

WHY DRUG COURT?

Drugs and alcohol wrecks lives. For those who want to change their lives, Drug Court may be the answer. Participants will receive drug and alcohol treatment and education life skills. Participants will build self-esteem, self-respect, and self-confidence. They will be able to think more clearly and feel healthier. Participants will have better ability to control their lives. They will have learned skills that will allow them to avoid criminal behavior and continue a drug-free life that is fulfilling and productive. Participants will have the support of the court system, the Drug Court team, and the community because they will have succeeded.



When you go through a new experience
You make new decisions
When you make new decisions
New change happens
New belief begins
New behavior follows those beliefs
Which create new experiences all over again
I remember when I didn't believe
I remember when I thought it was impossible
Many of you have thought those very same things
How many of you know that your life will never be the same
I will look back a year from now
I will not recognize my life
I will look back a year from now and say
"Oh my gosh, I remember striving and turmoil that I was in but I'm no longer there"
I'm stronger today than I was yesterday
I have more determination today than I had yesterday
That is success

Eric Young

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CLARK COUNTY
THERAPEUTIC SPECIALTY COURTS

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DRUG COURT



INFORMATION PAMPHLET

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THINGS TO CONSIDER...

WHAT IS CLARK COUNTY DRUG COURT?

It is a court-supervised program to reduce substance abuse, criminal behavior, and increase rehabilitation through intense court intervention and treatment. Frequent drug testing, drug treatment, sanctions and rewards are used to promote long-term sobriety, accountability, and productive lifestyles.

HOW IS DRUG COURT DIFFERENT?

In Drug Court, the Judge, prosecutor, defense attorneys, law enforcement, and treatment providers are a team. The Drug Court team works together in a non-adversarial way to help a person change their life and achieve personal and program goals. The team meets every week to review progress based on shared information from treatment, probation, police, employers, and others. During weekly court hearings, participants receive sanctions or rewards based on progress for that week.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Current charges must be:

- Possession of a Controlled Substance (PCS)
- Prescription Fraud
- Other Class C Felony property crimes
- Some Class B Felony property crimes (case by case basis)
- Probation Violations

Participants cannot:

- Be eligible for the Prosecutor's Diversion Program (Those who are initially eligible for Diversion do not qualify; those who are having their Diversion revoked, do qualify).
- Have a prior sex or violent crime conviction
- Currently be charged with a crime involving a violation of public trust
- Be taking prescription pain narcotics

Participants must:

- Pass a Drug Court background check
- Have a drug- and alcohol-free, Clark County, Washington residence
- Volunteer for the program
- Admit to a drug/alcohol addiction and want treatment

If a person is eligible and wishes to participate, they must plead guilty to the charges, sign a Drug Court contract, Waiver of Speedy Sentencing and releases of information. The case will not be dismissed even if a person successfully completes the program. If the person is ineligible for Drug Court, the case will be handled in the traditional manner.

WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS?

The Clark County Drug Court is tough! We will help participants obtain the tools to succeed in becoming sober and productive. If a person has an honest desire to rid their life of drugs, this program is for that person. The program last **a minimum of 12 months**. Graduation typically takes about 15 months.

Participants are required to do the following:

- ◇ Attend court regularly to report on your progress
- ◇ Attend individual and/or group drug treatment
- ◇ Submit to multiple, random, supervised drug tests
- ◇ Agree to curfew and curfew/home checks
- ◇ Attend support meetings (i.e. AA, NA, CA, etc.)
- ◇ Check in with the coordinator and case manager
- ◇ Attend other programs: Healthy Choices, Work Crew, etc.
- ◇ Pay fines, restitution and/or other financial obligations to the community .

SANCTIONS:

When a person does not comply with program rules, the Judge will impose immediate sanctions. Some sanctions include reprimands, writing essays, court visits, increased support group meetings, community service, work crew, jail, and termination from the program. If terminated from Drug Court, the participant will be sentenced within their standard sentencing range.

REWARDS and INCENTIVES:

The basis for a successful Drug Court Program is when people feel good about staying sober and positive behavior is reinforced. This is why the Drug Court Program values being able to give rewards and incentives to people who are doing well, staying sober, and living a productive life.

Rewards include public recognition of achievements, sobriety coins and cups, and gifts of all sorts, including gift certificates to local restaurants, businesses, movie passes, bowling and other great things in Clark County. Additionally, community-based reinforcements are proven to teach people how to lead clean, sober, and pro-social lives in their own community. The culmination of Drug Court is graduation, where a public celebration is held to recognize a person's achievements.

