SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA

ADULT DRUG COURT PROGRAM

DRUG COURT HANDBOOK

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Please read this handbook carefully. It explains how you can complete the program successfully. We encourage you to read it and share it with your family and friends who support you in recovery. If you do not understand any portion of this handbook, please ask your attorney or a drug court team member to help you.

Introduction – What is the Broward County Adult Drug Court?

The mission statement of the Broward County Adult Drug Court is to address the underlying issues that contribute to criminal behavior and to break the cycle between drugs and crime through appropriate treatment and support services while also holding the participant accountable. Broward County Drug Court provides all participants with high quality drug treatment and services and care in accordance with the principles of best practices and due process and the philosophy of the Drug Court Model.

History of Broward County Drug Court

The Broward County Drug Court Program was created in 1991 and consists of:

1). The Pretrial Intervention Program, designed for people who have felony charges that qualify for dismissal under Florida Statutes and Florida best practices.

2). The Post Adjudicatory Drug Court (PADC) Program, aimed at diverting qualified offenders from state prison.

3). Misdemeanor Drug Court.designed for people who have misdemeanor charges that qualify for dismissal under Florida Statutes and Florida best practices

Introduction – Participants' Benefits

The Opportunity to:

- Develop a sense of purpose in life
- Develop self confidence
- Learn to love and value yourself
- Rebuild or develop relationships with family and friends
- Learn to have fun without drugs
- Gain friends who live a drug-free lifestyle
- Avoid lengthy incarceration such as prison or early termination of probation
- Dismissal of charges

Introduction – Drug Courts Work!

AllRise, formerly The National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), tells us that:

- Drug Courts are the nation's most successful criminal justice program
- There are now over 2,900 Drug Courts nationwide
- Over the past 25 years, Drug Court has served thousands of Broward County residents and assisted them with their recovery.
- Drug Courts annually refer more people to treatment than any other system in America
- Nationwide, 75% of Drug Court graduates remain arrest-free at least two years after leaving the program
- The most rigorous and conservative scientific "meta-analyses" have all concluded that Drug Courts significantly reduce crime as much as 45% more than other sentencing options
- Drug Courts save money, cut crime and serve veterans in need of substance use disorder and mental health treatment
- Drug Courts save up to $27 for every $1 invested

Program Description

The Broward County Adult Drug Court Program is a court-supervised, comprehensive treatment program for nonviolent defendants within Broward County. This program is voluntary and includes regular court appearances before a designated judge, outpatient treatment services or another appropriate level of treatment (i.e. intensive outpatient, day/night, or residential treatment), co-occurring mental health treatment, random observed drug and alcohol testing, regular attendance at 12-step/sober support meetings (Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, SMART Recovery, etc.) and participation in sober pro-social events.

The Program is a combined effort of the State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Court Administration, the Department of Corrections/Law Enforcement and Community Treatment Providers. You will be assisted with obtaining educational and skills assessments and will be provided with referrals for job training, educational programs, and/or job placement services as well as transitional/sober living housing. The program length will be determined by your individual progress. If you are a participant in the Pretrial Intervention Program or Misdemeanor Drug Court Program, upon your successful completion of treatment, you will receive a dismissal of all charges in your case. If you are a PADC participant, your successful completion of treatment will allow you to satisfy a substantial condition of your felony probation, and

you may be eligible for an early termination of probation if you meet other eligibility requirements.

Participants are screened for eligibility, clinically assessed and placed in the appropriate level of care. In addition, participants will be screened through a Risk and Need Assessment Tool (RANT) and, based on the screening and later incorporating the clinical assessment, will be placed in 1 of 4 quadrants which are tailored to meet the individual needs of the participant with the combination of the appropriate levels of supervision and treatment. The four quadrants are: low risk/low need, low risk/high need, high risk/low need, and high risk/high need Participants must comply with their treatment plans, which include attending group counseling, individual sessions, and attend random and observed drug testing at a minimum of twice weekly. Participants are also expected to maintain employment, enroll in school, or if part-time, maintain a combination of both employment and school. Participants are also required to comply with their supervision plans from the Department of Corrections.

