

Thirteenth Judicial Circuit
Adult Drug Court Division “Y”

“DRUG COURT” PROGRAM
HANDBOOK



Welcome to the Drug Court Program!

You have a unique opportunity to take part in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's Adult Drug Court Program, referred to as "Drug Court"! This handbook (the "Drug Court Handbook") will answer your questions, address your concerns, and give you a summary of the Drug Court Program ("Program"). Drug Court represents a non-traditional approach to criminal offenders who have substance use disorders and mental health issues. Drug Court will address the problems that have led to your arrest. The Program will also address some of the things that can make your alcohol or drug problems worse. The drug court team, referred to in this handbook as the "Drug Court Team," will work together to create a plan to assist you in reaching sobriety and to help you in your recovery!

-The Drug Court Team

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Mission Statement

The Drug Court Program addresses the root causes of justice system involvement through specialized dockets, multidisciplinary teams, and a non-adversarial approach. By offering evidence-based treatment, judicial supervision, and accountability, the Drug Court Program provides individualized interventions for participants, thereby reducing recidivism and promoting confidence and satisfaction with the justice system process.

Eligibility Requirements

As a participant in Drug Court, you must be 18 years of age or older, have a substance use disorder or substance use problem, and not contest your criminal charge(s). The total sentencing points on your Criminal Code Scoresheet must be 60 points or less, and your current criminal charge must be a non-violent felony. Certain medical or mental health diagnoses may prevent you from being able to participate in the Program, but that decision is made on an individual basis. You must enter a plea of guilty to your current criminal charge(s) prior to being accepted into the Drug Court Program.

The Drug Court Team

Drug Court Judge:

Honorable Michael J. Scionti (813) 301-3825

Drug Court Specialists:

Ms. Kelly Griffin (813) 307-3356

Ms. Heidi Nagel (813) 272-5120

Public Defender's Office:

Ms. Euri Barton-Jones, Asst. Public Defender (813) 277-1459

Mr. Kevin Baines, Case Manager (813) 277-1355

State Attorney's Office:

Ms. Jemima Zetrenne, Asst. State Attorney (813) 272-5400

Department of Corrections (DOC):

Ms. Rebecca Hopkins, Senior Officer (813) 233-7264

Treatment Providers (including, but not limited to):

ACTS (813) 246-4899

COVE (813) 384-4000

Phoenix House (813) 881-1000

Westcare (727) 502-0188

Director of Problem-Solving Courts

Ms. Julia Schilling (813) 272-6275

The Drug Court Team Roles

Drug Court Judge: The focus and direction of the problem-solving court is provided through the effective leadership of the judge. The judge will maintain a non-adversarial atmosphere within the court and is the leader of the Drug Court Team. The judge is committed to following evidenced-based practices.

Drug Court Specialist: Court administration provides case management and oversight via specialty court case managers who work under the direction of the Court Administrator. A Drug Court Specialist (DCS) assists the court in moving cases from application to successful completion. DCS's also are responsible for obtaining information from all stakeholders and obtaining and maintaining compliance information from treatment providers and supervising officers. They complete initial assessments and coordinate referrals to treatment. They provide options and resources to the Drug Court Team members to help participants successfully complete the Drug Court Program.

Defense Attorney: The defense attorney is tasked with protecting your due process rights and advocating for case resolutions that are in your best interest. The defense attorney's roles and duties are to (1) advocate for treatment while protecting your constitutional and statutory rights; (2) ensure due process rights are protected; (3) advocate for incentives and ensure sanctions are applied

appropriately; (4) monitor compliance with the Drug Court Program's rules and requirements; (5) request and advocate for phase advancement (if applicable) and graduation from Drug Court; (6) share information with team members as appropriate while protecting the attorney-client privilege; and (7) protect confidential information from persons outside of the treatment team and defense team.

State Attorney's Office (SAO): The state attorney is tasked with protecting and enforcing public safety and holding you accountable for your Drug Court Program obligations. The state attorney's roles and duties are to: (1) advocate for treatment while protecting public safety; (2) advocate for incentives and sanctions when appropriate; (3) monitor compliance with Drug Court Program rules and requirements; and (4) protect confidential treatment information from persons outside of the treatment team.

