

COLQUITT SUPERIOR COURT
SUBSTANCE ABUSE/MENTAL HEALTH
TREATMENT COURT PROGRAM

PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

for

Drug Court Program



Colquitt Superior Court
Southern Judicial Circuit

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Drug Court Program 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. The Judge will receive a progress report prepared by the Drug Court Team regarding your drug test results and 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. The Judge may order increased jail time, testing, counseling, meeting attendance, 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.

Warrant and/or new arrests could result in your termination from the Drug Court Program. You could also be terminated from the program for missing drug tests, demonstrating a lack of program response by failing to cooperate with the treatment program, as well as violence or threats of violence directed at treatment staff or other clients.

DRUG COURT PROGRAM RULES

As a Drug Court participant, you will be required to abide by the following rules:

1. Attend all treatment sessions.

This includes individual and group counseling, educational sessions, as well as 12-step meetings. 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.

TREATMENT PROCEDURES

Following your acceptance into the Drug Court Program, you will be instructed to report to the treatment center. 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, select methods for meeting those goals, and develop target dates for achieving those goals. 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.

Drug Tests

You will be tested throughout the entire treatment process. These may consist of your urine, blood, 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 Program is to help you achieve total abstinence from illicit or illegal drugs; however, a positive, dilute or adulterated drug test will not automatically disqualify you. 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 or mental health 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 12-step meetings such as Narcotics and/or Alcoholics Anonymous. 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. A minimum of 2 meetings per week is required. Your counselor 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.

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

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

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.

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.

PHASES

To successfully complete the Treatment Court Program, you will have to move through 4 phases of treatment as outlined below. In order to advance to the next phase of treatment, you must complete and/or comply with all of the items listed in each section. Completion of every item, in each phase, MUST be accomplished before you can advance to your next phase of treatment.

Once you have completed all four phases, you will graduate from the Treatment Court Program.

Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Phase IV
Approx. 45 Days	Approx. 180 Days	Approx. 150-180 days	Approx. 135-150 days
4 consecutive, clean drug screens	12 consecutive, clean drug screens	16 consecutive, clean drug screens	120 days clean and sober
develop a treatment plan	acquire a sponsor	obtain verifiable employment and/or work towards GED	obtain verifiable employment and/or GED
attend all court sessions	attend all court sessions	attend all court sessions	attend all court sessions
drug testing will be conducted no less than twice a week	drug testing will be conducted no less than once a week	drug testing will be conducted no less than once a week	drug testing will be done as needed
attend all treatment sessions/makeup any missed sessions	attend all treatment sessions/makeup any missed sessions	attend all treatment sessions/makeup any missed sessions	attend all treatment sessions/makeup any missed sessions
comply with all probation requirements	attend AA/NA meetings as directed by Treatment Provider (no less than 20 meetings)	attend AA/NA meetings as directed by Treatment Provider (no less than 20 meetings)	attend AA/NA meetings as directed by Treatment Provider (no less than 20 meetings)
	complete all community service	attend parenting classes, if applicable	complete all community service
	comply with all probation requirements	comply with all probation requirements	comply with all probation requirements
			pay all assessments costs and program fees (unless waived)