Status hearings are held to discuss a participant's progress among the team members. The frequency of the status hearing will depend on your progress, however initially, status hearings will typically be held at least every two weeks while a participant is in the first phase of the program. In order to facilitate communications among all the parties, appropriate waivers and releases of information must be signed by all participants. Staffings (discussion about your progress or lack thereof) are conducted with all team members present, including your attorney and the Drug Court Judge, to discuss cases and share pertinent information before the court status hearing. Participants will not be present during Staffings.

The Broward County Drug Court Program adheres to the Drug Court Model, as outlined in the 10 Key Components of Florida Statutes, §397.334(4). The Drug Court Program also adheres to all evidence based practices outlined by AllRise, formerly known as NADCP. Notwithstanding the state being able to prove that the defendant was dealing or selling drugs, the court will make a discretionary decision as to eligibility for admission into the drug court.

We want you to do well and stay in treatment until you graduate! It is better for you, your family, and the community. We conduct a special graduation ceremony for those who graduate. PTI and Misdemeanor Drug Court Participants who successfully complete the program receive a dismissal of their charges.Post-Adjudicatory Participants who successfully complete the program may receive an early termination of probation. It is a time for you to continue living a law-abiding, drug-free lifestyle without the external training wheels provided by drug court. Using the support systems that you put in place while in drug court will become very important. Program graduates are strongly encouraged to come back to see drug court team members if you need help, or better yet, simply to tell us how well you are doing!

Introduction – How Do I Join?

To enter the Drug Court Program, you must be eligible, must agree to complete the program, and must sign a participation agreement that explains exactly what is expected.

How do I know if I am eligible?

Eligibility criteria include the following based on Florida Statute 948.08 (6):

- 18 or older
- Identified as having a substance use problem and being amenable to treatment.
- Is charged with a nonviolent felony
- Is not also charged with a crime involving violence
- Capable of benefiting from program regimen and being safely monitored
- Ability to Transfer to the drug court division as soon as possible
- Other considerations include health issues and prescription/controlled medications.

Drug Court Team

The Drug Court team includes the Drug Court Judge, Drug Court Manager, Defense Attorney, Prosecutor, Treatment Provider, Drug Court Program Specialists, a sworn law enforcement officer, Peer Specialist and the Florida Department of Corrections.

Drug Courts are different from traditional courts because you appear before the Judge often to review your progress regardless of whether you are doing well or doing poorly.

A Word from the Judge

1. Honesty is essential – with yourself, with me, with team members, and with others.
2. Respect yourself, me, court personnel, counselor, supervising officer, and your fellow participants.
3. Show up! – Participate in treatment, come to court and comply with supervision, even if you find it difficult or impossible to stop using drugs or alcohol. As long as you continue to show up and put forth effort, we will work tirelessly to help you.

Court Appearances

If you have a question about your next court date, please consult your court notice or contact your attorney, your supervising officer, or the Drug Court case management office. A capias (warrant) is typically issued for those who fail to appear in court. In such an event, attempts to contact the participant will typically be made to encourage the participant to report to the court for a sanction. The matter will usually be addressed at the next available drug court hearing. If the participant does not follow through as required, an additional number of days in jail may be imposed. An individual who remains absent from the program for thirty days or more will be viewed as an absconder and may face expulsion from the program. Status hearings are typically held bi-weekly but the frequency of status hearings is reduced gradually after participants have achieved abstinence from alcohol and illicit drugs and are routinely engaged in treatment. At your status hearing, you will wait until your case is called. You and your attorney will have a chance to talk directly with the Judge about your progress and your specific case(s) will be reviewed.

Courtroom Behavior

- Show up early
- Silence cell phones
- Stay seated and quiet until addressed by the Court
- Stand up and approach when addressed by the Court
- Stay for the whole hearing unless you are given approval to leave
- Part of the drug court model is for participants to listen to what is happening with the other cases being addressed by the Drug Court Judge. Often, participants can learn by seeing how other participants are doing in treatment. For example, listening to an “All Star” participant tell the judge how they never thought they could live a drug-free life and how much better they now feel - that can be inspirational to a person just starting drug court who may feel hopeless about succeeding in drug court. (An “All Star” is someone who is attending and participating in all their treatment appointments, testing negative on all drug tests and is compliant with all drug court responsibilities.)

