Drug Court Works!

With every success, we all rise!

Minnesota Cornerstone **Drug Court**

~MCDC~

Cottonwood Pipestone-Murray Rock-Nobles



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Support Group Attendance Record

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Participant Handbook

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| Probation Agent: |
| Phone Number: |
| Counselor: |
| Phone Number: |
| Therapist: |
| Phone Number: |
| Sponsor: |
| Phone Number: |
| Coordinator: Heather Kirchner 507-295-1019 |
| Coordinator. Fication Richiel 307-275-1017 |
| Test Line: 507-697-0538 Pin: 1590 Code: |

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Welcome to Minnesota Cornerstone Drug Court (MCDC)

MCDC is designed to provide the Court with a sentencing alternative for adults who have serious problems with substance abuse and are involved with the legal system.

MCDC is unique because it represents a much closer working union between chemical dependency treatment and the criminal justice system than is traditionally seen in the criminal courts. The court is committed to assisting with the early intervention, treatment, and rehabilitation of non-violent offenders who are chemically dependent. It is a great opportunity for those who wish to change circumstances in their lives and break the cycle of chemical dependency. This handbook will provide information about the MCDC program and what is expected of you as a participant.

By agreeing to enroll and fully participate in the Treatment Court Program, <u>you have made a choice to give yourself a new beginning</u>. We will support you in that choice in ways that may be very different from any other substance abuse treatment experiences you have had in the past.

Show up, be honest, try hard!

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Overview

MCDC is a five-phase intervention program for adults who have pled guilty to felony drug or alcohol offenses and are having difficulty staying clean and sober. By working together as a Drug Court Team, we seek to provide a variety of programs and consistent supervision tailored to support and help you maintain a drug-free life.

Drug Court involves intensive supervision of clients by a probation officer, frequent court appearances, mandatory drug and alcohol counseling, regular attendance at self-help groups (NA/AA/CR), and random drug testing. The Court awards incentives for compliant behavior and imposes sanctions for negative behavior. Participants who do not comply with the rules may be placed in short-term custody, moved back to the previous phase of drug court, or earn a variety of other sanctions. Participants may also be terminated from Drug Court. All of the team members working with Drug Court will assist you to make sure you understand what is expected of you.

<u>Together</u> we will develop treatment and monitoring plans to help you in your recovery, become alcohol and drug free, and avoid future involvement in crimes. *This will not be easy.* We will expect a lot from you and you can expect a lot from us.

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Drug Court Hearings

As a drug court participant, you will be required to appear in drug court on a regular basis. The number of times you must appear depends on your current Phase status. (Drug court phases are discussed in other sections of this handbook). Failure to appear will result in a warrant being issued for your arrest and detention in jail until you can appear before the Court.

The Judge, based on team report, may ask questions about your progress and discuss any issues you may be having. If you are doing well, you will receive encouragement. If you are not doing well, the Judge will help you identify what barriers are hindering your progress and how to work through them.

Items to be submitted for each court appearance:

- Participant Handbook
- AA/NA/CR or support group attendance
- Work or school schedule, as requested
- Proof of completed CSW, if applicable
- Other assignments, as ordered

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Courtroom Rules

The Drug Court approach involves the Drug Court Judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, Drug Court Coordinator, probation agent, treatment providers, law enforcement, and other providers. The following rules and regulations for courtroom conduct must be followed in all MCDC Hearings:

- 1. <u>Punctuality is a must</u>. You must be ready for court to begin at 10am.
- 2. Do not speak when the Court is speaking.
- 3. Do not approach the bench, unless given permission by the Court, and do not lean on the bench.
- 4. <u>Hats, bandanas, sunglasses, shorts, cropped, tank, or tube tops, gang colors/clothing, and drug-promoting clothing are prohibited in the courtroom.</u>
- 5. It is forbidden to be under the influence of any intoxicating beverage and/or illicit drug when in court.
- 6. All weapons are banned from the courtroom.
- 7. All cell phones must be turned off.
- 8. No gum chewing, drinking, or eating allowed in the courtroom.

