **Twelve-Step Meetings**

Attendance will be required at community based support group meetings. In Phase 1 of the program, you will be required to attend 90 meetings in 90 days. Frequent attendance is particularly important at the beginning of your recovery process to help familiarize you with the 12-step philosophy and help you develop a level of trust to learn and create social bonds with other recovering addicts. Weekly meeting minimums are dictated by which Phase you are currently in. (For more information please consult your Phase Chart - located at the end of your

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Participant Handbook). Your counselor and/or Probation Officer will provide you with information regarding the time and location of 12-step meetings and will also direct you to special interest and recovery events in the community.

### **Curriculum**

As part of your treatment you will also be enrolled in a Criminal Thinking Curriculum group. The current model used by our Court is MRT (Moral Reconciliation Therapy). Moral Reconciliation

Therapy (MRT) is a systematic treatment strategy that seeks to decrease recidivism among juvenile and adult criminal offenders by increasing moral reasoning. MRT takes the form of group and individual counseling using structured group exercises and prescribed homework assignments. The MRT workbook is structured around 16 objectively defined steps (units) focusing on seven basic treatment issues: confrontation of beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors; assessment of current relationships; reinforcement of positive behavior and habits; positive identity formation; enhancement of self-concept; decrease in hedonism and development of frustration tolerance; and development of higher stages of moral reasoning. Participants meet in groups once a week and can complete all steps of the MRT program in a minimum of 3 to 6 months.

### **URINE TESTING PROCEDURES**

You will be screened at least two times a week while in the early phases of the program. You must provide a sample on the days when instructed. If you miss a scheduled screen, without a valid, verifiable excuse (i.e. sick - doctor's note) that screen will be counted as a positive and you will face a sanction. You will then be required to provide a make-up screen as soon as is possible.

You will be given an opportunity to admit to drug or alcohol use **prior to** submitting a specimen. If you admit to use before the sample is given your sanction will be less harsh than if you deny and later admit. If you **try to substitute** a sample, you may be looking at a lengthy jail sanction. If you have a **diluted sample** or **cannot produce** a sample, the Probation Officer or Case Manager will require you to remain at the Probation Office, or other testing location, for a sufficient amount of time, so that you can provide a viable sample.

Additional treatment responses may be imposed at the discretion of the Drug Court team.

**Missed screens are considered positive screens** and may also generate a treatment response, as deemed appropriate by the Drug Court team.

**Testing with Probation:** You will be assigned a color upon entry into the program. You will then call the Colquitt County Probation Office, as instructed, to see if your color is up for a urine

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screen. If your color is scheduled for a urine screen, you have approximately 30 minutes to reach the Probation Office & provide a sample.

**Testing with the Court Case Manager & Law Enforcement:** You will also be screened weekly by the Court case manager and are to call as directed, to find out if you have to provide a sample on any given day.

All urine screens are observed by trained, same sex individuals.

Results are provided on-site, immediately after sample is obtained. If your results are positive, the Probation Office will retain the sample and hold it, pending a verification request by you.

If you dispute the results of your test, you have a right to have the test confirmed. After notifying the tester, that you would like the result confirmed, you have 24 hours to provide a \$25.00 money order, to cover the costs of having the test confirmed. Upon receipt of the money order, the tester will submit your specimen to the lab, for confirmation of the results. If the positive test is confirmed, the Court will be notified immediately and a sanction may be handed down at that time.