Courtroom – Dress Code

You must dress appropriately for court, PTI/Probation visits, and treatment sessions. If you have any concerns about how to dress for court, please ask your attorney, PTI/Probation officer, or other team member. It is important to treat yourself and the Court with respect. Clothing with drug or alcohol related themes, promoting or advertising alcohol or drug use, and/or offensive material is considered inappropriate. Sunglasses, hats and bandanas are not to be worn inside the courtroom, treatment center or PTI/Probation office. You will be asked to leave the courtroom and you may be sanctioned for violating dress code policies in court and in treatment and supervision locations.

Incentives

Participants may receive incentives for positive progress. These incentives are used to reward you for your efforts toward recovery. Some of the incentives include:

- **Applause**
- **Verbal Praise from the Judge**
- **All-Star status (called in court at the beginning of the docket)**
- **Handshake from the Judge**
- **Certificate of Accomplishment from the Judge**
- **Fishbowl drawings**
- **Ability to appear for your status hearing via ZOOM**

Sanctions

If you fail to comply with the program requirements, the Judge may order one or more sanctions. Sanctions are graduated and individualized. Sanctions are not negotiable and are imposed in an effort to modify your behavior.

Sanctions and treatment responses are very different. Sanctions are imposed in an effort to change behavior so that you learn to make better choices. While sanctions may be viewed as punishment, the intention is to teach or inspire changes in your behavior. Sanctions are not imposed arbitrarily, and are imposed after detailed discussion among the team and between you and the Judge occurs.

Sanctions are imposed on an individual basis. Other participants in similar circumstances may receive different sanctions than what appears to you to be the same infraction. This is not unusual nor is it inappropriate. You are viewed as an individual and thus, your individual progress, attendance, and history is taken into account at each occurrence.

Some of the sanctions include:

- **Community service**
- **Essay on topic of related infraction**
- **Witnessing court on appointed day to document others' successful habits**
- **GPS monitor**
- **Curfew**
- **Lockdown at residence when not at work or treatment**
- **Incarceration**
- **Phase extension**
- **Increased court appearance (stay to the end)**
- **Increased drug testing**
- **Increased supervision**
- **Program termination**

DRUG COURT INCENTIVES AND SANCTIONS GUIDELINES

We have established some guidelines for participants as they move through the Drug Court. There are four phases with various requirements in each phase. Depending upon your quadrant, the Drug Court team has certain expectations of what is realistic for you to accomplish in that phase.Some items are realistic for you to accomplish right away and are short term goals while other areas may take some more time and could be long term goals. You will see below the requirements for each phase along with

behaviors that can result in receiving an incentive or a sanction. You will also see what the requirements are to advance from one phase to the next. We have listed approximate timeframes for each phase, but the time spent in each phase is entirely dependent upon your progress.

PHASE 1 – Fresh Start - approximately 30-45 days

Requirements

- Complete risk/needs assessment
- Attend and participate in all scheduled treatment sessions
- Submit to random/observed drug testing when directed. To advance to Phase 2, need to submit drug tests consistently for at least 14 days
- Complete PTI Orientation
- Meet one on one with your supervising PTI officer and complete at least one monthly report
- Attend two court status hearings
- Identify short and long term goals and discuss with a Drug Court team member

Behavior	Incentive	Sanction	Goal
All negative drug tests	High	--	Long Term for high need; short term for low need
Attend all treatment services, submit all drug tests, attend all PTI appointments, and attend all court hearings	Moderate	--	Short term for all quadrants
Missed treatment service, drug test, PTI Supervision visit and/or court hearing	--	Moderate	Short term for all quadrants
Positive drug test, but disclosed that the test would be positive at least 1 day before the day of the test.	--	Low-Moderate	Long term
Positive drug test, but failed to disclose that substance(s) were used prior to testing	--	High	Short term