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Required Acts

- Attend all MCDC appearances and be on time. In the event you are unable to attend, you will call your probation officer at least two hours in advance.
- 2. Totally abstain from the use of alcohol and other drugs.
- Submit to urine, alcohol, or other tests as required. Refusal, stalling (15 minutes or more), and/or adulteration will be considered a positive test.
- 4. Submit any required paperwork to the Court, as ordered.
- Keep your Agent informed of a current address, phone number, and whereabouts. You shall not change address or phone numbers without notifying the Court in advance.
- Complete 40 hours of structured time each week, including school, employment, or community service work. Provide proof of employment or employment search to your Probation Agent. Report any employment change within 48 hours.
- 7. Comply with curfew.
- 8. Submit weekly schedules and any pass requests to the MCDC probation agent by 12noon on Tuesdays.
- Attend all rehabilitative, medical or psychological programs, as directed by the MCDC.
- 10. Pay all costs, restitution, fines, etc., as ordered.
- 11. Comply with directives of the MCDC, treatment providers, and probation agents.

 Make satisfactory progress in the program as outlined in the Phase requirements.

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Prohibited Acts

- Do not violate any city, state, or federal laws. Any contact with police must be reported to the MCDC probation officer within 24 hours.
- Do not commit any acts of violence or threats of violence.
- Do not have in your possession, use, sell, distribute, or have under your control any paraphernalia, drug, or synthetic drug, except as prescribed by a licensed physician.
- Do not use or possess any alcoholic beverage or be in any establishment where alcoholic beverages are exclusively sold or used (i.e. bars). No casinos!
- Do not be in the presence of anyone possessing or consuming drugs or alcohol.
- Do not attend any program under the influence of alcohol or any illicit drug.
- Do not possess a weapon of any form, including firearms or knives.
- Do not miss any scheduled probation meetings, drug court appearances, urine tests, family sessions, or any other group, class, or program.
 Do not use any over the counter medications that contain alcohol (i.e. mouthwash, cough syrup, etc.) without permission from a doctor and MCDC.

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Program Phases

The MCDC program is divided into five phases. Participants must successfully complete all requirements in each phase before being moved to the next.

- **Phase 1:** Begin abstinence and chemical dependency treatment, develop trigger awareness, and identify your outside support system. Length of phase: 60 days
- **Phase 2:** Continued abstinence, engagement in CD and mental health treatment, establishment of recovery environment, and development of educational and/or vocational goals. Length of phase: 90 days.
- **Phase 3:** Continued abstinence, connection with recovery community, engagement in social activities, and pursuit of educational and/or career goals. Length of phase: 90 days.
- **Phase 4:** Continued abstinence, arrangement of financial responsibilities, maintain educational and/or career goals, and started criminal thinking program. Length of phase: 90 days.
- **Phase 5:** Continued abstinence, pursuit of commencement from MCDC, and practice for independent success as a sober person. Length of phase: 90 days.

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Commencement

When you have successfully completed all phase requirements, you can apply for graduation from the MCDC program.

On the day of your graduation, you will present your commencement message- your story of your life before drug court, how you got to drug court, what you've learned in drug court, and how you will continue on your journey. You will have an opportunity to give advice to your peers in drug court.

You will receive a certification of completion of the MCDC program and will be recognized for your excellent accomplishments. You will become a full-fledged member of the MCDC Alumni.

Your family, friends, sponsor, and supports are invited to help you celebrate your success.

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Alumni/Aftercare

Participants will be required through probation to actively participate in the Alumni Group after graduation to serve as a mentor for new participants, plan and participate in sober activities, and/or perform public speaking, as requested by the program. Aftercare also includes continued attendance at support group meetings or graduate support groups that continue to work on relapse prevention and alumni social meetings.

Graduates of the program are encouraged to call the Drug Court if they are struggling in their sobriety or if they are experiencing other crisis situations.

MCDC Team Commitment:

We hope to see positive changes in your life as you progress through the MCDC Program. The program is committed to providing you with support and encouragement as you find your way to a clean and sober life. The end result is a greater likelihood that you will remain drug-free while avoiding further contacts with the criminal justice system and become a contributing member of society!

