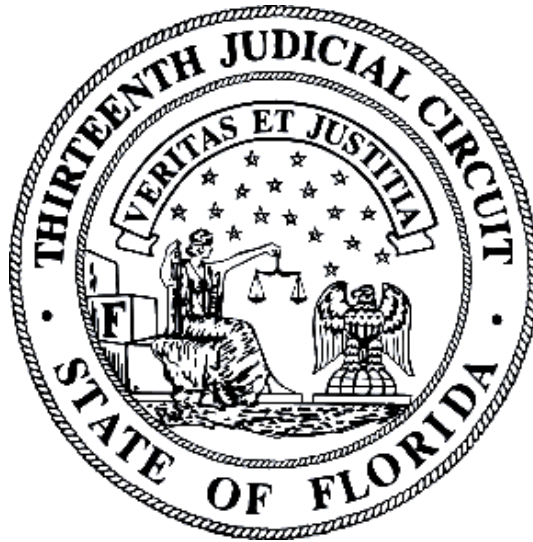


State of Florida  
Thirteenth Judicial Circuit



Problem-Solving Courts  
Policy and Procedure Manual  
  
Adult Drug Treatment Court  
(2025)

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## I. Forward.

*Welcome to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's Adult Drug Treatment Court (ADTC). This Problem-Solving Courts Policy and Procedure Manual is intended to provide an overview of the ADTC program. ADTC follows a non-adversarial, evidence-based approach to treatment for participants charged with crimes who struggle with a substance use disorder or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder. ADTC addresses not only the problems leading to a participant's entry into the criminal justice system, but also the barriers impeding their treatment and recovery. The defining feature of ADTC is the highly individualized nature of treatment and supervision plans for each participant, which are created by evidenced-based assessments, judicial supervision, and personal accountability. The mission of ADTC is to work collaboratively in developing therapeutic treatment plans tailored to meet the participant's individual needs with the goal of providing stability, wellness, and long-term care.*

*– Adult Drug Treatment Court Team*

*Motto: "Where Clinical Meets Court"*

## II. Overview.

The concept of problem-solving courts began in the early 1990s in response to significant backlogs and over-crowding in the criminal justice system related to drug offenders and to the ineffectiveness in preventing the rapid cycling of this population through the system. Problem-solving courts attempt to address underlying problems associated with substance use and/or mental health disorders and incorporate a range of evidence-based treatment principles into the justice system process. These courts combine community treatment services with court supervision.

Offering evidence-based treatment, judicial supervision, and overall accountability, the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's Adult Drug Court (ADTC) provides individualized interventions for participants, thereby improving public safety, reducing recidivism, and ensuring participant accountability, while promoting confidence and satisfaction in the criminal justice system. Administrative Order S-2020-009 (see Appendix B) outlines the proper and efficient operation of the ADTC program. Adult drug courts are part of a broader problem-solving court movement establishing mental health courts and veterans treatment courts in Florida and around the country. These courts share many of the same key components, operational practices and procedures, legal guidelines, and treatment services.

Through continued research and analysis, the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADTCP) developed the Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards, Vol. I (2013) and Vol. II (2015). Since their initial development, both volumes were revised in 2018 and Family Treatment Court Best Practice Standards were released in 2019 by the Center for Children and Family Futures and NADTCP. The NADTCP standards are intended to clearly define the practices that drug courts and other problem-solving courts should implement in order to adhere to evidence-based best practices that have been scientifically shown to produce better outcomes and maintain fidelity to the drug court model. The Florida Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards, based on the NADTCP Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards, were promulgated by the Supreme Court of Florida in 2017 and revised in 2023. They remain the most robust model for other criminal division problem-solving courts in Florida.

In 2025, the Florida Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards were revised and released. These standards are based largely on the research and analysis conducted by All Rise, formerly the NADTCP. The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit utilize these standards across all seven of its problem-solving courts: (1) Adult Drug Treatment Court; (2) Juvenile Drug Treatment Court; (3) Adult Mental Health Treatment Court; (4) Juvenile Mental Health Treatment Court; (5) Marchman Act Drug Treatment Court; (6) Family Dependency Treatment Court; and (7) Veterans Treatment Court. These standards are of critical

importance to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's established treatment goals and objectives for these courts.

This Problem-Solving Courts Policy and Procedure Manual provides structure to decision-making for all key stakeholders who make-up the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's Problem-Solving Courts Oversight Committee. The Chief Judge and presiding Judges of Problem-Solving Courts reserve the right, in each individual case, to make discretionary decisions consistent with the law and public policy. As seen below, Figure 1 depicts a timeline for problem-solving court milestones at the national and local level.

Figure 1. National and Local Milestones in Problem-Solving Courts.



### III. Oversight Committee.

The policies and procedures for the operation of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's Problem-Solving Courts shall be established through the Problem-Solving Courts Policy and Procedure Manual and any change or amendment to this manual shall be made by the Problem-Solving Courts Oversight Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Oversight Committee"). Administrative Order S-2023-062 (see Appendix A) outlines the history, composition, and requirements of the Oversight Committee and subcommittee. The purpose of the Oversight Committee is to obtain input and foster collaborative involvement from committee members for each problem-solving court. The Oversight Committee is charged with recommending strategies to maintain the quality and effectiveness of each problem-solving court and to ensure viable treatment options. The Oversight Committee is comprised of the following individuals and representatives from the following offices, agencies, and/or departments:

- *Chief Judge*
- *Administrative Office of the Courts*
- *Presiding Judges of Problem-Solving Courts*
- *Public Defender's Office*
- *State Attorney's Office*

### IV. Defining Elements.

Problem-solving courts address the root causes of justice system involvement through specialized dockets utilizing a multidisciplinary, non-adversarial team approach. Offering evidence-based treatment, coupled with judicial supervision and accountability, problem-solving courts provide individualized interventions for participants, thereby reducing recidivism and promoting confidence and satisfaction with the justice system process. Problem-solving courts offer a specialized court docket that includes, but is not limited to, the following elements:

- A. Problem-Solving Team. A problem-solving team is a broad-based team of justice system stakeholders, which includes, but is not limited to, judges, assistant state attorneys, defense attorneys, law enforcement officers, supervision officers, court case managers, and treatment providers.
- B. Non-Adversarial Approach. A non-adversarial approach is defined as a commitment to offering alternatives to the traditional adversarial litigation process.



- C. Continuum of Individualized Treatment Services. A continuum of individualized treatment services includes an array of evidence-based services designed to identify and meet the unique needs of each participant.
- D. Judicial Leadership and Interaction. Judicial leadership and interaction require a judge who is willing and able to lead the problem-solving team and monitor court case progress, while overseeing a collaborative approach in monitoring participant compliance and progress.
- E. Responses to Participant Compliance. Responses to participant compliance is defined as the use of graduated, individualized, and coordinated responses, both for incentives and sanctions, to promote both public safety and participant success.

V. Ten Key Components.

In 2000 and again in 2009, the national Conference of Chief Justices (CCJ) and the national Conference of State Court Administrators (COSCA) issued joint resolutions concluding that drug courts and other problem-solving courts are the most effective strategy to reduce drug abuse, prevent crime, and restore families. In recognition of this fact, CCJ and COSCA called upon the justice system to extend the reach of problem-solving courts to every citizen in need, and further, to infuse the principles and practices of these proven programs throughout our system of justice. A national consensus panel, convened by the U.S. Department of Justice and the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADTCP), in January 1997, developed the “Ten Key Components”.

Their conclusions echo more than two decades of scientific research establishing the effectiveness of drug treatment courts and other problem-solving courts and that fidelity to the Ten Key Components is essential for achieving successful, cost-effective outcomes. Table 1 below defines the “Ten Key Components” that provide the foundation for the successful operation of ADTC.

Table 1. The Ten Key Components of Adult Drug Treatment Court.

<b>Key Component 1</b>	Drug Treatment Courts integrate alcohol and drug treatment services with justice system case processing.
<b>Key Component 2</b>	Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense attorney promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
<b>Key Component 3</b>	Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the Drug Treatment Court program.
<b>Key Component 4</b>	Drug Treatment Courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
<b>Key Component 5</b>	Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and illicit drug testing.
<b>Key Component 6</b>	A coordinated strategy governs Drug Treatment Court responses to participants' compliance.
<b>Key Component 7</b>	Ongoing judicial interaction with each participant is essential.
<b>Key Component 8</b>	Monitoring and evaluating achievement of program treatment goals is necessary to gauge effectiveness.
<b>Key Component 9</b>	Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Drug Treatment Court planning, implementation, and operations.
<b>Key Component 10</b>	Forging partnerships among Drug Treatment Courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances effectiveness.