PHASE 2 – Seeds of Change - approximately 120 days

Requirements

- Attend and participate in all scheduled treatment sessions
- Actively working on your treatment plan
- Engaged with additional services, if needed
- Identify and engage with recovery support
- Submit to random/observed drug testing when directed. To advance to Phase 3, you need at least 30 days of consecutive negative drug tests
- Attend court as scheduled
- Meet with PTI Officer monthly or as instructed
- Verify your employment with PTI.
    - If unemployed: meet with employment specialist; conduct a diligent job search;attend job training and/or resume preparation workshops; and/or enroll in school
- Identify issues you have with your housing/living environment
- Get or replace your ID and Social Security cards

Behavior	Incentive	Sanction	Goal
All negative drug tests	High	--	Long Term for high need; short term for low need
Missed support group		Low	Short Term
Positive drug test		Low - Moderate	Maybe long term for high need; short term for low need
More than 1 or all positive drug tests		Moderate	Maybe long term for high need; short term for low need
Refusing to pay fees as agreed		Low	Long term if unemployed
Positive drug test, but disclosed that the test would be positive at least 1 day before the day of the test.	--	Low-Moderate	Honesty is a short term goal
Missed treatment session		Moderate - High	Short term

Positive drug test, but failed to disclose that substance(s) were used	--	High	Honesty is a short term goal
Missed drug test		High	Short term
Missed drug test and positive drug test		High	Short term
Missed appointment with PTI Supervision		High	Short term

PHASE 3 – New Growth - approximately 120 days

Requirements

- Attend and participate in all scheduled treatment sessions
- Actively working on your treatment plan
- Continue engaging with additional supports as needed
- Continue to maintain recovery support
    - Identify a sober support friend
    - Share a new fun and healthy activity and how it promotes your sobriety
- Attend court as scheduled
- Meet with your PTI Officer monthly or as instructed
- Continue to make efforts and progress regarding education/vocation/employment
- Take action steps towards improving/stabilizing your housing/living environment as per treatment plan
- Submit to random/observed drug testing when directed. To advance to Phase 4, you need at least 60 days of consecutive negative drug tests.
- Current on any required fee payments, if applicable or formalized payment arrangements established.
- Actively employed, seeking employment or attending schooling

Behavior	Incentive	Sanction	Goal
On-going employment/job search	Low		Short term
All negative drug tests	Moderate	--	Short term
Obtained new employment	Moderate		Short term
No employment or job search		Low	Short term
Positive drug test		Moderate	Short term
Refusing to pay fees as agreed		Moderate	Short term
Missed support group		Moderate	Short term
More than 1 missed treatment session		Moderate - High	Short term
Positive drug test, but disclosed that the test would be positive at least 1 day before the day of the test.	--	Moderate	Short term
Missed all treatment sessions		High	Short term
Missed appointment with PTI Supervision		High	Short term
All positive drug tests		High	Maybe long term for high need;

			short term for low need
Missed drug test		High	Short term
Positive drug test, but failed to disclose that substance(s) were used	--	High	Honesty is a short term

PHASE 4 – Branching Out Strong - approximately 90 days

Requirements

- Attend and participate in all scheduled treatment sessions
- Actively working on your treatment plan, including refining your discharge plan
- Continue to engage with additional support, ensuring ongoing case after Drug Court
- Maintain recovery support
- Use your skills to help others
- Submit to random/observed drug testing when directed. To complete Drug Court and have your case dismissed, you must have a minimum of 90 days of consecutive negative drug tests
- Attend court as scheduled
- Meet with your PTI Officer monthly or as instructed
- Maintain/re-establish stable employment/ set a plan for completion of schooling
- Stabilize housing/living environment
- Current on any required fee payments, if applicable or formalized payment arrangements established.

Behavior	Incentive	Sanction	Goal
Job search	Low		Short term
All negative drug tests	Low	--	Short Term
On-going employment	Moderate		Short term
Obtained new employment	Moderate		Short term
Refusing to pay fees as agreed		Moderate	Short term
Failure to complete ordered Community Restitution hours (if applicable)		Moderate	Short term
Missed support group		Moderate – High	Short term
Positive drug test, but disclosed that the test would be positive at least 1 day before the day of the test.	--	Moderate	Short term
No employment or job search		Moderate-High	Short term
Missed drug test		High	Short term
Missed treatment session		High	Short term
Missed appointment with PTI Supervision		High	Short term