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Incentives

MCDC will recognize and provide incentives for accomplishments in areas of your life that promote drug-free, pro-social, law-abiding behavior. The following are some examples of achievements the Court will recognize and possible incentives the Court may use to recognize them:

Examples of achievements:

- 90 days, 6/9 months, 1 year, and 18 months of sobriety
- Educational achievements, attendance, and grades
- Self-improvement classes that build mind, body, or soul
- Completion of programs and phases

Possible incentives:

- Curfew extensions
- Extra fishbowl drawing entries
- Gift/gas cards for local stores
- First to appear in Court & allowed to leave early
- Praise from the Judge and Drug Court Team

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Sanctions

The MCDC will recognize violations and utilize sanctions for your non-compliance with program rules. The following are examples of some violations:

Violations:

- Use of mood-altering chemicals, including alcohol
- Late/no test line call-ins, UAs, or tampering with UAs
- Involvement in drug world or criminal behaviors
- Leaving the State without prior approval from Probation Agent
- Failure to report police contacts and/or citations
- Curfew violation
- Not reporting work/weekly whereabouts and/or schedule changes
- Not immediately reporting address or phone number changes
- Not turning in required paperwork to the Court/MCDC team
- Uncooperative behavior with MCDC, law enforcement, or treatment providers
- Not attending or verifying attendance at support group meetings Bring this handbook to each Drug Court hearing!!

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Support Group Attendance Record

| Date | Time | Group Leader Signature & Number |
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Multiple violations (however minor they may seem) will result in major sanctions!

The MCDC program will attempt to use sanctions aimed at stabilizing your harmful relationship with drugs and/or alcohol or non-compliance with MCDC rules. Examples of sanction that could be imposed include:

- Verbal scolding from the bench
- Additional drug tests
- Increased sobriety support group attendance
- Reduced curfew
- Increased probation contacts and/or Court appearances
- Return to a previous Phase placement
- Immediate detention in jail
- Community Service Work
- Electronic House Arrest
- Termination from MCDC and recommendations for execution of original sentence

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Termination

The MCDC Judge makes the final determination for a participant to be terminated from the program. Repeated violations for any of the following can result in termination (this is not a complete list):

- Repeated positive urine tests
- Missed or refused urine tests
- Failure to attend Court
- Failure to participate or cooperate in treatment
- Failure to participate or cooperate in counseling
- Failure to report to your probation agent
- Failure to attend school or work
- Continuous failure to follow basic drug court requirements
- Criminal activity

The serious violation of a new arrest does not automatically terminate a participant from the program. If the charge is of a violent nature, and the prosecutor files charges, the participant will be terminated and referred to the prosecutor's office for further proceedings.

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Search and Seizure

As a participant in Drug Court, you are required to submit your person, vehicle, place of residence, or area to search and seizure of narcotics, drugs, or other contraband, at any time, with or without a search warrant, without prior notice, and without probable cause, by any peace officer, probation agent, or drug court representative, if he/she has a reasonable suspicion that such a search would produce evidence that you have engaged in criminal activity or probation violation.

Any law enforcement officer who observes a current participant of Drug Court in any of the following circumstances is authorized to arrest that individual:

- violating any criminal law;
- ingesting a controlled substance or alcohol;
- being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcohol; or
- possessing a controlled substance, alcohol, or drug paraphernalia

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Grievance

You have the right to file a grievance if you believe you have been treated unfairly by a team member. A grievance is any form of unfair treatment, harassment, bullying, or disrespect. Contact the Coordinator, Heather Kirchner, at 507-295-1019. The Coordinator will meet with you to hear any information regarding the conflict. The report will be investigated and parties will be questioned and heard. If your grievance involves the Coordinator, please contact Sonja Kruger at 507-344-4947.

Confidentiality

State and federal law requires your identity and privacy be protected. In response to these regulations, MCDC personnel, case managers, and treatment providers have developed policies and procedures to help protect your privacy. You are required to sign an authorization for disclosure form. The disclosure of information is for the sole purpose of hearings and reports concerning your specific Drug Court case. Failure to sign this release will result in a denial of your application and dismissal from the program. You are also reminded to respect the confidentiality of other drug court participants and information shared during participation in MCDC.

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