VI. Team Members.

- A. Judge:  
Honorable Michael J. Scionti (813) 301-3825
- B. Judicial Assistant:  
Ms. Erin Potter (813) 301-3825
- C. Administrative Office of the Court:  
Ms. Julia Schilling, Problem-Solving Courts, Director (813) 272-6275  
Mr. Joshua Donovan, Court Specialist (813) 272-6627  
Ms. Kelly Griffin, Court Specialist (813) 307-3356  
Ms. Heidi Nagel, Court Specialist (813) 272-5120
- D. Office of the Public Defender:  
Ms. Marie Marino, Assistant Public Defender, Supervisor (813) 272-5980  
Mr. Euridice Barton-Jones, Assistant Public Defender (813) 272-5980  
Mr. Kevin Baines, Case Manager (813) 272-5980
- E. Office of the State Attorney:  
Ms. Jeria Wilds, Assistant State Attorney, Supervisor (813) 272-5400  
Ms. Skylar Jackle, Assistant State Attorney (813) 272-5400  
Ms. April Pent, Assistant State Attorney (813) 272-5400
- F. Department of Corrections:  
Ms. Rebecca Hopkins, Correctional Probation Officer (813) 233-7264
- G. Treatment Providers and Other Support:  
Agency for Community Treatment Service (ACTS) (813) 246-4899  
Ibis (Cove Behavioral Health) (813) 384-4000  
Ibis (Gracepoint Wellness) (813) 459-4709  
Phoenix House of Florida (813) 881-1000  
WestCare Foundation of Florida (727) 490-5260  
Hillsborough Recovery Coalition (813) 485-5750

VII. Team Member Roles, Duties, and Expectations.

All ADTC team members and participating entities and agencies endorse the program's stated mission and treatment goals in order to improve public safety, reduce recidivism, and ensure participant accountability, while promoting confidence and satisfaction in the criminal justice system.

- A. Program Operations. All ADTC team member and participating entities and agencies agree to the following program operations:
1. Assist with ongoing oversight of the program including quality assurance methods to ensure the program is meeting its stated treatment goals and objectives.
  2. Assist with the collection of data needed to evaluate the processes and outcomes of the program.
  3. Participate in ongoing interdisciplinary team training.
  4. Participate in regular team meetings concerning processes, operations, policy, and structure.
- B. Case Staffings and Court Hearings.
1. All ADTC team members and participating entities and agencies shall attend case staffings and court hearings where they will discuss each case on the docket to determine treatment responses, phase advancement, incentives, and sanctions to be used at the next court hearing to modify a participant's behavior.
  2. In the event an ADTC team member cannot attend a case staffing or court hearing, that team member shall notify the team as soon as possible. If a substitute staff member cannot be utilized, with prior notice and approval of the ADTC Judge, written reports concerning participant progress will be submitted to the ADTC team prior to the case staffing. If an ADTC team member is taking planned leave, the team member will identify staff to provide coverage for the case staffing and court hearing.
- C. Additionally, the ADTC program adheres to the following nine core competencies<sup>1</sup> as a foundation for defining team member roles:
1. Participate fully as a problem-solving court team member, committing to the program and its mission and treatment goals, and work as full partners to ensure a participant's success.

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<sup>1</sup> See *Know Your Role: What You Do and What You Share*, National Drug Court Institute, 2019.

2. Advocate for effective incentives and sanctions for program compliance or lack thereof.
3. Knowledgeable of addiction, alcoholism, and pharmacology and applies this knowledge in order to respond to compliance in a therapeutically appropriate manner.
4. Knowledgeable of gender, age, and cultural issues that may impact a participant's success.
5. Initiate planning process by bringing together necessary agencies and stakeholders to evaluate current court processes and procedures.
6. Become a program advocate by utilizing community leadership role to create interest in and develop support for the program.
7. Effectively lead the team to develop all the protocols and procedures of the program.
8. Aware of the impact that substance use has on the court system, the lives of the offenders and their families and the community at large.
9. Contribute to education about efficacy of problem-solving courts.

D. Judge: The ADTC Judge is the leader of a multidisciplinary team, who possesses the authority and responsibility to ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice, while effectively directing, coordinating, and employing available resources for the therapeutic treatment of participants. The ADTC Judge is also responsible for building trust within the treatment team and following a non-adversarial, evidence-based approach to each case, which better enables team members to handle changing conditions and adapt to unique situations in the management of participant cases. The ADTC Judge is the ultimate arbiter of factual disputes and makes the final decisions concerning the imposition of incentives, sanctions, or dispositions that affect a participant's legal status or liberty interests. The ADTC Judge makes these decisions after carefully considering input from other team members and, as applicable, discussing the matter with the participant in court. The ADTC Judge relies upon the opinions and recommendations of qualified treatment professionals when setting court-ordered treatment conditions and, if necessary, will seek additional clinical advice when considering to alter the treatment conditions and/or plan.

E. Defense Attorney: The defense attorney assigned to ADTC is responsible for: (1) advocating for treatment while protecting the participant's constitutional and statutory rights; (2) ensuring due process rights are protected; (3) advocating for

incentives and ensuring sanctions are applied appropriately; (4) monitoring compliance with ADTC rules and requirements; (5) requesting and advocating for graduation from ADTC; (6) sharing information with ADTC team members as appropriate while protecting attorney-client privileged information; and (7) protecting confidential treatment information from individuals outside of the treatment team and defense team.<sup>2</sup>

- F. Assistant State Attorney: The assistant state attorney assigned to ADTC is responsible for: (1) enforcing state laws and protecting public safety; (2) advocating for treatment while holding participants accountable to ADTC obligations; (3) advocating for incentives and sanctions when appropriate; (4) monitoring compliance with ADTC rules and requirements; and (5) protecting confidential treatment information from individuals outside of the treatment team.
- G. Department of Corrections Supervising Officer: The Department of Corrections (DOC) supervising officer assigned to ADTC is responsible for enforcing the rules and requirements of supervision as ordered by the ADTC Judge and to provide periodic updates and progress reports to ADTC team members regarding the status of a participant's court-ordered supervision to include, but not limited to, drug testing results, probation appointments, and progress reports for court-ordered criminogenic curriculum.
- H. Administrative Office of the Court (AOC) Court Specialist: The AOC court specialist assigned to ADTC is responsible for providing case management and oversight to include: (1) screening participants and providing options to ADTC Judge; (2) providing case management to participants; (3) liaising with community-based treatment providers to ensure services are being provided; (4) providing updates to the ADTC Judge during case staffings and/or court hearings; and (5) collaborating with ADTC team members to facilitate effective lines of communication and continuity of care for participants.
- I. Treatment Providers: The treatment providers supporting the ADTC program are community-based professionals, who are state licensed and/or certified in addiction prevention, intervention, treatment, and continuing care services in accordance with problem-solving court best practices. They include Agency for

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<sup>2</sup> A defense attorney may not disclose sensitive information or infractions unless the participant has consented to the disclosure or, in limited circumstances, if it is necessary to protect the participant or others from an immediate and serious safety threat. In these narrow instances, disclosure is limited to the minimum information needed to avert the threat, and the ADTC team agrees in advance in writing that disclosures coming solely from the defense attorney will not result in a serious sanction for the participant, including jail, detention, or program discharge. *See Adult Treatment Court Best Practices*, revised 2025.

Community Treatment Service (ACTS), Ibis (Cove Behavioral Health), Phoenix House of Florida, WestCare Foundation of Florida, or Hillsborough Recovery Coalition. The role of treatment providers is to develop individualized treatment plans, which take into consideration a participant's capabilities to comply with treatment and supervision requirements, while affording each participant the best opportunity to achieve wellness. When appropriate, ADTC team members will consult with treatment providers for clinical guidance and recommendations in addressing the effectiveness of the treatment plan. Treatment providers are expected to regularly update ADTC team members, via email, with a timely and accurate "Treatment Status Review Form" (see Appendix E), regarding the status of a participant's compliance or non-compliance with the treatment plan.

