

## **WELCOME TO THE 61<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT COURT DRUG COURT:**

This handbook is designed to answer questions, address concerns, and provide overall information about the Drug Court Program. As a participant, you will be expected to follow the instructions given in Drug Court by the Judge and comply with the treatment plan developed with you by your Case Manager and Treatment Counselor. This handbook will detail what is expected of you as a Drug Court participant and review general program information. Specific questions should be directed to your Case Manager. All participants are encouraged to share this handbook with family and friends. Family and friends, while recognized as being an important part of your recovery, are **NOT** to accompany you at your scheduled court status hearings.

## **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:**

The Drug Court is a comprehensive treatment program for non-violent defendants that uses a team approach to supervision. The judge, probation officer, case manager, and treatment staff will regularly communicate regarding your progress. Drug Court targets individuals charged with misdemeanor and felony drug and drug-related offenses, who have substance abuse history, and are likely to continue a pattern of crime because of their addiction.

This is a voluntary program which includes regular court appearances before a designated Drug Court Judge. The Drug Court uses a combination of positive and negative reinforcement to change behavior. You will be involved in the program for at least **ONE YEAR**. In addition to substance abuse treatment, each individual will be screened for inclusion in education, job-training, family counseling, and other programs designed to alter negative behavior.

Upon entry into Drug Court you will be assigned to a treatment program that best suits your needs. Treatment will include drug testing, individual and group counseling, regular attendance at recovery support meetings.

Entry into Drug Court Program requires that the participant admits guilt before a Judge. The guilty plea is then taken or is taken under advisement. If the Drug Court program is successfully completed, the criminal plea may be withdrawn or

charges may be reduced or dismissed by the Drug Court Judge. If the Drug Court Program is not successfully completed, the Drug Court Judge will either impose sentence on your original plea or your plea will be set aside and you will face the original charges. Your driver's license may be suspended at the time you tender your plea and an abstract sent to the Secretary of State. Your defense counsel will no longer be involved in the case once a plea has been tendered unless a program violation resulting in termination from the program is anticipated. The Drug Court will also take referrals from Circuit Court Probation. They will have to comply with the same program directives. A dismissal and/or a reduction in charges may not be applicable in those felony referrals.

## **DRUG COURT SUPERVISION:**

As a Drug Court participant, you will be required to appear in Drug Court before the judge on a regular basis and to fulfill other requirements of the program. The Drug Court program is divided into four phases.

### **PHASE I:**

#### **Duration of one to three months.**

Participants are required to appear in court bi-weekly, maintain counseling and case management appointments, be drug tested three times weekly, attend recovery support meetings a minimum of two times weekly, and participate in education program/maintain employment each week.

### **PHASE II:**

#### **Duration of three to six months.**

Participants are required to appear in court bi-weekly, maintain counseling and case management appointments, weekly or random drug testing may be required, attend recovery support meetings, and participate in education program/maintain employment each week if necessary.

### **PHASE III:**

#### **Duration of three to six months.**

Participants are required to appear in court monthly, meet bi-weekly with their case manager, maintain counseling, attend recovery support meetings, and drug testing will be ordered as needed. Employment is required.

## **PHASE IV:**

### **Duration of three to six months.**

Participants are required to appear in court monthly and meet monthly with their case manager. Counseling may be ordered as needed. Employment is required.

Some participants may also be required to meet with their probation officer, pay restitution and court fines/costs, or perform community service.

Movement between phases of the program is based on "individual progress" and will be decided by the Judge in consultation with the Drug Court Team. The progress of each client will be assessed weekly. Program violations could result in return to an earlier phase. Aftercare case management and counseling will be offered as needed to participants for up to twelve months in order to assist them in maintaining a drug-free lifestyle.

## **DRUG COURT SESSIONS:**

The Drug Court Judge will be given a progress report at each Drug Court session that has been prepared by the Treatment Team. The report will include information about your drug test results, attendance at counseling and case management meetings, attitude and participation in the program, and employment/education status. The Judge may ask you questions about your progress and discuss any specific problems you have been experiencing.

If you are doing well, you will be encouraged to continue with your program and work toward continued success. If you are not doing well, the Judge will discuss with you and determine further action/changes. The goal of the Drug Court is to help you achieve abstinence from drugs and alcohol. Additional penalties such as increased reporting, community services, or tether may be imposed for program failures.

Failure to appear in court on the date and time you are scheduled could also result in additional sanctions being imposed. If you cannot appear in court as scheduled due to an urgent situation, you must notify your Drug Court Case Manager **BEFORE** your scheduled time request to be excused

and rescheduled. Leaving a message does not fulfill this obligation.

### **DRUG COURT PROGRAM RULES:**

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

1. Follow all probation conditions as ordered.
2. Attend your assigned treatment program and recovery support meetings as required.
3. Maintain appointments with Drug Case Manager as scheduled.
4. Notify the Drug Court immediately of all changes in address, phone number, or employment status.
5. Be on time for all Court appearances.
6. Pay program fee assessed by the Court.

### **PROGRAM VIOLATION/TERMINATION:**

It is important to follow the program rules and keep all schedule appointments. Program violations could result in imposition of sanctions or termination from the Drug Court. Program violations could include:

- Missed or positive drug test.
- Failed to cooperate with or actively participate in treatment program.
- Failing to attend the treatment program or recovery support meetings as required.
- Violence or threats of violence direct at program staff, treatment staff, or other clients.
- Arrest or convictions for a new criminal case.

All decisions regarding sanctions or termination from Drug Court will be made by the Drug Court Judge in collaboration with the Drug Court Team. Termination from Drug Court may result in a jail or prison sentence for the original crime committed.

### **PROGRAM SANCTIONS:**

Each violation of a program rule or relapse will be reviewed individually. Discharge from the program may occur, depending on the severity of the violation. However, in all cases, some type of sanction may be imposed. Sanctions may include: increased court appearances, increased support recovery meetings, community services, tether, a short jail sentence, extension of or repetition of a treatment program, a day treatment, or an extension of time in Drug Court.

### **EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT:**

Recovery from substance addiction means developing skills to become a productive and responsible member of society. During the program you will be expected to be employed or involved in an educational or vocational training program as directed by the case manager. Volunteer/community work may also be required. During the last two phases of the program and prior to graduation, employment will be required. Your Case Manager will assist you in obtaining an assessment of your needs and skills and will refer you to the proper agencies for education, training, and job placement.

### **GRADUATION:**

Successful completion of the Drug Court program, will be determined by the Drug Court Judge in collaboration with the Treatment Team and based on your program progress. Prior to graduation, you may be required to meet with the treatment team to explain the progress you have made in the program. You will be required to have completed all phases of the program, maintained employment, and have paid all required program and court fees and restitution prior to graduation ceremony. Your family and friends will be invited to be in attendance as the Judge congratulates you for successfully completing Drug Court and achieving **YOUR** goal to live a drug-free life. Upon graduation the criminal charges may be reduced or dismissed by the Drug Court Judge.

Drug Court has been developed to help you achieve total abstinence from drugs and alcohol. Participation in Drug Court is voluntary and is **YOUR** personal choice. The Judge and court staff are present to guide and assist you, but the final responsibility is yours. You must be motivated to make this change and commitment to a drug-free life.

This program has been funded by the City of Grand Rapids and a grant from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services, Administration, Bureau of Justice Assistance, and State Court Administrative Office. Points of view expressed in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the state of federal government.

# 61<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT COURT DRUG COURT



## PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

**Drug Court Judge:**  
Honorable Kimberly A. Schaefer

**Case Manager:**  
Joe Berlin

**Phone:** (616) 632-5650