All positive drug tests		High	
Missed drug test		High	Short term
Positive drug test, but failed to disclose that substance(s) were used	--	High	Short term

Incentives and Sanctions Used Throughout the Program		
Behavior	**Incentive**	**Sanction**
All Star List	High	--
Sobriety Milestones – 30 days, 60 days, 90 days, 6 months, 1 year	Certificate High	--
Complete GED or School/Vocational (if applicable)	High	--
Moving without permission		Moderate-High
Tampering with Electronic Monitor/ GPS Monitor	--	High
New non-drug related offense	--	High
Dishonesty		High
Failure to do a Court ordered sanction		High
Providing a false address (Probation Officer will bring a copy of address provided on intake sheet or goldenrod sheet.		High
Leaving before Court is finished		High
Missed Court appearance		High
Failure to complete self-surrender (turn yourself in after being on capias status)		High
Tampering with a drug test		High

To become an "All Star" , the participant must have perfect attendance, display a positive behavior, and submit all negative drug tests from one court date to the next court date. All Stars typically have longer reset status hearing dates, and may be able to appear remotely. Phase advancements will be supported by clinical recommendations and will be determined by the Drug Court Judge. Phase advancement will require that participants are engaged in treatment as well as productive activities such as employment, education, or attendance in peer support groups. Participants who successfully complete the program have their drug case dismissed, and may potentially be eligible to have their charges expunged. Participants who are **terminated** from the

drug court are transferred back to their originating division, and receive a sentence or disposition for the underlying offense that brought them into **drug court.**

Monitoring Devices

As a result of non-compliance or as a method of additional monitoring for specific circumstances, you may be required by court order to wear a monitoring device, or a drug testing patch. Such a device may be a GPS ankle monitor, a SCRAM alcohol monitoring device, or a drug testing patch. The Adult Drug Court (ADC) has established policies and procedures pertaining to the application and removal of such devices as described below.

If you are required to wear a monitoring device, you may be required to do so at your own expense. If you are not in compliance with the Drug Court program or have had a recent incident, you will be required to absorb the cost of any such device or may have the cost of such device split with the program. This decision shall be at the discretion of the Judge.

Discharge from ADC

A participant shall be terminated from Drug Court if:

- There is an outstanding capias for a period of six (6) months for a participant in the Pretrial Intervention Drug Court Program; or
- There is an outstanding capias for a period of three (3) months for an individual in the Post-Adjudicatory Drug Court Program; or
- New criminal charges are filed against the participant other than possession of drug charges; or
- The PADC participant violates probation, the basis for which is a new law violation that is an offense that is not encompassed within the provision of sections 948.08(6), Florida Statutes or
- The Drug Court Judge with input from the rest of the team determines that the Drug Court cannot safely monitor the participant or that there is no suitable treatment for the participant.
- The Drug Court Judge with input from the rest of the team determines that the participant is not amenable to treatment.

TREATMENT

It is remarkable how well treatment works when patients apply themselves in the course of evidenced based services. There are millions of people in recovery all over the world who are leading very successful lives. Why not you? The Drug Court is committed to ensuring access to the most up to date and the highest quality of services to its participants. In order to ensure that this is done, the Drug Court follows national and State best practice standards. Your length of time will depend on your progress through the phases outlined above, and at the clinical recommendation from your treatment provider. Treatment offers a safe and supportive environment when addressing the individual and/or unique needs of its participants based on the individual's gender. There are different modalities of treatment such as intervention, outpatient, intensive outpatient, residential, and detoxification. Some participants may need services at a variety of these levels of care during their time in Drug Court, while other participants may only receive intervention or outpatient services. Your treatment provider will assess your needs and re-assess your progress to make these clinical recommendations.

Individual Counseling

You get to develop, review and update your treatment plan together with your assigned counselor. You will be required to attend and actively participate in individual counseling sessions that must not be missed unless properly excused in advance or in the event of a true emergency. If there is an unavoidable emergency, you will be expected to notify your treatment provider in advance and bring in documentation to treatment verifying the reasons for missing services. For example, if your car breaks down or the bus is late, take video of it if you have a phone or can otherwise document the event. Effective individual counseling sessions are an invaluable part of your treatment process. Please take advantage of this time to progress in the program and to achieve your goals. Please know that it may be necessary for your treatment counselor to schedule extra individual treatment sessions with you if a need is identified.