Supervision (DOC): The role of the probation or community control officer with the Department of Corrections is to provide community supervision by reinforcing the rules and policies of the problem-solving court and to provide updates and progress reports to the Drug Court Judge for review at case reviews and staffings. A supervision officer attends court and provides information to the Drug Court Judge about the status of your court-ordered supervision.

Treatment Providers: There are many Drug Court-approved community treatment providers who provide treatment to participants in Drug Court. Treatment providers are licensed and/or have the proper education and experience, consistent with evidenced-based best practices, in treatment required in Drug Court. Treatment providers provide individual and group counseling, drug screens, and make referrals as needed, on an individual basis. The role of a treatment provider is to: (1) meet with the participant to conduct assessments and evaluations and develop a treatment plan; (2) provide treatment and adjust treatment recommendations as needed; and (3) provide the Drug Court Team with compliance information and relevant updates on your progress, while protecting confidential information.

Program Requirements

Drug Court is a multi-phase, structured program that takes approximately 14 months to complete, based on track assignment. Depending on your progress in treatment and compliance with the requirements of your assigned track and phases (if applicable), you may spend more than 14 months in the Program. Prior to entering the Program, you will complete a risk/needs assessment, which will guide your individualized treatment. This assessment is administered by a drug court specialist or intern.

Program Phases

All participants in the Drug Court Program must sign a “Drug Court” Post Adjudication Agreement (“Agreement”) for the track determined by the Drug Court Team to be appropriate for the participant. You will be required to comply with all terms, conditions, obligations, and responsibilities in your Agreement. **If a subsequent court-ordered assessment or evaluation indicates a higher risk and/or needs category is appropriate, you may be placed in a different track that corresponds with those results.**

Based on the results of your court-ordered assessments and evaluation, you have been placed in the below Track.

- ☐ Track 1
- ☐ Drug Offender Docket or “DOD”

General Rules

These are the general rules that all Drug Court participants must follow:

- Sign all agreements and releases necessary for entrance into the Program.
- Report to court as required.
- Report to supervision officer as required.
- Appear on time for all court dates, treatment appointments, and other scheduled appointments as ordered by the judge.
- Participate in any and all evaluations or assessments.
- Fully cooperate and actively participate in treatment, counseling, support groups, and any other court-ordered elements of your treatment plan.
- Answer truthfully any question posed by the judge, supervision officer, or any other member of the Drug Court Team.
- Take any and all medications prescribed, in the manner prescribed. Non-prescribed medications may not be taken without prior approval from the judge. You must disclose participation in a treatment program to all of your health care providers.
- Do not use or possess intoxicants (alcohol), illegal drugs, synthetic drugs, or any dangerous or mind-altering

substances (a list of these synthetic drugs and prohibited substances are included in your Drug Court Agreement).

- Do not enter any establishment whose primary source of income is the sale of alcohol including, without limitation, bars, liquor stores, pool halls, or nightclubs.
- Submit to random urine, breath, and other drug or alcohol screening throughout Program participation no less than two times a week. Such screening may be ordered by the judge or recommended by your treatment provider or any other member of the treatment team.
- Do not commit any new law violations while participating in the Program.
- Be employed, participating in a job-training program, engaged in a pro-social activity, or enrolled full-time in school unless excused or modified by the judge. Participants must produce verification documentation upon request, and the supervising officer may visit places of employment or contact employers.
- Remain in Hillsborough County unless given advanced permission to leave by the judge. Notify supervision officer and clerk's office of change of address promptly.
- Do not possess or attempt to purchase any firearm or weapon while participating in the Program.

- Do not possess any alcohol, illegal drug, drug paraphernalia, or firearms, or any other item that is prohibited.
- Allow visitation to your place of residence and consent to random searches of your person, possessions, residence, and vehicle by the Department of Corrections, or any other official authorized to conduct a search by the judge for purposes of determining compliance with your Agreement and the rules and conditions of the court.
- Behave and dress appropriately for court and treatment sessions.
- Pay required costs and fees and any court-ordered restitution. Participants may be allowed to “work off” required costs by completing community service hours.
- State and federal laws require strict confidentiality regarding issues relating to medical, mental health, and substance abuse treatment. The Drug Court Team may not share personal information with outside parties without your consent. Participants may not share information pertaining to other participants with anyone. Direct any questions regarding confidentiality to your defense attorney.

Attendance and Absence Policy

Drug Court participants are required to attend all court, supervision, and treatment sessions, unless the participant's presence is waived or excused in advance. Unexcused absences or late appearances may result in sanctions, up to and including a warrant for your arrest. Late appearances to a scheduled court, supervision, or treatment session may result in an unexcused absence.

