

Hennepin County Drug Court

A court-supervised treatment program for non-violent drug and property offenders



Hennepin County Government Center
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Fourth Judicial District Court
Serving Hennepin County

Drug Court Mission Statement

The mission of the Hennepin County Drug Court is to increase public safety, improve chemical health, and reduce crime by targeting the population of felony property and drug offenders who have a substance use disorder and are at high risk to re-offend. A coordinated and comprehensive approach is used to facilitate short and long term behavioral change.

Drug Court Partnership

- Fourth Judicial District Court
- Hennepin County Attorney's Office
- Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation Department
- Hennepin County Human Services and Public Health Department
- Hennepin County Public Defender's Office
- Minneapolis Police Department
- Rise, Inc.
- NuWay House
- Park Avenue Center
- Restoration, Counseling & Community Services
- RS Eden Programs
- Wayside House
- Restorative Justice Community Action
- HCMC Addiction Medicine
- RS Eden Housing Services
- Minnesota Recovery Connection



Drug Court Goals

- Reduce criminal recidivism of participants with a diagnosis of substance abuse disorder who are at high-risk to fail on standard probation and re-offend;
- Reduce illegal and non-prescribed drug use; and
- Improve community functioning of participants in the areas of employment, education/training and housing.

Drug Court Services

- Intensive probation supervision
- Chemical dependency treatment and mental health, family, and other counseling
- Random drug testing
- Restorative Justice Program
- Reduce illegal drug use; and
- Improve community functioning in the areas of employment, education/training and housing.

Who is Eligible for Drug Court?

Eligibility is evaluated by the Drug Court team applying detailed criteria. General requirements include:

- Being charged with a non-violent felony drug or property offense in Hennepin County;
- Being a Hennepin (or Ramsey) County resident 18 years of age or older; and
- Being at high risk to re-offend and fail on standard probation and having a clinical diagnosis of chemical dependency.

Violent offenders & major drug dealers are ineligible

Drug Court Contacts

- **Presiding Judge Gina Brandt**
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Email: 4thJudge-BrandtStaff@courts.state.mn.us
- **Lisa Keller**
Drug Court Coordinator
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What is Drug Court?

Hennepin County Drug Court is a voluntary, 12-month minimum program

available after a defendant enters a guilty plea. It is designed as an alternative to traditional criminal prosecution for chemically dependent offenders who want to change their lifestyle by maintaining a sober, crime-free existence.

Participants are required to pay a \$100 Participant Fee, a Correctional Service Fee and restitution, if ordered.

Drug Court participants make regular appearances before the Presiding Drug Court Judge and are subject to intensive probation supervision with input from a multi-disciplinary team of professionals. These professionals abide by and are trained in NADCP Best Practices. Program participants receive long-term treatment (six months or longer), which includes breath and urine testing, individual and group counseling, and attendance at community-based support groups.

Drug Court participants are offered every opportunity to succeed in the program. Successful completion results in a discharge from active probation. Participants who fail to comply with treatment and other program requirements will be subject to sanctions, including: increased drug testing and alcohol monitoring, increased courtroom appearances, more intensive probation supervision, and periods of incarceration. A participant who fails in Drug Court can be sent to jail or prison.

"Life is better, that's my main point to this." - Drug Court Graduate and Keynote Speaker,

Drug Court Phase Structure

Requirements for all phases

- Attend court as ordered
- Report to probation as ordered
- Submit urine tests as directed
- Remain crime free
- Follow medication requirements

Phase 1: Primary Treatment Phase

- Complete orientation.
- Complete psychological screening/evaluation if appropriate and follow recommendations.
- Complete primary treatment.
- Attend at least one community-based support group per week, identify a home group, and obtain a sponsor.
- Complete a continuing care plan, including participation of family members, with your primary counselor and probation officer.
- Attend Court at least every two weeks.

Phase 2: Cognitive Skills/Stable Housing Phase

- Continue to follow the recommendations of psychological/cultural evaluation, including, where appropriate, regular therapy and medication reviews.
- Follow and update the continuing care plan developed with your probation officer and treatment counselor.
- Find safe, stable, long-term housing.
- Complete appropriate cognitive behavioral programming.
- Attend at least two community-based support groups per week, including your home group, and have weekly contact with your sponsor.
- Attend Court at least every three weeks.
- Work with a peer recovery specialist at Minnesota Recovery Connection.
- Pay all program fees.

"I want to thank Drug Court for helping me, for believing in me and not just letting me down." - Drug Court Graduate, An-

Phase 3: Employment/Education/Community Involvement Phase

- Continue to follow the recommendations of psychological/cultural evaluation, including, where appropriate, regular therapy and medication reviews.
- Engage in employment/school/volunteer work a minimum of 20 hours per week.
- Complete GED requirements, if appropriate.
- Follow and update the continuing care plan developed with your probation officer and treatment counselor.
- Complete NA Newcomers Group or extended Study and Action.
- Complete aftercare.
- Attend at least two community-based support groups per week, including your home group, and have weekly contact with your sponsor.
- Attend Court at least every four weeks.

Phase 4: Service and Sobriety Phase

- Continue to follow the recommendations of psychological/cultural evaluation, including, where appropriate, regular therapy and medication reviews.
- Follow and update the continuing care plan developed with your probation officer and treatment counselor.
- Follow through on your plan for service to Drug Court and/or recovery community.
- Complete Restorative Justice.
- Demonstrate at least 120 days of sobriety in this phase.
- Attend at least two community-based support groups per week, including your home group, and have weekly contact with your sponsor.
- Resolve all pending criminal matters.
- Attend Court at least every five weeks.

"I'm grateful for the chance to regain my life. Sobriety is awesome, so is family." - Drug Court Graduate, Jeff Bridgewater