Group Counseling

You may be required to attend group treatment counseling sessions and education classes that must not be missed unless properly excused in advance or in the event of a true emergency. As with individual counseling sessions, you will be expected to bring in documentation to your counselor to verify the reasons for your absence(s) in the case of any missed sessions. Treatment groups are an important component of this program. Arrive on time, participate as appropriate and remain until the group session is over. Otherwise, you will be counted as absent. Follow all of your treatment provider's "house rules," policies and procedures.

Treatment Costs

Participants in the Drug Court program receive treatment services which may be provided at a discounted rate. Proof of financials, such as a pay stub or W2 form, will be required to evaluate potential discounts available to you. If you are serious about living a law-abiding lifestyle that is free of alcohol and other drugs, drug court is the right place for you – and it is also a good value. Financial accountability is an important part of recovery. If a participant is delinquent in payment, it will be brought to the team's attention and addressed in court. Participants shall become current on any required fee payments, if applicable, or formalized payment arrangements established. Your treatment provider will provide you with information about your assessed fees and a payment schedule.

Treatment Confidentiality

To encourage candid participation in the treatment process, federal and state law protects your identity and privacy. Because of these regulations, policies and procedures have been developed to guard your confidentiality. To enable collaboration which is necessary for an effective drug court, you will be required to sign a waiver authorizing the communication of information among drug court team members. Your treatment provider will give progress reports to the court team indicating your attendance, participation, attitude, drug test results, overall progress, and recommendations. The private details of your therapy sessions are not shared with the court. Your treatment provider will provide information regarding the confidentiality of treatment during your intake.

Nevertheless, some portions of your drug court hearing may be open to the public according to state law. We will take every measure to ensure that we do not disclose or ask you to disclose private information in any setting that is open to the public.

Treatment Adjustments

Sometimes, participants struggle to meet some of the goals they are working on. In these instances, services may need to be adjusted until the participant has developed the skills and resources to accomplish these goals. Based upon your progress or lack of progress, your treatment provider may need to make therapeutic adjustments. This may include things such as revising your treatment plan with you, changing the frequency of services, referring you to a different level of care, adding

on psychiatric care or co-occurring treatment, trauma focused treatment, and/or a referral for medication assisted treatment.

ComplimentaryServices

Often, participants need additional services such as mental health counseling, medication assisted treatment, residential treatment, transitional housing, family involvement, child care assistance, vocational counseling, primary medical services, peer support and/or transportation assistance. Based on available resources, we will do our best to help you meet your needs. We know recovery is not an easy process. We praise your efforts and your courage. We will attempt to link you to the services you need in order to help you through your journey. These services are designed to help you manage the stress, problems and conflicts that may otherwise block your recovery. Please let us know if at any time you feel that you are not realizing the benefits of this program and we will gladly renew our efforts to help you connect with the services you require.

Supervision

You will be assigned a Pretrial Intervention Officer or a Probation Officer employed through the Department of Corrections. You will be responsible to report to your PTI or Probation Officer at least once per month, or more frequently if required by your Officer. You will be required to complete a written monthly report detailing your employment and income and also detailing any current educational or vocational pursuits, and your personal goals which you have set in the program, i.e. staying sober, spending more time with children, getting a job, etc. Your Officer will also visit your residence as you enter Drug Court, and will likely visit your residence upon your report of a change of residence. Your Officer wants to help you achieve your goals. If you are in the Post Adjudicatory program, your Officer will also work with you to create a supervision plan to help you achieve your stated goals.

Phase Advancement

Each phase of the program includes treatment goals, activities, and requirements of the Drug Court that you must meet in order to successfully complete each phase and graduate from Drug Court. These are things that you will be required to do no matter what phase you are in.

- Appear in Court regularly and on time
- Pay all related fees, if applicable
- Progress in treatment and attend and participate in all treatment services and supervision appointments
- Stay sober for a minimum specified period of time for each phase.