You must make every effort to be prompt, avoid unexcused absences, and maintain good communication with providers, defense attorneys, probation officers, and your DCS. Unexpected or emergency matters that conflict with a Drug Court appointment should be immediately communicated to applicable members of the Drug Court Team. Requests to reschedule appointments are at the applicable team member's discretion.

Court Sessions

All Drug Court sessions are held before the **Honorable Michael J. Scionti** in **Courtroom 52** in the Criminal Annex of the Edgecomb Courthouse, unless otherwise ordered by the judge (i.e., virtually or via telephonic conference). Court sessions typically are held on **Monday and Wednesday beginning at 1:00 p.m.**, unless otherwise scheduled by the judge. You are required to attend all scheduled court appearances unless your presence is excused or waived by the judge. Failure to appear before the judge on a scheduled court date and time may result in a warrant for your arrest.

During court hearings, you must dress appropriately, arrive on time, and remain in the courtroom or “virtual” courtroom until your case is called. Court sessions may take longer than anticipated, so please be patient and flexible. The judge takes the time necessary to address the needs and issues of each participant.

Drug Screening Protocol

All participants must complete court-ordered drug screening at your treatment program, at the Department of Corrections (DOC), or as otherwise instructed by the Drug Court Team. You may be placed on a “call-in” system which requires you to call a drug screen phone line daily to determine if a drug and alcohol screen is required that day or provided an “app” to check daily for screening instructions. You will receive the call-in or app instructions at the time of Program enrollment or orientation with your drug treatment provider. Please note the following:

- Drug and alcohol screening will be performed frequently and on a random basis throughout Drug Court enrollment.
- Drug and alcohol screening will be performed by a laboratory or program approved by Drug Court.
- Drug and alcohol screening may be conducted on the first day of Drug Court to capture baseline information related to substance use.
- You must arrive at the screening facility within 8 hours after being notified that a screen has been scheduled.
- A staff person will directly observe the collection of screen specimens. A same gender staff person will be the observer, unless you, the defense attorney, or therapist requests otherwise.

- Failure to provide a screen specimen or a sufficient volume of fluid for analysis is an infraction of the rules of Drug Court. Participants will receive sanctions accordingly. Sufficient time (up to one hour) and ability to drink water in the presence of staff is allotted to deliver a urine specimen.
- You may not drink any fluid excessively before screening and must avoid environmental contaminants, over-the-counter medications (i.e., Nyquil or other medications containing alcohol), or foods that can reduce the accuracy of the screens, such as poppy seed bagels or CBD products. Please refer to the prohibited substance list in your Agreement.
- You may be subjected to immediate spot screening if the Drug Court Judge has reason to suspect recent use or during high-risk times, such as weekends or holidays.
- You have the right to challenge the results of a screening and to request proof that an adequate chain of custody was established for a specimen. The Drug Court Team will rely on the results of an instrumented or laboratory-based screen in confirming whether substance use has occurred. You may be charged the cost of the confirmation screen if a screening is confirmed as positive.
- You may be sanctioned for providing diluted, adulterated, or substituted screen specimens. Urine specimens below 90° F, above 100° F, or that have a creatinine level below 20 mg/dL will be presumed to be diluted or fraudulent.

Participants bear the burden of establishing a convincing alternative explanation for such results.

- You may be sanctioned for using Prohibited Substances (as defined in your Drug Court Agreement), especially synthetic substances that are designed to avoid detection by standard drug screens. Switching to a new substance of abuse (for example, switching from heroin to an unauthorized prescription opioid) will be presumed to be an effort to defraud the drug screen. You may receive two sanctions in such circumstances, one for the substance use and one for the effort at deception.
- You may be sanctioned for associating with people who are engaged in substance use or for being exposed to passive inhalation or secondhand smoke.

Supervision Protocol

Nearly all Drug Court participants are placed on Drug Offender Probation, supervised by the Department of Corrections (DOC). This type of supervision requires participants to meet with probation officers at least one time per month. Your probation officer is required to verify housing by completing home visits and verify employment status through pay-stubs or work visits. While on probation, you are unable to leave the county without prior permission from your probation officer or the judge. You must notify your supervising officer, defense attorney, and your DCS if you change your residence. You may have a curfew.