#### VIII. Team Member Rules.

In accordance with problem-solving court best practices, the following list of rules shall be adhered to by all ADTC team members:

- *Team members shall respect and value the distinct roles of each individual member of the team. Team members shall maintain a collaborative environment utilizing professional judgment and rendering candid advice on how to best meet treatment goals.*
- *Team members shall hold in confidence any information discussed during case staffings and/or court hearings regarding any active program participant. A participant's sensitive information will be presented confidentially at the bench to minimize exposure in court.*
- *Team members shall abide by all State and Federal confidentiality laws, except with consent of the participant, or when information is exchanged during case staffings and/or court hearings. The exchange of information during case staffings and/or court hearings is limited to compliance or non-compliance with the requirements of the participant agreement.*
- *Team members shall not transport any active program participant in their personal vehicles for any reason (except those designated by role).*
- *Team members shall not establish a relationship with any active program participant, nor attend any non-program functions with any active program participant (e.g., family events, birthday parties, etc.). Appointments such as*

*medical, mental health, dental and/or financial relating to participation in a problem-solving court program shall not apply.*

- *Team members shall display professionalism and courtesy to all participants and fellow team members, and discourage unprofessional or unethical advances from any active program participant and/or their family members. Team members shall report the same to the problem-solving court team (i.e., receiving gifts or services from a participant).*
- *Team members shall not share information pertaining to any active program participant's non-compliance/program removal with other treatment agencies unless it is deemed clinically appropriate.*
- *Team members shall not share a participant's personal information with outside parties without the participant's consent.*

## IX. Requirements.

- A. General Requirements. ADTC is a problem-solving court that oversees treatment for participants with a substance use disorder or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder. While participation in ADTC is voluntary, participants do not have a right to participate in ADTC. Eligibility to participate in either the ADTC pre-trial intervention program or post-adjudication program is determined by Florida Statutes. Please note, however, a participant may not be suitable for treatment if their current criminal charge(s) and/or criminal history bar or otherwise prevent them from receiving community-based treatment, thus, making them ineligible to participate in the ADTC program.

1. Pre-Trial Intervention Program (DPTI).<sup>3</sup> In order to participate in the ADTC DPTI Program, all participants must satisfy the following requirements:

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<sup>3</sup> See Section 948.08(6)(b), Florida Statutes; see also Section 948.08(2), which states “[a]ny first offender, or any person previously convicted of not more than one nonviolent misdemeanor, who is charged with any misdemeanor or felony of the third degree is eligible for release to the pretrial intervention program on the approval of the administrator of the program and the consent of the victim, the state attorney, and the judge who presided at the initial appearance hearing of the offender. However, the defendant may not be released to the pretrial intervention program unless, after consultation with his or her attorney, he or she has voluntarily agreed to such program and has knowingly and intelligently waived his or her right to a speedy trial for the period of his or her diversion.” (Emphasis added)



- a. Participant is identified as having as substance abuse problem and is amendable to treatment;
- b. Participant is charged with a nonviolent felony. Nonviolent felony means a third-degree felony violation of Chapter 810 or any other felony offense that is not a forcible felony as defined in Section 776.08;
- c. Participant is not also charged with a crime involving violence, including, but not limited to, murder, sexual battery, robbery, carjacking, home-invasion robbery, or any other crime involving violence; and
- d. Participant has two or fewer felony convictions, provided that the prior convictions are for nonviolent felonies.
- e. Upon motion of either party, or the court's own motion, and with the agreement of the participant, the court shall admit an eligible person into a pre-trial substance abuse education and treatment intervention program except:
  - i. If at the pre-admission hearing, the state attorney establishes, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the participant was involved in the dealing or selling of controlled substances, the court shall deny admission; or
  - ii. If the participant has two or fewer prior felony convictions as provided in the statute, the court, in its discretion, may deny admission.
- f. Upon being determined eligible, the participant will be transferred to the next available ADTC enrollment docket.

2. Post-Adjudication Program.<sup>4</sup> In order to participate in the ADTC Post-Adjudication Program, all participants must satisfy the following

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<sup>4</sup> See Section 948.20, Florida Statutes; see also Section 397.334(3)(a), which states “[e]ntry into any post-adjudicatory treatment-based drug court program as a condition of probation or community control . . . must be based upon the sentencing court’s assessment of the defendant’s criminal history, substance abuse screening outcome, amenability to the services of the program, total sentence points, the recommendation of the state attorney and the victim, if any, and the defendant’s agreement to enter the program.” (Emphasis added)

requirements:

- a. Participant is a chronic substance abuser whose criminal conduct is in violation of Section 893.132(a) or (6)(a), or other nonviolent felony. The term nonviolent felony means a third-degree felony violation under Chapter 810 or any other felony offense that is not a forcible felony as defined in Section 776.08;
  - b. Participant's Criminal Punishment Code scoresheet total sentence points are 60 points or fewer;
  - c. The court may either adjudge the participant guilty or stay and withhold the adjudication of guilt. In either case, the court may also stay and withhold the imposition of sentence and place the participant on drug offender probation or into a post-adjudicatory treatment-based drug court program if the participant otherwise qualifies.
  - d. Upon being determined eligible, the participant will be transferred to the next available ADTC enrollment docket.
- B. Screening Referral Process. Prior to being admitted into the ADTC program, all participants are required to complete an "ADTC Program Application" (see Appendix L) and submit to [AdultDrugTreatmentCourtReferral@fljud13.org](mailto:AdultDrugTreatmentCourtReferral@fljud13.org). Once the program application is received and the participant's Criminal Punishment Code scoresheet is prepared, the participant will be added to the ADTC docket.

During the first court hearing (or enrollment docket), the participant will be ordered to complete the Level of Service/Case Management Inventory (LS/CMI) assessment to determine specific needs and to determine the appropriate resources that will be recommended for success. The LS/CMI will be conducted by an AOC court specialist which can take place in the jail, in person, or virtually. In addition to the LS/CMI, the participant will be ordered to complete a clinical assessment by a court-approved community-based substance use treatment provider. This assessment will include a recommended level of care based on the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria. In all cases, diligence is used to refer to treatment and housing resources. In cases in which the participant is in custody, ADTC team members shall work to achieve treatment goals or social service objectives on behalf of the participant in a coordinated effort to minimize the participant's time in custody.

At the second court hearing, the “ADTC Pre-Trial Intervention Agreement” (see Appendix G) or “ADTC Post-Adjudication Agreement” (see Appendix H) will be prepared, reviewed, and signed by all parties. The participant’s risk level and track, determined by the LS/CMI, along with their clinical need level, determined by the ASAM, will be incorporated into the applicable ADTC agreement. Additionally, the participant’s risk and need will determine the docket (either Track 1 / Track 3 Docket or Track 2 / Track 4 Docket) on which they are placed and subsequently their phase structure and length of time in ADTC.

The ADTC pre-trial intervention and post-adjudication agreements include treatment under either Track 1 / Track 3 or Track 2 / Track 4. Track 1 consists of a five-phase structured program focusing on participants with high risk to reoffend and high clinical needs (e.g., High Risk / High Need). However, ADTC recognizes there are participants with lower risks or needs that may benefit from treatment supervised by ADTC. As such Tracks 2, 3, and 4 align with the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model<sup>5</sup> to allow for adequate treatment and supervision of participants with lower risks or needs.

Based upon the results of the LS/CMI and clinical assessment of the ASAM as well as input from ADTC team members, the ADTC Judge will determine requirements for supervision to include, but not limited to, treatment for a substance use disorder or co-occurring substance use and mental health disorder, criminogenic thinking, attending community support groups, and submitting to random drug screens. All participants will be supervised by a DOC supervising officer and are expected to attend regular court hearings before the ADTC Judge. Further, all participants will receive an “ADTC Handbook” (see Appendix D) outlining the ADTC program requirements.

## X. Tracks and Phases.

- A. Best Practice Standards. The Florida Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards indicate that problem-solving courts have significantly better outcomes when they have a clearly defined track and phase structure and concrete behavioral requirements for advancement. The purpose of phase progression in a particular track is to reward participants for their accomplishments and identify behavior

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<sup>5</sup> The Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model is one of the most influential models used for assessment and treatment of criminal offenders, which develops recommendations for how individuals should be assessed based on the risk they present, what programs or services they require, and what kinds of environments they should be placed in to reduce recidivism. See Blanchette & Brown, 2006; Ward, Mesler & Yates, 2007; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/risk-need-responsivity\\_model](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/risk-need-responsivity_model).

expectations at each phase. Therefore, phase advancement should be predicated on the achievement of clinically important milestones, marking substantial progress toward recovery. Phase advancement should be based on a participant's ability to achieve specified treatment objectives, not simply on the length of time enrolled in the program. ADTC subscribes to the track and phase process outlined below. Each track and phase consist of specified treatment objectives, therapeutic and rehabilitative activities, and specific requirements for advancement into the next phase.

