

Mission:

The mission of the Blue Earth County Family Dependency Treatment Court is to provide a judicially supervised collaboration to ensure families with chemical dependency issues have individualized and timely treatment and utilization of community-based services; so they achieve recovery and children have a safe, stable, and nurturing environment.

Goals:

- Goal #1. Best interest of Children: The primary goal of FDTC is to serve the Best Interest of the Children.
- Goal #2. Assist parents within the juvenile protection system in reducing their substance abuse issues through the use of evidence-based treatment approaches and innovative system change.
- Goal #3. Establish timely permanency for children of parents with substance abuse issues with reunification as a preferred outcome.
- Goal #4. Utilize appropriate and prompt responses to facilitate behavior changes for parents with substance abuse issues.
- Goal #5. Strengthen the capacity of families to provide guidance, structure, and nurturance for their children.

If you would like additional information about the Fifth Judicial District Treatment Courts please contact one of our coordinators listed below or visit the Minnesota Judicial Branch website at:
<http://www.mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/DrugCourts>

Blue Earth County

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**MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL BRANCH**
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Family Dependency Treatment Courts

Serving Blue Earth, Faribault,
Jackson, and Martin Counties

What is Family Dependency Treatment Court?

Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC) provides an enhancement to the traditional court process CHIPS cases when parent substance abuse is a primary factor and children have been removed from the home or are at risk of being removed.

Judges, attorneys, guardian ad litem, child protection workers, and treatment providers unite as a Team to provide the necessary support and services to assist participants in becoming drug free while assuring safety and well-being of all family members.

Who is eligible for FDTC?

Families with an open child protection case, or whose children are placed because of their parents' involvement with substance abuse, or the participant has entered an unconditional admission (not conditioned on acceptance into FDTC) to the basis of the CHIPS Petition or has voluntarily chosen to participate may be eligible for FDTC.

Referral Process:

Possible reasons for referral;

- Involved in the court process due to a Child in Need of Protection or Services (CHIPS)
- One or more children reside in court-ordered out of home placement or at immediate risk of being placed out-of-the
- One or both custodial parents has identified chemical use issues

Who is involved in Family Dependency Treatment Court?

The Family Dependency Treatment Court Team consists of the following representatives:

- District Court Judge
- Treatment Court Coordinator
- County Attorney
- Defense Attorney
- Guardian ad Litem (GAL)
- Child Protection Case Manager
- Employment Services
- Chemical Dependency Professional
- Mental Health Professional



How often does Family Dependency Treatment Court convene?

Depending upon the phase they are in, Family Dependency Treatment Court participants appear before the judge weekly, biweekly, or monthly. A report of each participant's progress is prepared and given to the Treatment Court Team prior to the hearing. The judge is notified of positive and negative urinalysis tests, as well as attendance at counseling and educational classes. The judge may increase the frequency of drug testing and/or order increased participation in programs as a requirement to stay in FDTC.

How is chemical dependency treatment different from Treatment Court?

Research shows the longer a person is in treatment, the lower the likelihood of relapse. Family Dependency Treatment Court keeps participants in treatment for 12 to 18 months. This long-term treatment, combined with the judge's ability to hand down immediate sanctions and rewards, makes FDTC different from existing child protection and treatment services. Treatment services may include:

- Group and individual therapy
- Individualized case management
- Urinalysis drug testing
- Outpatient or residential treatment, sober living and mental health programs as deemed appropriate by the Family Dependency Treatment Court Team and availability of resources
- Additional services may include job training and employment assistance, education (such as G.E.D.), medical referrals and bi-monthly alumni meetings