

## **Polk County**

### **DWI Court Team Members**

The Polk County DWI Court program is a collaborative effort of the following departments:

Honorable Anne Rasmusson  
DWI Court Judge

Honorable Jeffrey Remick  
DWI Court Judge

Melora Bergee, DWI Court Coordinator  
218-684-7029

Scott Volker, DWI Court Probation Agent  
Phone: 218.280.4676

Riverview Recovery  
Phone: 218-281-9511

Northwest Mental Health  
Phone: 218-773-6102

Polk County Attorney's Office, Polk County Sheriff's Department, Crookston Police Department, East Grand Forks Police Department, Polk County Department of Human Services, East Grand Forks City Attorney's Office, Crookston City Attorney's Office, and Tri County Community Corrections Office.

### **Mission Statement**

**It is the mission of the Polk County DWI Court to Work collaboratively to provide therapeutic structure and accountability for repeat DWI offenders that supports a safer community and reduces the financial impact on public resources.**



#### **Funding**

Polk County DWI Court is funded by a grant through the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety.



## **Polk County**

**Ninth Judicial District**

### **Polk County DWI Court**



**816 Marin Avenue  
Crookston MN. 56716  
Tel: 218-470-8100**



# Polk County DWI Court

## Overview

### What is a DWI Court?

A DWI Court is a special court dedicated to changing the behavior of the alcohol dependent offender, arrested for Driving While Impaired (DWI). The goals of DWI Court are increase public safety by using the Drug Court model to address alcoholism as a root cause of impaired driving: Help participants remain clean and sober: Reduce alcohol and drug related crime and to reduce expensive incarceration costs. An eligible defendant who enters a guilty plea or is convicted of a DWI has the option of participating in this program which is an alternative to traditional criminal probation.

## Outline of DWI Court

### Program Phases:

Phases are the steps identified by the DWI Court Team through which participants must progress in order to complete the program. The minimum length of intensive participation is 18 months.

### DWI court services:

- One-on-one judicial interaction
- Intensive probation supervision
- frequent court appearances
- random alcohol/drug testing
- Substance abuse treatment, counseling services and support groups.

### Cost

Participants are required to pay fees for corrections services, participation, alcohol monitoring, positive UA tests and ignition interlock. Participants may be required to pay for restitution.

*“Repeat DWI offenders graduating from DWI Courts were up to 65% less likely to be re-arrested for a new DWI offense.” - National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).*

### To be eligible for the Polk County DWI Court program an individual must be:

- ◆ Willing to voluntarily participate
- ◆ Be amenable to probation as determined by the Polk County DWI Court.
- ◆ Must commit to the DWI court conditions and treatment plan
- ◆ Be 18 years of age or older
- ◆ Be a Polk County resident and a US citizen or qualified alien
- ◆ Charged with First or Second Degree DWI offense (exclude presumptive commit).
- ◆ Diagnosed as chemically dependent
- ◆ Are non violent

*“DWI courts have emerged as a critical solution to hardcore drunk driving due to their success at reducing recidivism and saving valuable criminal justice resources.” - National Center for DWI Courts—Vol. 5 Issue 1.*

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Fax: 218-470-8135

Court is held on Wednesdays at 9 AM in the Polk County Courthouse. If you are interested in visiting please contact Melora Bergee, DWI Coordinator at 218.684.7029. or [Melora.bergee@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:Melora.bergee@courts.state.mn.us)