B. Track and Phase Requirements. The specific requirements of each track and phase can be found in the “ADTC Tracks and Phases” (see Appendix F). Below is the length of each phase under the respective track:

1. Track 1 – High Risk / High Need (minimum of 14 months).

- a. Phase 1 (minimum of 60 days)
- b. Phase 2 (minimum of 90 days)
- c. Phase 3 (minimum of 90 days)
- d. Phase 4 (minimum of 90 days)
- e. Phase 5 (minimum of 90 days)

2. Track 2 – Low Risk / High Need (minimum of 12 months).

- a. Phase 1 (minimum of 60 days)
- b. Phase 2 (minimum of 90 days)
- c. Phase 3 (minimum of 90 days)
- d. Phase 4 (minimum of 120 days)

3. Track 3 – High Risk / Low Need (minimum of 12 months).

- a. Phase 1 (minimum of 60 days)
- b. Phase 2 (minimum of 90 days)
- c. Phase 3 (minimum of 90 days)
- d. Phase 4 (minimum of 120 days)

4. Track 4 – Low Risk / Low Need (minimum of 6 months).

- a. Phase 1 (minimum of 30 days)
- b. Phase 2 (minimum of 60 days)
- c. Phase 3 (minimum of 90 days)

Note: In addition to satisfying the minimum period of time and treatment requirements associated with each phase, participants are required to submit an “ADTC Phase Applications” (see Appendix M) in order to progress to the next phase. Phase applications will be provided by the AOC court specialist. The ADTC Judge will decide whether the conditions have been met and advancement to the next phase is appropriate. In order to successfully complete the ADTC program, participants must complete all phases of their assigned track and maintain full compliance for the requisite minimum period of time. Participants must also submit an “ADTC Graduation Application” (see Appendix N), requesting graduation from the ADTC program, which will be provided by the AOC court specialist approximately 30 days before their projected completion date. The ADTC Judge will decide whether all conditions of the ADTC program have been satisfied and whether graduation is appropriate. Graduation from the ADTC program may result in either the dismissal of criminal case(s) under a pre-trial intervention agreement or successful termination of supervision under a post-adjudication agreement.

C. Special Conditions. In addition to the conditions set forth in the ADTC pre-trial intervention or post-adjudication agreements, participants may be required to comply with one or more of the following court-ordered special conditions (not a complete list):

1. Complete community service hours.
2. Complete anger management counseling.
3. Complete domestic violence counseling.
4. Complete advanced driver improvement course.
5. Complete criminogenic thinking course.
6. Comply with no contact or no violent contact orders.
7. Abide by a curfew.
8. Wear alcohol monitoring device.
9. Wear location monitoring device.

10. Abide by travel restrictions to locations outside of Hillsborough County, Florida.
11. Satisfy financial obligations such as costs of supervision, court costs, treatment costs, attorney's fees, statutory fines, and/or restitution, if applicable.
12. Any other requirements that may be imposed by the ADTC Judge.

XI. Rules and Releases of Information.

A. General Rules. In order to participate in the ADTC program under either a pre-trial intervention or post-adjudication agreement, a participant must comply with the following rules:

1. Review, agree, and sign all agreements and releases of information as required and/or directed.
2. Attend all court hearings as required and/or directed.
3. Report to the DOC supervising officer as required and/or directed.
4. Participate in and comply with any and all evaluations or assessments as required and/or directed.
5. Participate in and comply with any and all treatment, counseling, and clinical programs related to a substance use disorder or co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder as required and/or directed.
6. Participate in and comply with any and all criminogenic thinking and/or other applicable programs as required and/or directed.
7. If applicable, take prescribed medications as recommended by the prescribing physician.
8. Appear on time for any and all treatment, counseling, and clinical appointments and appointments for criminogenic thinking and/or other applicable programs as required and/or directed.
9. Refrain from any criminal behavior and do not commit a new criminal offense.

10. Do not associate with individuals engaged in criminal activity.
11. Do not possess or consume alcohol, illegal or prohibited substances, or non-prescribed medications.
12. Undergo random urinalysis testing as required and/or directed.
13. Do not visit any establishment whose primary source of income is the sale of alcohol to include, but not limited to, bars, liquor stores, pool halls, or nightclubs.
14. To the extent possible, actively pursue employment, educational, and/or vocational training.

Note: Participants are not required to be employed or enrolled in school to remain compliant with the ADTC program. If employed, ADTC participant employment must be lawful and their employment status verifiable by the DOC supervising officer through paystubs within 30 days of employment or from the date of request.

15. Do not possess, own, or attempt to possess or own a firearm or weapon while participating in ADTC and forfeit any firearm or weapon involved in the underlying case to law enforcement and do not seek its return.
16. Do not leave the county of residence overnight without the permission of the ADTC Judge. Requests to leave the county of residence should be made through the participant's defense attorney either in court or via email through the ADTC court specialist. Requests for travel overnight outside the county of residence should be made, at a minimum, one week in advance whenever possible. Reasonable accommodations will be made for emergency situations. Denial or approval of travel with instructions regarding requirements for travel will be provided to the participant's defense attorney.
17. Promptly and truthfully answer all inquiries from the DOC supervising officer and/or the ADTC Judge.
18. Submit to periodic home visits by the DOC supervising officer and comply with all instructions as required and/or directed.

19. Behave respectfully and dress appropriately for all ADTC hearings and treatment and counseling sessions.

- B. Releases of Information. ADTC participant identity and privacy will be protected consistent with state and federal law. ADTC has developed confidentiality, privacy, and information sharing guidelines (see below). In order to participate in ADTC, participants must sign a “ADTC Authorization for Disclosure of Confidential Information” (see Appendix I), allowing for the release, sharing, and/or exchange of information, either written or verbal, between participating treatment providers and ADTC team members.

## XII. Confidentiality, Privacy, and Limitations on Sharing Information.

In order to foster a supportive, therapeutic environment for each participant, all ADTC team members and participating entities and agencies agree to permit information sharing and open communication among and between employees and shall adhere to applicable confidentiality laws and privacy guidelines.

### A. Confidentiality Laws and Privacy Guidelines.

1. All ADTC team members and participating entities and agencies shall adhere to all federal and state confidentiality laws applying to personal health information and substance abuse treatment information including 42 C.F.R. Part 2 and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). In accordance with these laws, the ADTC team will strictly enforce confidentiality regarding the release, sharing, and/or exchange of information, either written or verbal, regarding a participant’s medical, mental health, and/or substance use disorder treatment.
2. All ADTC team members and participating entities and agencies are prohibited from releasing, sharing, and/or exchanging a participant’s information, either written or verbal, with any individual, private or government agency or department, or other organization or party not affiliated with the ADTC program, without both the participant and defense attorney’s consent and provided such release, sharing, and/or exchange of information, either written or verbal, is consistent with state and federal laws.
3. All information regarding a participant’s involvement in the ADTC program will be recorded in the Florida Drug Court Case Management System (FDCCMS) for data collection, management, reporting, and



analysis. This information includes, but is not limited to, personal demographics, track and phase information, staffing and hearing notes, treatment and assessment results, and diagnoses admission and discharge dates and types. All ADTC team members have access to FDCCMS. Each ADTC team member has signed and executed the “FDCCMS User Confidentiality and Privacy Statement Form” (see Appendix J), allowing discipline-specific access. Any questions or issues related to FDCCMS should be directed to the AOC Director of Problem-Solving Courts.

4. All information regarding a participant’s medical, mental health, and/or substance use disorder diagnosis and/or treatment filed and recorded in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Clerk of the Court’s database will be accompanied by a “Notice of Confidential Filing” or a “Motion for Confidential Filing” prepared by the participant’s defense attorney, as applicable, which will be timely addressed by the ADTC Judge. The ADTC record will be limited to general demographic information along with the minimum information necessary to document participant compliance with the ADTC program.
5. ADTC status reports for each participant are prepared prior to case staffings and/or court hearings and forwarded directly to ADTC team members. These reports are limited to information relating to a participant’s compliance with ADTC program requirements and will be the only information released, shared, and/or exchanged, either written or verbal, between ADTC team members and participating entities and agencies.
6. While all federal and state confidentiality laws will be followed and strictly enforced in ADTC, an exception is made when both the participant and defense attorney consent to the release, sharing, and/or exchange of information, either written or verbal, for use during ADTC case staffings and/or court hearings and only for the limited purpose of furthering treatment goals for the participant. Further exceptions to federal and state confidentiality laws include:
  - a. Medical emergencies;
  - b. Crimes committed on the program premises or against program staff;

- c. Mandatory reports of suspected abuse, abandonment, or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult;<sup>6</sup>
  - d. Receipt of a valid court order to produce information;
  - e. Compliance with state laws concerning the collection of information relating to causes of death; or
  - f. Compliance with duty-to-warn requirements (in this instance, ADTC team members cannot divulge the fact that the potential victimizer is a participant).
7. Participants shall respect and maintain the confidentiality and privacy of other participants in ADTC and will be held accountable for breaching such confidentiality and/or privacy, which may include, but is not limited to, the imposition of sanction(s) or unsuccessful discharge from ADTC.
8. Individuals, not affiliated with the ADTC team or participating entities and agencies, who request to observe case staffings and/or court hearings must sign a “Confidentiality and Privacy Statement Form” and abide by the confidentiality provisions of the law. This includes researchers approved by the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit’s Oversight Committee, which may be allowed access to ADTC program data for research purposes as long as the identity of each participant is protected.
9. Any photographs, audio recordings, and/or video recordings of ADTC proceedings and/or participants are strictly prohibited, except those official court reporting services being conducted at the direction and approval of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit’s Administrative Office of the Court. Any other effort to photograph, audio record, and/or video record ADTC proceedings and/or participants is strictly prohibited and requires advance written consent from both the AOC Director of Problem-Solving Courts and the ADTC Judge.
- B. Inquiries. Participants should direct any inquiries or questions regarding confidentiality, privacy, and limitations on sharing information to their defense attorney.