Once fully accepted into the Drug Court Program, you will go directly to the Probation Office. Directions will be provided. You will register with the DOC, and they will provide you with the specific Drug Offender Probation terms and conditions. You will then be assigned to a specific probation officer, based on your home address.

For Probation Related Questions, please contact:

Ms. Rebecca Hopkins, Correctional Probation Senior Officer
(813) 233-7264

Prescription Medication Policy

While enrolled in Drug Court, you must disclose to your treatment program all medications you are currently prescribed. You will be asked to sign a Release of Information (ROI), giving the treatment program the ability to communicate with your prescribing physician. Medication Assisted Treatment (e.g., methadone, buprenorphine, and Vivitrol) is allowed in the Program. The decision to take these types of medications will be a decision made between you and your physician.

If you receive healthcare attention while in the Program, you are required to inform your medical, dental, or ocular health care provider that you are a participant in Drug Court and in a drug and alcohol treatment program before any diagnosis is made or prescription prepared for you. You will be given a "Prescriber Notification Form" to provide to your prescribing health care provider at the time of treatment (and in the case of emergency treatment, as soon as is possible after such treatment). You are required to contact your treatment program and your supervision officer when you are prescribed medication while in the Program. You must present proof of your prescription by a prescribing healthcare provider.

Adult Drug Court Intervention Matrix

The following matrix is used by the Adult Drug Court (ADC) team to identify appropriate responses to both inappropriate and healthy behaviors. The matrix is flexible and ultimately, any response may be applied as appropriate at the discretion of the Judge and the treatment team. Therapeutic and supervision responses may be used in combination or individually with Judicial responses. Repeat offenses will receive increased interventions, which may exceed the identified maximum if behaviors continue. Jail may be utilized at any level/phase if the behavior compromises community safety and/or the participant disengages with program and treatment requirements. Termination will be considered at any time for new law violations.

Incentives Matrix				
Positive Behaviors	Phase	Therapeutic Response	Supervision Response	Judicial Response
**Any previous phase/lower-level incentive may be applied to the identified level as appropriate				
Proximal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance • Available for supervision • Submitting appropriate reports/documents • Timeliness • Submitting UAs • Compliant with program directives • Attending psych evaluation • Attending MAT evaluation • Communicating appropriately 	Phase 1, 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition in individual session • Recognition in group counseling sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal praise in court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Judicial Praise • Highlight as example/role model • Encouragement • Fish-Bowl • Called first on docket • Folder/organization supplies • Journal/Writing notebook • Gift cards • Early phase advancement
	Phase 3, 4, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for reduction in tx requirements • Telehealth or virtual attendance • Recognition in treatment team 		
Moderate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Honesty • Testing Negative • Prosocial Activities • Employment • Progress in treatment • Active participation & providing feedback to others • Making Payments/Restitution • Appropriate Use of Resources • Completing GED • Obtaining Driver's License • Recovery Artwork for courtroom • Completing Pro-Social courses (i.e. Parenting) • Pro-Social involvement (The Phoenix, HRC, AA/NA, Smart Recovery) 	Phase 1, 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share experience in group/lead group • Recognition in individual or group sessions • Candy/food 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verbal praise in court • Extending curfew hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Called first on docket • Round of applause • Praise from team members • Reduction in Community Service Hours • Attend court virtually • Reduction in program fees • 10+ hours CSH credit • Early phase advancement • Gift cards • CSH Credit • Care Closet
	Phase 3, 4, 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review for Reduction in tx requirements • Positive recognition in group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced check-ins • Reduction in home visits 	
Distal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing Level of Care • Extended Abstinence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 30 Days ○ 60 Days ○ 90 Days ○ 6 Months ○ 9 Months ○ 1 Year • Completing Phase Requirements • Completing Program Requirements • Completing Thinking for a Change 	Phase 3,4,5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Achievement • Group Celebration 	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handshake or hug from Judge • Early phase advancement • Certificate • Participation in Commencement Ceremony • Travel pass (overnight) • Gift cards • Attend court virtually
<p>NOTE: Positive behaviors <i><u>and</u></i> inappropriate behaviors will be responded to in a timely manner and may be addressed in the same court hearing. This does not take away the significance of the positive behavior or reduce the severity of the inappropriate behaviors.</p>				