### **MEDICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE EMERGENCY ROOM AND/OR URGENT CARE FACILITY**

1. **Present your medical card to either the nurse or treating physician at the emergency room or urgent care facility.** It informs the nurse or treating physician of your Drug and/or Treatment Court participation.
  2. If you miss a Drug and/or Treatment Court obligation (drug test, group, court, etc.), you must provide the COURT your medical records (discharge paperwork, prescriptions for medication, and any other records associated with the medical treatment) within **3 business days** of the unplanned medical treatment. **This responsibility rests solely with you.**
    - a. You must fill out a medical release form at the emergency room and deliver the medical records to the Treatment Court Coordinator, or clinician.
    - b. **You must turn in the medical card with your medical records.** It should be signed by the nurse or treating physician at the time treatment was provided to you. **Failure to do so will make any subsequent RX invalid, and any positive, normally attributed to such RX will not be excused.**
  3. If the emergency room or urgent care facility recommends a follow visit with a specialist and/or primary care physician, you must set up the appointment and provide Treatment Court with the treatment plan the doctor recommends. You must provide this treatment plan and medical records (from the specialist or doctor) within **3 business days** of the appointment or visit.
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4. If you decline to participate in the follow up care and/or appointment as recommended by the emergency room nurse or physician, any additional visits to the emergency room for the same untreated medical issue may result in unexcused absences or positive drug tests due to the use of unapproved medication.
  5. If you do not comply with recommended medical treatment while on medical leave, and that prevents you from returning to Treatment Court, then you may be terminated from the program(s).

\*\*\*These instructions are not intended to discourage any participant from seeking legitimate emergency medical care. It is a procedure to ensure that the Treatment Court is kept apprised of all pertinent medical information regarding a participant, to avoid an abundance of unexcused medical absences, and to prevent the unauthorized use of prescription or over the counter medications.\*\*\*

### **MEDICATIONS/ENERGY DRINKS/VAPORS**

**MEDICATIONS:** It is extremely important that you take any medications prescribed to you. The Judge and Drug Court Team recognize many medications have unpleasant side effects, do not work equally well for all patients, and that it can be very difficult for a doctor and a patient to find the best combination of medications for that patient. For some participants in Drug Court, medications may be essential for managing symptoms of illness and living successfully in the community.

If you have complaints about your medications, you must communicate with your Doctor and the Drug Court Team. Your Doctor may be able to prescribe a different medication or additional medications to treat side effects. If you continue to have complaints or feel that your concerns are not being addressed, please talk to the Drug Court Coordinator so that you can work on it together. If you refuse or repeatedly fail to take your medications as prescribed, you may be sanctioned.

***You may take the following medications as directed:***

Advil	Aleve	Aspirin	Ecotrin Tylenol	Ibuprofen
Toradol	Clinoril	Feldene	Nalfon Neclomen	Medipren
Motrin Naprosyn	Seldane	Hismonal	Zyrtec	

***For cough:***

Robitussin DM, Claritin, Tessalon, or Perles

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*You may also take the following antihistamines:*

ActifedAfrin	OrnadeAllerest	AlkaSelzerPlus	Polarmine
Benadryl	Comhist	Teldrin	Comtrex
Contac	Pyribenzamine	Corcidin	Dimetane
Triaminicin	Dimetapp	PBZ	Dramamine
Triaminic	Dristan	Histadyl	

**Other medications may be appropriate to take, but you MUST check with the Drug Court Team PRIOR to taking them.**

Please note many common products including hairspray, perfume, and mouthwash may contain ALCOHOL. If at any time an alcohol test is performed on your sample and is returned with a positive result, this will be considered a sanctionable offense.

**You must notify the Drug Court Team of all medications and provide a copy of all prescriptions to the Drug Court Coordinator.**

**ENERGY DRINKS:** You may not consume any ‘energy drinks’ without first getting permission from a team member. Some popular energy drinks, may test positive for amphetamines.

**VAPORS/VAPING:** You are not allowed to consume, smoke, or otherwise ingest vapor liquids while enrolled in the SA/MH Treatment Court program. Some vapor liquids may contain substances that will cause a false positive and/or positive screen. As such, the use of vapor liquids and/or vaping is NOT allowed.

### **MEDICAL LEAVE POLICY**

A participant may be placed on medical leave if he/she provides medical documentation showing proof that he/she is temporarily unable to fully participate in the program due to medical reasons.