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<sup>6</sup> Several ADTC team members are considered “mandatory reporters” under Florida law, meaning they are required to report suspected abuse, abandonment, or neglect of a child or vulnerable adult. Their position as mandatory reporters create an exception to the confidentiality protocol. See Section 39.201(1)(a)-(b), Florida Statutes, applicable to children and Section 415.1034(1)(a), Florida Statutes, applicable to vulnerable adults.

### XIII. Attendance Policy.

All participants are required to attend all scheduled court hearings, unless their presence is waived or excused by the ADTC Judge, and are required to attend all treatment and/or counseling sessions. Participants should maintain regular communication with defense attorneys, treatment providers, AOC court specialists, and DOC supervising officers. If an emergency or urgent (or unexpected) matter arises conflicting with either their court hearing or treatment and/or counseling session, participants should immediately notify, by all reasonable means available, their defense attorney and applicable treatment provider.

ADTC court hearings begin at 9:00 AM, unless otherwise instructed by the ADTC Judge. Participants must arrive on time, behave respectfully, dress appropriately, and remain in the courtroom until their case is called. A participant's failure to appear on the scheduled court hearing date and time may result in the issuance of a "capias" (i.e., a type of arrest warrant issued by a judge to ensure an individual appears for a scheduled court hearing).

### XIV. Case Staffings and Court Hearings.

- A. Case Staffings. According to the Florida Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards, ADTC case staffings are necessary to review participant progress, develop a plan to improve outcomes, and prepare for court hearings. Case staffings are held frequently to ensure ADTC team members and participating entities and agencies have an opportunity to consider the needs of each participant. By discussing these cases together, a unified plan can be agreed upon before the next court hearing.

All ADTC team members and participating entities and agencies shall attend case staffings, to include the ADTC Judge, assistant state attorney, defense attorney, AOC court specialist, DOC supervising officer, and treatment provider representative(s), where they will discuss each case on the docket to determine treatment responses, phase advancement, incentives, and sanctions to be used at the next court hearing to modify a participant's behavior.

In the event an ADTC team member cannot attend a case staffing or court hearing, that team member shall notify the team as soon as possible. If a substitute staff member cannot be utilized, with prior notice and approval of the ADTC Judge, written reports concerning participant progress will be submitted to the ADTC team prior to the case staffing. If an ADTC team member is taking planned leave, the team member will identify staff to provide coverage for the case staffing and court hearing.

Consistent attendance at and preparation for case staffings is associated with significantly better outcomes. Case staffings are presumptively closed and discussions are not transcribed or recorded; the meeting is not open to the public or to participants, unless the ADTC Judge determines that a participant may attend to discuss a specific matter. The ADTC Judge may include participants in case staffings when clinically indicated or necessary to protect a participant from serious harm resulting from public disclosure of highly sensitive treatment information. Contested matters must be addressed and resolved in open court.

At a minimum, according to the Florida Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards, the following information is required by all ADTC team members and participating entities and agencies to appraise participant progress and compliance or noncompliance with the conditions of program:

- *Assessment results of the LS/CMI and ASAM to inform treatment and supervision needs.*
- *Attendance record for scheduled appointments.*
- *Drug and alcohol test results, including efforts to defraud or invalidate said tests.*
- *Attainment of treatment goals, such as completion of a required counseling regimen.*
- *Evidence of symptom resolution, such as reductions in drug cravings or withdrawal symptoms.*
- *Evidence of treatment-related attitudinal improvements, such as increased insight or motivation for change.*
- *Attainment of court phase requirements, such as obtaining and maintaining employment or enrolling in an educational program.*
- *Compliance with electronic monitoring, home curfew, travel limitations, and geographic or association restrictions.*
- *Adherence to legally prescribed and authorized medically assisted treatments.*

- *Procurement of unauthorized prescriptions for addictive or intoxicating medications.*
- *Arrest for or commission of new criminal offense.*
- *Menacing, threatening, or disruptive behavior directed at staff members, participants or other persons.*

B. Court Hearings. ADTC court hearings are conducted in Courtroom 52A located on the Fifth Floor of the Criminal Annex of the Hillsborough County Courthouse (officially referred to as the “George E. Edgecomb Courthouse”). The presiding ADTC Judge is the Honorable Michael J. Scionti, Circuit Court Judge in and for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

All ADTC team members and participating entities and agencies shall attend court hearings, to include the ADTC Judge, assistant state attorney, defense attorney, AOC court specialist, DOC supervising officer, and treatment provider representative(s), where they can provide comments, recommendations, or expert opinions regarding any therapeutic adjustment or modification to a participant’s treatment plan.

All participants are required to attend all scheduled court hearings, unless their presence is waived or excused by the ADTC Judge. If an emergency or urgent (or unexpected) matter arises conflicting with either their court hearing or treatment and/or counseling session, participants should immediately notify, by all reasonable means available, their defense attorney and applicable treatment provider.

ADTC court hearings begin at 9:00 AM, unless otherwise instructed by the ADTC Judge. Participants must arrive on time, behave respectfully, dress appropriately, and remain in the courtroom until their case is called. A participant’s failure to appear on the scheduled court hearing date and time may result in the issuance of a capias.

## XV. Treatment, Reporting, and Supervision Protocols.

A. Treatment Protocol. Once participants have completed their LS/CMI, they will complete a clinical assessment with one of four community-bases contracted treatment providers: ACTS, Ibis (Cove Behavioral Health), Phoenix House of Florida, or WestCare Foundation of Florida. The treatment provider will recommend the appropriate level of care, based on the American Society of

Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria and other evidenced-based screening instruments, assessing for substance use and/or mental health disorders. If the ADTC Judge is concerned about the quality or accuracy of treatment-related information being provided by the team, the ADTC Judge reserves the discretion to seek additional input or a second opinion from another qualified treatment provider.

After the clinical assessment is completed and the level of care is determined, the treatment provider will create a treatment schedule with the participant. If residential treatment is ordered by the ADTC Judge, the treatment provider will provide the participant with reporting instructions. Participants are required to adhere to the rules of the individual treatment provider for which they have been ordered to attend.

- B. Reporting Protocol. The AOC court specialist will provide a list of participants on the upcoming court docket to treatment providers in advance of case staffings to allow timely treatment status update preparation. Prior to each case staffing, treatment providers are expected to update the ADTC team, specifically the AOC court specialist, via email, with a timely and accurate “Treatment Status Review Form” (see Appendix E), regarding the status of a participant’s compliance or non-compliance with the treatment plan. Once the participant’s treatment status update is received, the AOC court specialist will enter applicable information into the Florida Drug Court Case Management System (FDCCMS) and distribute the participant’s updated status to the ADTC team.

The treatment status update shall address, at a minimum, the following questions:

1. What is the participant’s current level of care – residential, intensive outpatient, outpatient, aftercare, recovery support, or other?
2. What is the participant’s current participation status – compliant, compliant with concerns, or non-compliant?
3. What is the participant’s current attendance status – individual sessions and/or group sessions (include dates of missed sessions)?
4. What is the participant’s current drug screening status – negative or positive (if positive, include substance(s) and date of drug screen and include date of any missed drug screen)?
5. What is the participant’s current progress in meeting individual

treatment goals such as “stages of change”?

6. What is the participant’s projected transition date and plan (if in residential care) or projected discharge date and aftercare plan (if in intensive outpatient or outpatient care)?
7. What special issues regarding the participant, if any, need to be addressed by the ADTC team?

- C. Supervision Protocol. Once participants have signed their ADTC agreement, they will be instructed to report to and register with the DOC Probation Office located at 1313 N. Tampa Street, Tampa, Florida 33602. Participants will be provided with specific reporting instructions in court. Participants are required to meet with their DOC supervising officer at least one time per month. Participants are not permitted to leave Hillsborough County, Florida (or their county of residence, if other than Hillsborough County, Florida) without prior permission from the ADTC Judge. Participants are required to notify their DOC supervising officer prior to any change of residence and are further required to update their mailing address with the Clerk of the Court within seven calendar days. Participants may be subject to unannounced, periodic home visits by their DOC supervising officer.