Sanctions Matrix

Behaviors	Phase	Therapeutic Response	Supervision Response	Judicial Response
Low: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Late for scheduled event, per provider protocol Failure to communicate with appropriate team member Lack of engagement/ participation 	Phase 1, 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talk to counselor about tardiness Written assignment/essay (100 words) Apology Letter Reassess services, if appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Check-ins (phone or in person) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judicial Warning ≤ 5 Community Service Hours Reflection Paper/Essay
	Phase 3, 4, or 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skill Building Session Attend staffing/consultation Not receiving credit for group session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home visit Curfew extension/reinstating curfew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≤ 10 Community Service Hours 1 week home detention Reflection Paper/Essay and read aloud to the judge
Moderate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to engage in treatment Failure to submit requested documents including, but not limited to medical records, CSG logs, probation reports, employment verification etc. Late CSG Logs Dishonesty Disruptive in group 	Phase 1, 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written assignment/essay (500 words) Apology Letter to counselor or group Reading apology letter to group Incorporating family Not receiving credit for group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly Check-ins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal Admonishment ≤ 10 Community Service Hours Reflection Paper/Essay and read aloud to the judge Weekly court hearings Journaling
	Phase 3, 4, or 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection Essay Treatment plan adjustment/ treatment extension Attend staffing/ consultation Call/meeting with court staff or attorney Review Referral for additional services Require in-person appearance (not telehealth) Facilitate group session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home visit Increase Curfew Increased Check-ins (2x per week) VOP court observation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≤ 15 Community Service Hours 1 week home detention Called last on docket Revoke virtual attendance Reflection Paper/Essay and read aloud to the judge Jury box observation Observe traditional courtroom Journaling
High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missed Substance Testing/Failure to submit sample Unexcused Absence Use of substances/ positive UDS Inappropriate Test results Tamper with UA or dilute sample: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creatinine <20 or >400 Use of devices or adulterants Substitution of sample Disrespect Noncompliance with applied interventions Unsuccessful discharge from treatment 	Phase 1, 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reflection Essay Treatment Plan Adjustment Require in-person appearance (not telehealth) Behavior Contract Referral for detox, if appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home visit Increase Curfew Increased Check-ins (2x per week) Productivity Reports Accountability Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judicial Warning ≤ 20 Community Service Hours 1 week home detention Weekly Court Hearings Reflection Paper/Essay and read aloud to the judge
	Phase 3, 4, or 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in recovery event through HRC/The Phoenix Review Referral for additional services (MAT, psych, trauma, etc.) Reassess level of care, if appropriate Complete relapse prevention plan Referral for detox, if appropriate Relapse Prevention Plan Community Support Group referrals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased UA testing Increased Check-ins (3x per week) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≤ 25 Community Service Hours 2-week home detention Team round table Weekly Court Hearings ≤ 24 Hours Jail Reflection Paper/Essay CSH at recovery-oriented provider or event Referral for detox, if appropriate Revoke virtual attendance VOP/Bench Warrant

Sanctions Matrix, continued

Behaviors	Phase	Therapeutic Response	Supervision Response	Judicial Response
Very High: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criminal Behavior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ New crimes ◦ Driving under the influence ◦ Driving without license ◦ Fighting ◦ Trespassing ◦ Violating no contact orders ◦ Associating with known criminal associates • New Arrest • AMA (<i>Failure to communicate with team and/or attend requirements for 1 week</i>) • Failure to appear in court 	Phase 1, 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassess level of care, if appropriate • Reassess for appropriateness for treatment • Possible discharge from treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased Check-ins (4x per week), in person • Case review for supervision i.e. transfer to Post-Adjudicatory • VOP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤ 25 Community Service Hours • Weekly court appearance • Team Round table • ≤ 2 weeks home detention • ≤ 2 Days Jail • VOP/Bench Warrant • Review for possible termination
	Phase 3, 4, or 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reassess level of care, if appropriate • Reassess for appropriateness for treatment • Possible discharge from treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24-hour curfew • VOP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ≤ 30 Community Service Hours • ≤ 4 weeks home detention, with monitoring • Weekly court appearances • Team round table • ≤ 4 Days Jail • VOP/Bench Warrant • Review for possible termination
OTHER: The following behaviors will extend your time in a program phase, regardless of additional intervention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to submit/complete treatment work • Not attending group or individual sessions • Failure to verify residence/employment • Unavailable for home visits 				
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not completing community service hours • Being behind on CSG attendance 	

Costs/Fees

There are costs associated with Drug Court, including cost of supervision and other standard court costs. You may also be required to pay treatment costs, attorneys' fees, and restitution. Your attorney will explain all of these costs, fees, and restitution before entering the Program.

