

What is Drug Court?

The Drug Court provides supervision and treatment to adults who have been charged with a crime as a result of their substance abuse problem. Participants who successfully complete Drug Court will have their current charge(s) dropped and records sealed.

The Drug Court Team works together to make sure defendants get the services and supervision they need. The Drug Court Team is led by Judge Patricia Zimmerman, and includes the prosecutor, public defender, coordinator and case manager.

Participants must sign waivers giving authorization for the Drug Court team to exchange information with treatment providers and other service organizations.

Drug Court takes at least 7 months to complete, but usually up to a year, plus one year of continuing care services.

What Will Happen Today?

If you are interested in Drug Court, you will have a screening today with Shari Fenn, the Case Manager. If your screening says that you are appropriate, she will create an interim case plan with you for you to follow for the next two or three weeks. You will have a hearing this afternoon where your conditions of release will be amended. Your conditions will require that you follow your case plan, come to court when scheduled, remain drug and alcohol free, and may include a stricter curfew than you are used to.

You will be enrolled in the conditional period for Drug Court, which will last up to 3 weeks. The conditional period is a time for you to get a sense of what Drug Court is like, to participate in assessments, and for the Team to conduct checks to make sure you fit the criteria for Drug Court.

If you meet the criteria for Drug Court, the Team will invite you to sign your Drug Court contract at the end of the conditional period. Your contract outlines all that will be expected of you as a Drug Court participant.

Drug Court has 3 phases. Once you sign your contract, you enter Phase I:

Phase I requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Beginning treatment plan;
- Court hearings once a week;
- At least 2 drug tests each week, plus random testing;
- Attendance at community based support group meetings;
- Finding safe and drug free housing;
- Vocational training, job search or education;
- Reach 30 days in a row clean and sober with no positive drug tests.

Phase II requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Following the treatment plan;
- Court hearings every other week;
- Schedule & random drug testing
- Attendance at community based support group meetings;
- Progress toward educational and/or vocational goals;
- Parenting or life-skills classes, if necessary;
- Maintaining safe and drug-free housing;
- Reach 60 days in a row clean and sober with no positive drug tests

Phase III requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Court hearings once a month;
- Scheduled & random drug tests
- Follow treatment plan,
- Attendance at community-based support groups; and
- Reach 120 days in a row clean and sober with no positive drug tests

After graduation, you will be expected to meet with the Coordinator every three months for one year for aftercare and drug testing.

What the Hearings are Like:

Each week, the Case Manager provides the Team with progress reports for each participant, which include your attendance at treatment, results of drug tests, and compliance with your treatment plan. The judge will call your case, and ask how you are doing. It is important to be honest with the judge.

If you are doing well, she may reward you with an incentive:

- Praise in open court
- Gift certificates for activities or needs
- Child care for recreation
- Other needs

If you haven't complied, or have a dirty drug test, she may sanction you:

- Sit in jury box for a half day or full day
- Write an essay
- Go to more meetings
- More drug tests
- Community service
- Night or more in jail
- Expulsion from the program & back to regular court

If you have any questions, please ask a member of the Drug Court Team. The Case Manager and Coordinator can answer questions about what is expected of you and what the program can offer, and your attorney can answer specific questions about your case. It is also very important to call the Case Manager if you have any kind of difficulty, including making it to your appointments on time.

Your Treatment Plan

You will help the Case Manager develop a treatment plan just for you. It is hard enough to stay clean and sober when your life is perfect, and extremely difficult when you have other problems you're dealing with, so Drug Court will assist you with any areas where you have needs. Your treatment plan will involve getting services in other areas, like

- Family counseling;
- Mental health counseling;
- Gender-specific issues;
- Programs for young mothers and pregnant women;
- Aftercare for women;
- Family planning and STD awareness;
- Adolescent programs for young adults aged 18-19;
- Anger management counseling;
- Violence prevention and victimization programs;
- Community-based support groups, mentors and group outpatient treatment;
- Halfway house services;
- Recovery centers;
- Transitional housing;
- Child care;
- Educational and vocational rehabilitation; and
- Other services as needed.

Drug Court Fees

Restitution payments you may be required to pay must be paid before you may graduate from Drug Court. As part of your participation you will also be required to become current on any other court-ordered obligations including, but not limited to child support and restitution. You must access available insurance plans to help with the cost of treatment, including private insurance and Medicaid.

Important Phone Numbers:

Shari Fenn, Case Manager
747-3588

Kim DeBeer, Coordinator
786-3835

Steve Zwicky, Public Defender
786-5823

My Treatment Provider: _____
Phone Number: _____

Crisis Hotline
775-1000

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting Info
775-0402

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) Meeting Info:
773-5757

Narcotics Anonymous Helpline
773-5575



Rutland County Drug Court: Just the Basics



Participant Orientation Information