Participants who are assessed to be “high risk” and enrolled on the ADTC program’s Track 1 / Track 3 Docket will be required to complete a self-improvement course focused on criminogenic thinking, such as “Thinking for a Change”. Criminogenic thinking refers to cognitive patterns of antisocial, criminal, and self-destructive behaviors. “Thinking for a Change” is offered through DOC; however, participants may complete this requirement by attending other court-approved criminogenic thinking courses. Participants should consult with their DOC supervising officer to schedule this course or an alternative course as soon as practicable, but not later than Phase 3 of ADTC.

If employed, ADTC participant employment must be lawful and their employment status verifiable by the DOC supervising officer through paystubs within 30 days of employment or from the date of request.

XVI. Prohibited Substances and Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy.

- A. General Policy. All participants are expected to remain drug and alcohol free and should not possess or consume alcohol, illegal or prohibited substances, or non-prescribed medications. The ADTC team monitors compliance with this

requirement by requiring frequent, random, and observed drug and alcohol tests, which occur at a minimum of two times per week for the duration of the program. This testing requirement provides a framework for a participant's accountability by confirming abstinence, demonstrating compliance, and serving as the foundation for incentives and sanctions along the path to graduation. Standard drug and alcohol testing is performed by urinalysis testing and breathalyzers. Participants may be required to submit to an alcohol monitoring device, if their symptoms progress to the point which it is deemed clinically appropriate, or if they are approved to travel for an extended period of time.

Participants must follow court-ordered testing requirements, which are typically completed at ADTC court-approved program locations (e.g., court-ordered treatment providers, contracted drug testing location, or the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC)). Participants are placed on a randomized "call-in" system in which the participant calls a drug test phone line daily to determine if a urine drug screen (UDS) is required that day. Participants will receive the call-in instructions at the time of program enrollment.

If a participant tests positive for drugs or alcohol via a presumptive UDS and disputes the results, they have the option to admit to the substance use or deny the use and request a laboratory Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC/MS) confirmation test. The participant may be responsible for the payment of the lab confirmation fee, if the lab confirmation test is positive for illegal drugs and/or alcohol. The ADTC Judge and team will withhold any sanctions or service adjustments until the results of the GC/MS results are received.

All contracted treatment providers that perform drug and alcohol testing are required to routinely examine specimens for validity. This includes temperature monitoring and testing for dilutions and adulterations. Participants who have been found to have fraudulently submitted a drug test sample, either through the use of a device or through adulteration measures, will be sanctioned for this behavior, which could include unsuccessful discharge from the ADTC program.

All contracted treatment providers that perform drug and alcohol testing are required to maintain proper chain of custody for each specimen, the procedures for which can be found in the "Treatment Provider Drug Testing Policies and Procedures" (see Appendix O).

The regular drug and alcohol testing days and hours for each contracted treatment provider are listed below. Participants, however, should note that the listed days and hours are subject to change. Participants are instructed to contact their



assigned drug and alcohol testing treatment provider to confirm days and hours of operation.

Agency Name	Drug Testing Hours (Monday – Thursday)	Drug Testing Hours (Friday)	Drug Testing Hours (Saturday – Sunday)
<b>ACTS</b>	8:00 AM - 4:30 PM	8:00 AM - 3:30 PM	N/A
<b>Ibis (Cove)</b>	6:00 AM - 6:00 PM	6:00 AM - 6:00 PM	N/A
<b>Phoenix House</b>	10:00 AM - 5:45 PM	10:00 AM - 3:45 PM	N/A
<b>WestCare</b>	10:00 AM - 5:30 PM	10:00 AM - 5:30 PM	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

- B. Prohibited Substances and Medications. ADTC provides a non-exhaustive list of prohibited substances and medications, which can be found in the “ADTC Prohibited Substances and Medications” reference guide (see Appendix C). In addition to illegal drugs and alcohol (in any form), participants are prohibited from using certain prescription drugs or medications and are required to have all prescriptions disclosed prior to purchasing or ingesting. Participants are required to complete and submit an “ADTC Physician Form” (see Appendix K) prior to taking any prescribed drugs or medications.

All participants should note that the use of prescription medication is a decision to be made by the participant in consultation with their prescribing physician; however, this does not apply to cannabis (marijuana) or any derivative of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in any form, the use of which is strictly prohibited in ADTC.

Any and all “designer drugs” that can be purchased legally or illegally are strictly prohibited. Any and all “smoking mixtures” (other than adult-only products specifically designated to contain only tobacco) are strictly prohibited. Any and all products sold or marketed under false pretenses with the warning “not for human consumption” are strictly prohibited. In addition, using and/or being in possession of any alternative or “replacement” drugs such as Methadone and/or Suboxone, as well as any substance intended to replace an otherwise illegal substance, is strictly prohibited.

All participants should note the following:

1. Drug and/or alcohol testing will be performed frequently and on a random basis throughout ADTC enrollment.
2. Drug and/or alcohol testing will be performed by a laboratory or program

approved by ADTC.

3. Participants must arrive at the testing facility within eight hours after being notified that a test has been scheduled.
4. A testing facility staff member will directly observe the collection of test specimens. A same gender staff member will be the observer, unless the ADTC participant, the defense attorney, or therapist requests otherwise.
5. Failure to provide a specimen of the participant's own urine or sufficient volume of urine for analysis is an infraction of the ADTC rules; participants may 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.
6. Participants may not drink any fluid excessively before testing and must avoid environmental contaminants, over-the-counter medications, or foods that can reduce the accuracy of the tests (please refer to Appendix C).
7. Participants may be subjected to immediate spot testing if the ADTC Judge has reason to suspect recent use or during high-risk times, such as weekends or holidays.
8. Participants have the right to challenge the results of a screening test and to request proof that an adequate chain of custody was established for a specimen. The ADTC Judge will rely on the results of an instrumented or laboratory-based test in confirming whether substance use has occurred. Participants may be charged the cost of the confirmation test if a screening test is confirmed as positive.
9. Participants may be sanctioned for providing diluted, adulterated, or substituted test 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.
10. Participants may be sanctioned for using synthetic substances such as Spice, Kratom, K2, or any other substance designed to avoid detection by standard drug and/or alcohol tests. 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 and/or alcohol test. The participant may be sanctioned in such circumstances.
11. Participants may be sanctioned for associating with people who are engaged in illegal drug and/or alcohol use or for being exposed to passive inhalation or secondhand smoke.

## XVII. Prescription Medication Policy.

While enrolled in ADTC, participants shall meet with treatment providers and disclose all currently prescribed medication. Participants must sign an “ADTC Authorization for Disclosure of Confidential Information” (see Appendix I), allowing for the release, sharing, and/or exchange of information, either written or verbal, between their prescribing physician, participating treatment providers, and ADTC team members. Participants must disclose all additional treatment providers to the ADTC team.

All participants should note that the use of prescription medication is a decision to be made by the participant in consultation with their prescribing physician; however, this does not apply to cannabis (marijuana) or any derivative of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in any form, the use of which is strictly prohibited in ADTC.

## XVIII. Incentives and Sanctions.

The ADTC program applies evidence-based and procedurally fair behavior modification practices that are proven to be safe and effective for high-risk and high-need participants. Incentives and sanctions are delivered to enhance adherence to program goals and conditions that participants can achieve and sustain for a reasonable time, whereas service adjustments are delivered to help participants achieve goals that are too difficult for them to accomplish currently. The ADTC Judge’s decisions relating to setting program goals and choosing safe and effective responses are based on input from qualified treatment professionals, social service providers, supervision officers, and other team members with pertinent knowledge and experience.<sup>7</sup>

The ADTC Judge takes into careful consideration a participant’s unique circumstances and mental wellness when considering granting an incentive or imposing a sanction. In accordance with the Florida Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards, incentives may be recommended by ADTC team members and granted at the ADTC Judge’s discretion to encourage a participant’s compliant behavior, to support progress in treatment, and to celebrate individual accomplishments. Conversely, sanctions may be imposed at the ADTC Judge’s discretion to discourage a participant’s non-compliant behavior based upon willful failure to comply with terms and conditions of the ADTC program. Whether granting an incentive or imposing a sanction, the ADTC Judge will afford each participant, after consultation with their defense attorney, an opportunity to address the court.

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<sup>7</sup> See All Rise Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards, 2025.

In accordance with National Adult Treatment Court Best Practices, certainty and swiftness are essential for effective behavior modification. If at any time an ADTC treatment provider believes a participant is not in compliance with treatment, they shall timely notify ADTC team members, in writing, using a Treatment Status Review Form, detailing the facts and circumstances giving rise to the assertion of non-compliance. Similarly, if at any time the DOC supervising officer believes a participant is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of the ADTC program, they shall timely notify ADTC team members, in writing, via a sworn letter of non-compliance, detailing the facts and circumstances giving rise to the assertion of non-compliance, for those under an ADTC pre-trial intervention agreement or submit an affidavit of violation of probation for those under an ADTC post-adjudication agreement. The matter shall be timely brought to the attention of the ADTC Judge and, if necessary, scheduled for a hearing to address the matter.