All of the phase requirements for the program are spelled out in this handbook. Your completion of each phase's requirements enable you to advance to the next phase. In the case of a participant who relapses or is inappropriate for transition to phase advancement, a plan will be presented to the participant in support of continued success.

Code of Conduct

1. In addition to attending treatment services, supervision appointments, court hearings, and required drug testing, we expect you to demonstrate civility toward and respect for your fellow participants and all program staff. You should respect the opinions and feelings of other program participants. Verbal or physical threats toward anyone will not be tolerated. Any inappropriate behavior will immediately be reported to the Court and may result in a severe sanction. Aggressive behavior towards staff or participants will not be tolerated and will likely lead to your discharge from the Drug Court program and your return to a regular criminal division.

2. Participants are encouraged to build healthy relationships with others who are living a law-abiding, drug free lifestyle. Helping other participants in the program by listening to each other, giving wise input when requested and carpooling together to treatment sessions, are often good things that are encouraged.

3. Be very careful about the people with whom you spend your time, the places where you spend your time, and the things that you do. Those who are in their first year or two in recovery typically experience huge changes in their life. Early in recovery, people are often vulnerable in ways they do not fully understand. For this reason, entering into new, intimate relationships, especially with others who are new to recovery, including other program participants, is strongly discouraged. Sadly, it is more common for a person in early recovery who relapses to pull down their significant other, rather than for a person who is strong in recovery to pull up their intimate partner. We cannot emphasize enough how important it is for you to use this opportunity in drug court to focus on yourself and your efforts to make yourself the best you can be.

4. Do not possess, sell, or use alcohol or illegal drugs. Do not frequent areas where drugs are being sold or used.

5. Any relapse you have with drugs or alcohol must be reported immediately to your counselor and PTI/Probation officer. If you cannot contact your counselor in person, leave a message and also contact your counelor's supervisor. Also attempt to make contact with your PTI/Probation Officer. Please document your disclosure, i.e. when, to whom, what form of communication, etc.

6. You are required to refrain from further violations of the law. Additional offenses may result in your termination from the Drug Court program. Abstinence from drug use is not the only program rule. We are very interested in you leading a healthy and productive law-abiding lifestyle.

7. We strongly suggest that you get involved in activities to improve your employment situation and education level, attend religious/spiritual services, participate in organized sports, join social clubs, and/or engage in family friendly activities.

Drug Testing

It is a best practice for drug courts to drug test participants randomly, frequently and through observation. Drug testing can provide support and transparency encouraging the participant from staying away from drugs and alcohol. Many participants have said

that being held accountable by knowing that they will be tested for substances has helped them in avoiding the continued use of drugs and alcohol.

Drug courts also use drug testing as a way to monitor a participant's drug use. There are various ways of testing for drugs. We rely primarily on urine samples for our drug tests. In certain instances, and especially if the judge approves a request by you to travel, you may be asked to wear a "sweat patch". All participants must provide directly observed and random urine samples, at a minimum of twice a week. Drug tests may sometimes fall on days where you are not scheduled to report for group or individual treatment services. Your treatment provider will inform you specifically how to submit drug tests at their facility. Most treatment providers use a drug testing hotline which you will call every morning you may be expected to provide a urine sample. If a different method will be used to notify you of your days to drop, your treatment provider will let you know.

Ideally, a participant starting in Drug Court would immediately stop using drugs. We realize, however, that often a participant with a moderate to severe substance use disorder cannot stop using drugs immediately upon entry into drug court. We realize that abstinence is a long-term goal for many high need individuals. However if you struggle with relapse for a continued period of time, your counselor may recommend that you receive more intensive treatment, such as intensive outpatient treatment or inpatient residential treatment, to help you in achieving sobriety.

Honesty and accountability are the foundation for a strong recovery. Being honest and accountable for your drug use is something you can and must do immediately. Our scientifically accepted methods for drug testing are extremely reliable and extremely sensitive. We assure you that if you are using drugs or alcohol, your tests will come back with a positive result from the lab. The Drug Court expects you to immediately disclose to your counselor and PTI/Probation Officer if you have used drugs or alcohol, or if you have been around drugs or people using drugs. If you do not disclose, your failure to do so will become evident when the drug test results are returned from the lab. Admitting use after a test comes back positive for drugs or alcohol is NOT being honest. You will be sanctioned for failing to immediately disclose any use of drugs or alcohol while in the Drug Court program.