During medical or maternity leave a participant’s progress in the program stops. Participants cannot ‘phase up’ while on medical or maternity leave. A participant will have to submit appropriate medical documentation and sign releases of information waivers with SA/MH Court team members and his/her Doctor’s office(s) before medical leave is granted. Medical and/or maternity leave is approved at the discretion of the SA/MH Court team. While on medical and/or maternity leave, participants must still appear at Court proceedings, provide urine screens as directed, adhere to curfew guidelines, and attend treatment groups and individual treatment sessions as instructed by the SA/MH Court team.

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Before being eligible to return to active participation in the SA/MH Court program, a participant must provide a negative drug screen and provide documentation he/she was released from a Doctor's care before he/she is eligible to return to treatment.

Medical and/or maternity leave will not exceed 60 days. The SA/MH Court team will review medical leave status every two weeks (during staffing sessions, prior to Court). If the medical condition has not improved after 60 days, the SA/MH Court team may grant an extension, if needed.

\*Maternity leave may be granted for two weeks following birth of child. During these two weeks, the participant must still adhere to curfew as directed, and report for random drug screening. Attendance at treatment sessions, and Court sessions will be as directed.

### **SANCTIONS**

If you fail to comply with the Drug Court Program, the Judge may impose sanctions at his discretion, including but not limited to the following:

- Termination from Drug Court
- Jail
- House arrest (Electronic Monitoring)
- Phase Demotion
- More frequent drug testing
- Additional community service
- Curfew
- Writing Essays
- Or other sanctions determined by the Drug Court Judge

### **INCENTIVES**

If you comply with the Drug Court Program, the Judge may, at his discretion, reward you with any of the following:

- Progression to next phase
  - Reduction of Fees
  - Reduction of Fines
  - Reduction of Community Service Time
  - Opportunity to leave Court sessions early
  - Certificates
  - Gift Cards
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## **EDUCATION, VOCATION, AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS**

Recovery from substance addiction means developing self-sufficiency and becoming a productive and responsible member of the community. Prior to graduation, you will be expected to be employed, or involved in an educational or vocational training program. A member of the Drug Court Team will work to assist you in obtaining an assessment of your needs and skills, and will refer you to the proper agencies for education, training and job placement.

## **SOCIAL SERVICES**

Upon your entry into the Drug Court Program, a member of the Drug Court Team will assess your housing, transportation, family and general living needs, and when appropriate, refer you to a local state and/or county agency for assistance.

## **GRADUATION**

Once you have successfully completed the criteria for each Phase (as described in the Treatment Phases section), you will advance to the next level and eventually “graduate” from the Drug Court Program. Advancement from each phase and graduation from the Program shall be determined by the Drug Court Judge. At graduation, your family may be invited to join you in Court as the Judge congratulates you on successfully completing the Drug Court Program and achieving your goal to establish a drug-free life.

## **TERMINATION FROM THE PROGRAM**

Decisions on whether or not to terminate a participant from the Treatment Court Program will be made on a case by case basis, by the Judge, after considering the input received from all team members. However, certain actions will warrant immediate expulsion from the program and they are as follows:

- Assaulting a team/staff member
  - Participant’s request to leave the program
  - Arrest for a new, violent offense
  - Inadequate progression through the phases - as reported by team/staff members
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## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

State licensing requires that your identity and privacy be protected. In response to these regulations, policies and procedures have been developed to guard your confidentiality. You will be asked to sign a statement releasing information to the Drug Court Judge. An identification number will be assigned to you to be used in all research and evaluation activities to safeguard your identity. When you graduate or if you should be terminated from the drug court program, information regarding your treatment will be sealed.

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We hope this Handbook has been helpful to you and answers most of your questions. If you have any additional questions or concerns about the Drug Court Program, please feel free to contact your defense counsel, treatment counselor or any member of the drug court staff.

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