Consequences for a participant's behavior should be predictable, fair, consistent, and administered in accordance with evidence-based principles of effective behavioral modification.<sup>8</sup>

A. Advance Notice.

1. All participants are provided with an “ADTC Handbook” (see Appendix D) that contains written policies and procedures concerning incentives, sanctions, and treatment interventions before program admission.
2. The ADTC Handbook provides a clear indication of which behaviors may elicit an incentive, sanction, or therapeutic adjustment; the range of consequences that may be imposed for those behaviors; the criteria for phase advancement, successful program completion, and termination from the program; and the legal and collateral consequences that may ensue from successful program completion and termination. There should not be a rigid set of incentives or sanctions tied to certain behaviors.
3. The “ADTC Intervention Matrix” (see Appendix P) is used by the ADTC team to identify appropriate responses to both appropriate and inappropriate behaviors. The intervention matrix is flexible and, ultimately, any response may be applied as appropriate at the discretion of the ADTC Judge in close consultation with ADTC team members. Therapeutic and supervision responses may be used in combination or

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<sup>8</sup> See Florida Adult Drug Court Best Practice Standards, 2023.

individually with judicial responses. Repeat offenses will receive increased interventions, which may exceed the identified maximum if behaviors continue. A participant may be incarcerated or jailed during any program track/phase if the participant's behavior compromises community safety and/or the participant disengages with program and treatment requirements. A participant may be unsuccessfully discharged or terminated from the ADTC program during any program track/phase if the participant commits a new criminal offense, meaning the participant is formally charged by the State of Florida with a new criminal offense.

4. The ADTC Judge, in close consultation with ADTC team members, reserves the discretion to modify a presumptive consequence in light of individual circumstances.

B. Opportunity to be Heard.

1. Participants are afforded an opportunity to explain their perspective before the imposition of a consequence or therapeutic adjustment.
2. If a participant has difficulty expressing him or herself because of such factors as a language barrier, nervousness, or cognitive limitation, the ADTC Judge will allow the participant's defense attorney or legal representative to assist in providing explanations.
3. Participants receive a clear explanation for the imposition or withholding of a particular consequence.

C. Equivalent Consequences.

1. Participants receive consequences that are equivalent to those received by other participants in the same phase of the program who are engaged in comparable conduct.
2. Unless necessary to protect the individual from harm, consequences shall be imposed without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, socioeconomic status, or sexual orientation.

D. Progressive Sanctions.

1. ADTC has a formal protocol of sanctions, including a protocol for reporting non-compliance, established in writing and included in the ADTC Policy and Procedure Manual.
2. For distal goals (or long-term objectives), sanctions progressively increase in severity for successive infractions. For proximal goals (or short-term objectives), more severe sanctions will be imposed.
3. There shall be finite time periods for completion of sanctions, including those sanctions involving incarceration or detention which should be considered as the last option.
4. The ADTC team considers all relevant factors for each participant when recommending a response to the ADTC Judge and should be able to articulate the reason the response was requested.
5. Participants do not receive punitive sanctions for behaviors that occur due to structural barriers (e.g., lack of reliable transportation) or individual barriers (e.g., low literacy), which are not intentional noncompliance.
6. The ADTC team works to overcome structural barriers, such as transportation, housing, and income and individual barriers, such as learning or health disabilities when deciding how to most effectively respond to participant behaviors.
7. The ADTC team develops a range of responses (e.g., incentives and sanctions) of varying magnitudes that are employed throughout each participant's time in adult drug court. Responses are used to enhance participant engagement and encourage behaviors that support sustained recovery and healthy family relationships.
8. Participant behavior is monitored to confirm compliance and noncompliance with substance use and participation in treatment.

E. Licit Addictive or Intoxicating Substances.

1. Consequences or sanctions may be imposed for the use of licit addictive or intoxicating substances including, but not limited to, alcohol, cannabis (marijuana) or any derivative of Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) in any form, and medications, regardless of the licit nature of the substance.

2. The ADTC team relies on recommendations of trained medical professionals to determine whether a prescription for an addictive or intoxicating medication is medically necessary and whether alternatives are available.

F. Therapeutic Adjustments.

1. Participants do not receive punitive sanctions if they are otherwise compliant with their treatment and supervision requirements but are not responding to treatment interventions. Reassessment and adjustment of treatment plans may be required and is not used as an incentive or sanction. If a treatment provider believes that reassessment is necessary, they shall notify the ADTC team in writing; thereafter, the ADTC Judge will set a hearing to address this issue. Any therapeutic adjustment or modification to a participant's treatment plan will follow the clinical recommendations from participating treatment providers in accordance with best practices; however, the ADTC Judge reserves the discretion to seek additional input or a second opinion from another qualified treatment provider.
2. Adjustments to treatment plans are based on the recommendations of trained treatment professionals considering the clinical needs of the participant's substance use and mental, physical, social, or emotional health.

G. Incentivizing Productivity.

1. The ADTC team places as much emphasis on incentives for appropriate behavior and program compliance as it does on sanctioning inappropriate behaviors and program non-compliance.
2. The ADTC program provides a diverse array of incentives, that are meaningful to the participant, to encourage recovery-oriented behaviors, such as abstinence, treatment attendance, and employment.
3. For distal goals (or long-term objectives), the incentives should be meaningful to the individual and represent the efforts made to achieve each goal. For proximal goals (or short-term objectives), incentives should be tailored to individual participants and may be used both in and out of the courtroom.

4. The ADTC program provides each participant with written examples of behaviors that lead to possible incentives that may be awarded.

H. Incarceration or Jail Sanctions.

1. Incarceration or jail sanctions are judiciously imposed.
2. Incarceration or jail sanctions are finite in duration and should not last more than three to five days. Research indicates that other incentives and services may be necessary and/or appropriate.
3. If the ADTC Judge is considering incarceration or jail as a sanction, the participant will be afforded access to their defense attorney and a fair hearing.
4. Generally, incarceration or jail sanctions for periods in excess of five days have little therapeutic benefit, should be avoided, and may be detrimental to a participant's progress.
5. All reasonable steps should be taken to ensure that all relevant medical information is provided from the ADTC team to the jail and from the jail to the team, in the event of an incarceration.

I. Incentives. The below list of incentives includes, but are not limited to:

1. Judicial recognition.
2. Applause.
3. Allow less frequent court appearances.
4. Call early on docket.
5. Allow telephonic appearances.
6. Grant travel privileges (out of county or out of state).
7. Convert court costs to community service hours.
8. Grant community service hours credit for educational courses, pro-social, or wellness activities.
9. Award Commendation Card
10. Reduce drug and alcohol testing.
11. Waive costs and/or fees.
12. Other incentives, as the ADTC Judge deems appropriate.

J. Sanctions. The below list of sanctions includes, but are not limited to:



1. Judicial admonishment.
2. Require more frequent court appearances.
3. Call later on docket.
4. Deny travel privileges (out of county or out of state).
5. Reflection essay.
6. Impose no contact order.
7. Impose home curfew.
8. Impose community service hours.
9. Increase drug and alcohol testing.
10. Remain in current phase without advancement.
11. Flash incarceration.
12. Terminate from ADTC program.
13. Other sanctions, as the ADTC Judge deems appropriate.

XIX. Costs and Fees.

There are specified costs and fees associated with the ADTC program to include, but not limited to, costs of supervision, court costs, treatment costs, attorney's fees, fines, and/or restitution, if applicable. The participant's defense attorney will fully explain all of these costs and fees as well as any obligation to pay fines and/or restitution prior to entering the ADTC program.

- A. Treatment Costs. Depending on the availability of resources, including health insurance coverage, personal income, grant eligibility, and/or utilization of other drug court funding, participants may be required to pay costs associated with treatment; however, to the extent possible, treatment needs will be referred to programs through local, state, and federal resources which bear no participation costs. Full disclosure of the possible costs of treatment will be discussed with and provided to the participant prior to entering the ADTC program.
- B. Costs of Supervision and Court Costs. Participants will be required to pay the cost of supervision imposed by DOC and statutory court costs, which are outlined in the participant agreement. If the participant is unable to pay the cost of supervision imposed by DOC, the ADTC Judge may waive these costs as an incentive for program compliance. As an additional incentive for program compliance, the ADTC Judge may convert court costs into community service hours at an approved location. The current rate of conversion is \$15.00 per hour; however, this amount is subject to change at the ADTC Judge's discretion.
- C. Restitution. Depending on the nature of the criminal charge(s), a participant may be required to pay restitution. If a participant is required to pay restitution, the

ADTC assistant state attorney will inform the participant and their defense attorney of the amount prior to entering the ADTC program.