DO NOT DRINK MORE THAN 16 OUNCES OF FLUIDS DURING THE THREE (3) HOURS BEFORE PROVIDING A URINE SAMPLE.

Some people mistakenly believe that they can drink a lot of fluids to "flush out" drugs in their system. This is detectable in Drug Court by testing for diluted samples. Repeated

submission of diluted samples is medically unusual and viewed with great suspicion, and will likely result in harsh sanctions, unless you can provide a verifiable medical reason. The Drug Court will actively and diligently monitor your drug tests to ensure that you are supplying valid samples.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING WHAT YOU PUT IN YOUR BODY

Check all medicines and food and anything else you eat or drink to make sure it does not have alcohol in it.

Do not accept cigarettes, vapes, food, snacks, or drinks from anyone, even if you feel you can trust them.

Do not take medicine offered by anyone other than your licensed physician, don't even take medicine from your own family and friends or people that you trust. Do not eat any foods with poppy seeds. Do not use Sudafed or any pseudoephedrine products or medications. Do not drink kombucha. Do not ingest apple cider vinegar.

Do not use anything with CBD in it.

You are forbidden from using kratom, kava, spice, and bath salts.

Refrain from use of any herbal supplements, energy pills, diet pills and/or diet enhancers. Be extremely cautious about consuming supplements found in nutrition stores, smoke shops, or convenience stores. Usually, they are not FDA approved, and the manufacturers are not required to comply with many health and safety guidelines, nor are they required to disclose all ingredients.

Do not keep leftover medication. Safely dispose of all medications for which you no longer have an active and valid prescription. You must also bring to your counselor all prescription medication and over the counter medications and supplements that you are currently taking. You may also be required to provide a printout from your pharmacy detailing all medications prescribed to you and/or dispensed over a certain lookback period. The court will not accept a claimed lack of knowledge on your part as an excuse for drug or alcohol use. Again, you are responsible for what you put in your body, so be careful!

Conclusion

The Drug Court program has been established to help you achieve total abstinence from illicit and illegal drugs and assist you to build the educational skills and self-esteem to enable you to refrain from criminal activity. The program is designed to promote self-sufficiency and to return you to the community as a productive and responsible resident. The Judge, your counselor, your PTI/Probation Officer, and the

Drug Court team stand ready to guide and assist you, but ultimately, it is you and only you who is responsible for your success in this program. We hope that you are motivated to make this transformative change and commit to a drug-free life.

We hope this Handbook has been helpful to you and answered most of your questions. If you have additional questions or concerns about the Drug Court program, please feel free to ask any Drug Court team member. Below is a telephone list of Important numbers you may wish to have handy for easy access.

DRUG COURT TEAM MEMBERS

Judge Michael Davis
Judicial Assistant Karen Sisson……..954-831-7566 (Office)

Russell Edwards
Drug Court Manager.……954-831-6372 (Office)

Reginald Williams
Court Program Specialist ……954-831-0669 (Office)

Ben Francois
Court Program Specialist ……954-831-7664 (Office)

Ann Marie Campbell
Court Program Specialist ……954-831-6378 (Office)

Tiffany Seixas
Court Program Specialist ……954-831-7715 (Office)

Public Defender's Office
Karen Black-Barron, Attorney …….. 954-831-8659 (Office)
Adienne Dunkley, Admin. Asst…… 954-831-8551 (Office)

State Attorney's Office
Jamie Potash, Attorney ……954-831-6955 (Office)

Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Drug Court Treatment Program (your counselor)
Main Office ……..954-497-3610
Front Desk ……954-375-6293
Drug Testing Hotline (recorded message)….. 1-866-460-0525

Department of Corrections (your PTI/Probation Officer)

Main Number……... 954-497-4121

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)

Main Number…….. ……...954-357-4880

Detox and Residential & Outpatient Treatment Services…954-357-4851

Other helpful information

Link to the Drug Court website: https://www.17th.flcourts.org/drug-court/

Link to Drug Court virtual court appearances: https://17thflcourts.zoom.us/j/873944477