Treatment Costs:

Depending on the availability of resources, including, health insurance coverage, your personal income, grant eligibility and/or utilization of other Drug Court funding, you may be required to pay costs associated with your treatment. Full disclosure of the possible costs of your treatment will be discussed with and provided to you prior to your engagement with the treatment provider.

Cost of Supervision/Court Costs:

If you are unable to pay your cost of supervision by DOC, the judge may waive these costs. You also may have your court costs converted into community service hours at an approved location at a current rate of \$15.00 per hour, at the judge's discretion.

Restitution:

Depending on your charges, you may have to pay restitution. If you are required to pay restitution, the Assistant State Attorney will inform you and your attorney of the amount prior to entering Drug Court.

Transportation

You are responsible for transportation to treatment, court, and supervision. However, the judge, treatment provider, or other member of the Drug Court Team may provide you bus passes, as appropriate and if available.

Transportation resources that may be able to assist you:

Hillsborough Area Regional Transit (HART)	(813) 384-6301
Hillsborough County Sunshine Line	(813) 272-7272

Graduation

When you successfully complete all phases of the Program, you will be a candidate to graduate from the Drug Court Program. You will discuss your progress toward the goals you initially set and why you believe you have met the graduation criteria. After hearing input from the Drug Court Team, the judge may approve graduation from the Program. The Drug Court Judge has discretion to grant or deny your request for early termination and successful discharge from the Program. At your graduation, you will be given a chance to speak, and the judge will congratulate you on successfully completing the Program and achieving your goal of establishing a sober and stable life. You need at least 90 days of negative drug screens to graduate from the Program and demonstrate compliance with the other requirements listed in the Program Phases section of this Handbook.

Pursuant to a negotiated plea agreement between the State Attorney's Office and the participant, the State Attorney's Office may permit a participant referred to Drug Court on stand-alone Drug Charges to have their plea withdrawn and sentence vacated upon successful completion of the Drug Court program.

Termination

A consistent lack of Program participation, continuously failing to follow instructions of your treatment team, or acquiring new criminal charges may result in your termination from the Drug Court Program. Compliance with the Program is a condition of your supervision. A willful failure to comply could result in the Drug Court Judge finding that you have violated your probation or community control which may result in a new sentence that could include incarceration.

Infection Control Policy

Every reasonable attempt will be made to prevent the spread of infection in the Drug Court Program. There are infection control measures used for decreasing the risk of transmission of disease. All body and blood fluids will be considered infectious regardless of the assumed status of the source individual.

Universal precautions are used during interaction with all participants regardless of their diagnosis or presumed infection status. Please know that Program staff are required to report instances of infectious disease that pose a threat to the public to the Hillsborough County Health Department.

Treatment

Below is information about the contracted treatment providers in Drug Court. Please know that you may be able to attend treatment at another provider, but your DCS will contact the provider to ensure that they can provide treatment and reporting that satisfies the Program's requirements.

ACTS:

8605 N. Branch Ave, Tampa, FL 33604 (813) 936-8100

Walk-in evaluations available Monday – Friday 9:00am – 2:30pm

- Inpatient/Residential: Men's/Women's programs
- Intensive Outpatient: Men's/Women's programs
(~9 groups/week)
- Outpatient: Men's/Women's Programs
(1-3 groups/week)
- Drug Screening Hours: M-Th 8AM-4:30pm; F 8AM-3:30PM

COVE:

4422 E. Columbus Drive, Tampa, FL 33605 (813) 384-4000

Walk-in evaluations available daily first come, first served,
but arrive at 7:30 a.m.