XX. Transportation.

Participants are responsible for transportation to treatment, court, and supervision. Participants who do not have their own means of transportation, have transportation but are experiencing a temporary lack of transportation, or have barriers to utilizing public transportation, should communicate their transportation concerns and needs to the ADTC team as soon as possible.

The ADTC team with the approval of the ADTC Judge may provide participants with bus passes, as appropriate and if available. Also, the following transportation resources may be able to assist participants:

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

XXI. Graduation.

When all conditions of a participant's supervision under either an ADTC pre-trial intervention or post-adjudication agreement have been satisfied, participants may request graduation from the ADTC program by submitting an "ADTC Graduation Application" (see Appendix N). Graduation from the ADTC program may result in either the dismissal of applicable criminal case(s) under a pre-trial intervention agreement and/or termination of probation under a post-adjudication agreement. The ADTC Judge will decide whether all conditions of the ADTC program have been satisfied and whether graduation is appropriate.

XXII. Discharge Procedures.

- A. Successful Discharge. The ADTC team may recommend to the ADTC Judge that a participant be successfully discharged (or graduated) from the ADTC program, if and when they have satisfied all terms and conditions of the program under either an ADTC pre-trial intervention or post-adjudication agreement. Upon this recommendation, the ADTC Judge will meet with ADTC team members to consider the merits of the recommendation and decide whether a participant has satisfied all terms and conditions of the ADTC program and whether a participant has sufficiently integrated the necessary information to support long-term recovery. Certificates of completion or other incentives may be provided during

the final court date. The ADTC Judge may address a participant's cost of supervision and court costs at or before the successful completion of the ADTC program.

- B. Unsuccessful Discharge. The ADTC team may recommend to the ADTC Judge that a participant be unsuccessfully discharged (or terminated) from the ADTC program, if they are non-compliant with the terms and conditions of the ADTC program under either an ADTC pre-trial intervention or post-adjudication agreement. Non-compliance with ADTC rules include, but are not limited to, failing to follow orders from the ADTC Judge, failing to follow instructions from ADTC treatment providers, inconsistent participation in treatment and counseling, testing positive for alcohol, illegal or prohibited substances, or non-prescribed medications, or formally charged with a new criminal offense. The participant must be informed of the potential unsuccessful discharge (or termination) and be allowed to have their defense attorney appear on their behalf when the issue is considered by the ADTC Judge, unless the participant has absconded. After full consideration, the ADTC Judge may either unsuccessfully discharge (or terminate) the participant from the ADTC program or allow the participant to continue with the ADTC program subject to increased therapeutic, supervision, and judicial requirements.

If unsuccessful discharge (or termination) is ordered, the ADTC Judge will either: (1) transfer the participant's case back to the original criminal division for reinstatement of criminal proceedings, if he or she was participating under an ADTC pre-trial intervention agreement; or (2) unsuccessfully discharge (or terminate) the participant from probation and sentence the participant to a term of incarceration and/or supervision in accordance with Florida law, if he or she were participating under an ADTC post-adjudication agreement. If a participant is unsuccessfully discharged (or terminated) from the ADTC program, he or she will be prohibited (or barred) from future entry into the ADTC program.

### XXIII. Complaints and Grievances.

The following procedure is available to participants who choose to seek review of any complaint and/or grievance arising between themselves and a member of the ADTC team. The only complaint and/or grievance to which these procedures shall not apply are those that might result in a participant's denial, suspension, or dismissal from the ADTC program.

A complaint or grievance is an official statement describing any form of unfair treatment, harassment, bullying, or disrespect toward a participant by an ADTC team member. If a

participant believes just cause for a complaint or grievance exists, they may address their complaint or grievance by filing an official statement with the applicable government agency or department to which the team member is employed, or with the applicable community-based organization or party to which the team member is employed.

If a participant needs an attorney to assist with this process, they may contact the Hillsborough County Bar Association ([www.hillsbar.com](http://www.hillsbar.com)) and request to be referred to a Florida licensed attorney.

#### XXIV. Disparate Impact Statement.

The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit's ADTC program complies with all applicable anti-discrimination laws. The program strives to provide effective, equitable, and respectful quality services that are responsive to diverse cultural health beliefs and practices, preferred languages, health literacy, and other communication needs. The program works to remove health disparities of historically disadvantaged groups.

- A. Communication and Language Assistance. Interpreters are provided at all hearings to participants who have limited English proficiency (LEP). To the extent that it is possible, all ADTC documents, including the participant agreements, handbook, program applications, and phase applications are available in Spanish. The ADTC team use language tools, including the use of interpreters and interpreting and translating devices to effectively communicate with LEP participants in between court hearings.
- B. Performance Measures. Program performance measures will be tracked by gender, race, and ethnicity to ensure equitable access to the ADTC program and equitable program outcomes. Performance measures and outcomes will be evaluated by minority groups to measure effectiveness in working with these populations.

#### XXV. Data Reporting.

The ADTC program uses the Florida Drug Court Case Management System (FDCCMS) for data collection, management, reporting, and analysis. Participant programmatic information is entered into this system by the AOC court specialist or their designee. This information includes, but is not limited to, personal demographics, track and phase information, staffing and hearing notes, treatment and assessment results, and diagnoses admission and discharge dates and types.

All ADTC team members have access to FDCCMS. Each ADTC team member has signed and executed the “FDCCMS User Confidentiality and Privacy Statement Form” (see Appendix J), allowing discipline-specific access. Any questions or issues related to FDCCMS should be directed to the AOC Director of Problem-Solving Courts.

#### XXVI. Evaluation Design.

There are several means of evaluation for the ADTC program. Performance measures, including successful completion rates are compiled, reported, and discussed at the Oversight Committee’s quarterly meetings.

Annual performance measures, including the number of admissions, successful completion, and terminations are reported to the State of Florida’s Office of the State Courts Administrator, pursuant to Chapter 43, Section 51, Florida Statutes. Another method of evaluation is through participant surveys. Participant surveys are completed by the participant at the time of program competition.

Lastly, recidivism outcomes are completed by researchers at the University of South Florida and are presented at the Oversight Committee annual meetings. Recidivism data is collected using local data, but will be collected using state and national data when it becomes available.

#### XXVII. Community Resources and Ancillary Services.

The ADTC program coordinates with various community partners to support the needs of each participant. The full list of community partners can be found on the program’s website at [www.fljud13.org](http://www.fljud13.org).

Please see below for specific community partners:

- [\*Hillsborough Area Regional Transit \(HART\).\*](#) *Transportation assistance is provided to eligible participants via buss passes or cards, which are to be used to attend treatment or other court ordered case and treatment plan requirements.*
- [\*Hillsborough Recovery Coalition.\*](#) *This organization provides Peer Support Specialists to participants enrolled in the ADTC program.*
- [\*Hillsborough County Healthcare Plan.\*](#) *Through coordination with the county healthcare plan, a representative appears weekly at the courthouse to register participants with health insurance, including Medicaid/Medicare, commercial insurance though the marketplace and the county healthcare plan.*

## XXVIII. Appendices.

### Appendix A – Administrative Order S-2023-062



Appendix A -  
Administrative Order .

### Appendix B – Administrative Order S-2020-009



Appendix B -  
Administrative Order .

### Appendix C – ADTC Prohibited Substances and Medications



Appendix C - ADTC  
Prohibited Substances

### Appendix D – ADTC Handbook



Appendix D - ADTC  
Handbook.pdf

### Appendix E – Treatment Status Review Form



Appendix E - ADTC  
Treatment Status Revi

### Appendix F – ADTC Tracks and Phases



Appendix F - ADTC  
Tracks and Phases.pd

### Appendix G – ADTC Pre-Trial Intervention Agreement



Appendix G - ADTC  
Pre-Tiral Intervention .

### Appendix H – ADTC Post-Adjudication Agreement



Appendix H - ADTC  
Post-Adjudication Agr

## Appendix I – ADTC Authorization for Disclosure of Confidential Information



Appendix I - ADTC  
Authorization for Disc

## Appendix J – FDCCMS User Confidentiality and Privacy Statement Form



Appendix J -  
FDCCMS User Confide

## Appendix K – ADTC Physician Form



Appendix K - ADTC  
Physician Form.pdf

## Appendix L – ADTC Program Application



Appendix L - ADTC  
Program Application.i

## Appendix M – ADTC Phase Applications



Appendix M - ADTC  
Phase Applications.pd

## Appendix N – ADTC Graduation Application



Appendix N - ADTC  
Graduation Applicatio

## Appendix O – Treatment Provider Drug Testing Policies and Procedures



Appendix O -  
Treatment Provider D

## Appendix P – ADTC Intervention Matrix



Appendix P - ADTC  
Intervention Matrix.pd