- Inpatient/Residential: Men's/Women's programs
- Intensive Outpatient: Men's/Women's programs
(~9 groups/week)
- Outpatient: Men's/Women's Programs
(1-3 groups/week)
- Both in person and limited telehealth available
- Drug Screening Hours: M-F 6AM-6PM
- Drug Screening Hours (MAT Services): M-F 6AM-6PM

Phoenix House:

15681 U.S.-301, Citra, FL 32113 (Residential)

510 Vonderburg Drive, #301, Brandon FL 33511 (Outpatient)

(813) 881-1000

Evaluations scheduled by calling the Welcome Center at (813) 881-1000, and selecting Option 1

- Intensive Outpatient (Brandon): Men's/Women's programs (~9 groups/week)
- Outpatient (Brandon): Men's/Women's Programs (1-3 groups/week)
- Drug Screening Hours: M-Th 10AM-6PM; F 10AM-4PM (must sign in M-Th by 6PM)

Westcare:

1735 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Street South, St. Petersburg, FL 33705 (Residential)

8800 49th Street N. #403, Pinellas Park, FL 33782 (Outpatient)

727-490-6768

6448 Ridge Rd., Port Richey, FL 34668 (Outpatient)

727-846-0757

15000 Citrus Country Dr. Suite 105, Dade City, FL 33523

(Outpatient) 813-780-8288

- Inpatient/Residential (St. Petersburg): Men's/Women's programs
- Outpatient (Pinellas Park): Men's/Women's Programs (1-4 groups/week)
- Drug Screening Hours: M-F 10AM-5:30PM

***PLEASE NOTE:** The drug screening hours referenced above may change during holidays and for weather-related emergencies (i.e., tropical storms and hurricanes).

Releases of Information and Confidentiality

Your identity and privacy will be protected, consistent with Florida law. In response to these regulations, policies and procedures have been developed which guard your confidentiality. You will be asked to sign a release of information (ROI) allowing the transfer of information among all participating agencies and members of the Drug Court Team. You are also expected to respect and maintain the confidentiality of others and can be held accountable for breaching such confidentiality.

Complaints and Grievances

A grievance is an official statement of complaint over something believed to be wrong or unfair. If you believe that you are being treated unfairly, including in the form of harassment, bullying, or disrespect by a Drug Court member, you may address this by filing a grievance or complaint with the appropriate organization or agency. If you need to find an attorney to assist you with this process, the Hillsborough County Bar Association (www.hillsbar.com) is a resource that can be used to connect to an attorney.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if a participant relapses or violates the terms of the Program? Relapse or other violations of the terms of your Agreement or supervision do not automatically result in a prison sentence or incarceration. The Drug Court Team is well aware of the difficulties of staying sober and is willing to work with individuals who are making the effort to stay substance free. Violations of your Agreement or supervision typically result in low to moderate level sanctions and treatment modifications and may be based on your candor to the Drug Court Team.

How does drug offender probation differ from regular probation? Drug offender probation usually involves drug treatment, increased contact with the probation officer, a curfew, more frequent drug screens, and support group attendance.

Do I give up my legal rights by entering the Drug Court Program? No. You have the right to legal representation at every step of the process. You have the right to an evidentiary hearing with counsel in the event of a violation of probation. However, a decision to litigate a new law violation case will result in a transfer to a standard criminal division court.

Can I drink alcohol or use marijuana while in Drug Court? No! Alcohol and marijuana (at this time) use in any form is prohibited in Drug Court.

If I have been using up until my entry into the Drug Court Program, will I be violated for a positive urine screen? Not necessarily. If you report recent drug use to your DCS or the judge, you normally will be allowed time to produce negative drug screens. However, continued use after entering the Program may result in sanctions.

Can Drug Court help me with problems other than substance abuse? Yes! Participants are regularly given referrals to programs that deal with medical, mental health, employment, education, vocation, and other issues.

Has this Program been proven to work? Yes! Many studies across the country have demonstrated that when following evidence-based treatment practices, adult drug court best practice standards, the combination of drug treatment, case management, drug screening, and vigorous judicial oversight available in this type of program is an effective way to help people with drug problems and an efficient method for reducing the costs of drug-related crimes.

Contractual Agreement

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Drug Court Program Handbook. I have read this Handbook and understand all terms and conditions of the Handbook, including the following sections:

Mission Statement
Eligibility Requirements
The Drug Court Team
The Drug Court Team Roles
Program Requirements
Program Phases
General Rules
Attendance and Absence Policy
Court Sessions
Drug Screening Protocol
Supervision Protocol
Prescription Medication Policy
Incentives and Sanctions
Costs/Fees
Transportation
Graduation
Termination
Infection Control Policy
Treatment
Releases of Information and Confidentiality
Complaints and Grievances
Frequently Asked Questions

Participant Signature

Date

Defense Attorney

Date