

Drug Court Distinctives

1. Integration of treatment and judicial supervision: Participants in Drug Court receive both treatment and supervision by the Courts.
2. Frequent testing: Participants in Drug Court receive frequent and random testing to determine compliance with abstinence from drugs and alcohol.
3. Praise: Participants who test negative for drug and alcohol receive praise from the Judge.
4. Sanctions: Participants who test positive for drugs or alcohol receive sanctions in relation to their progress in the program. Sanctions are handed out in as swift a manner as possible.
5. PTI- Drug Court Participants who enter on PTI status are able to graduate in 6 months if they do not test positive for any banned substances and maintain all other program requirements.

Phases

- Phase I- Orientation (30 days minimum)
- Phase II- Engagement (90 days minimum)
- Phase III- Maintenance (180 days minimum)
- Phase IV- Pre-grad (60 days minimum)

While Phase IV is a minimum of 60 days, participant must have a minimum of 90 days clean time in order to graduate.

The Manatee County Drug Court

Honorable Lon Arend

Presiding Judge

Alfred James Program Director

June Mallett Asst. Director



“Changing Lives, One Day at a Time”

Manatee County Drug Court
1051 Manatee Avenue West
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Bradenton, FL 34205
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Manatee County Drug Court
12th Judicial Circuit

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Bradenton, FL 34205
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Drug Court

The intention of Drug Court is to reduce drug abuse and related criminal behavior. We also seek to improve vocational and social functioning while reducing the increasing abuse of controlled substances.

The Manatee County Drug Court Program has been in operation since March 1997. The Drug Court was started combat the proliferation of crime related to drug abuse in our community. Drug Charges account for approximately 1/3 of all arrests in the 12th Judicial Circuit and estimates are that nearly ¾ of all persons arrested tested positive for one or more substances at the time of arrest.

It is important to note, Drug Court is not 100% effective, effective, but the success rate of Drug Courts are generally higher than that of other treatment approaches. In addition to our success rate are the added benefits such as drug free babies being born to mothers who normally would not have access to the services provided. Since our inception there have been more than 70 drug free babies born, saving the community more than 21 million dollars. Many Drug Court participants return to society as productive members creating a win-win situation for both the participant and the community.

Drug Court Criteria

To participate in the Drug Court Program, you must be arrested on a non-violent felony charge and have a substance abuse problem. In addition, eli participants cannot have any violence in their background and must not have been arrested for sale of illegal drugs.

Eligible participants are carefully screened by the 12th Judicial Circuit State Attorney's Office and the Drug Court Treatment staff. The State Attorney's Office makes the final decision to allow a person to participate in the program. Once accepted, a person signs a treatment contract with the Court.

How Drug Court Works

The Manatee County Drug Court is a 4 phase program designed to be completed within 1 year. However, the length of time in the program is dependent upon a person's compliance or participation.

Initially Drug Court participants must attend weekly sessions where the Judge reviews their progress. As participants progress in the program these court appearances spread out. The reviews compliance based upon drug test results, group and meeting attendance and any other relevant activities.

For those participants who do not test positive for drugs or alcohol and complete all program activities, praise from the Judge and other incentives will occur. Those who test positive or fail to complete program requirements receive some type of sanction from the Judge. Sanctions may range from community service to jail. Generally those who do not complete all requirement will also receive increased counseling as well.

The Drug Court Team

Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
State Attorney's Office
Public Defender's Office
Department of Corrections
Centerstone of Florida, Inc.



How Do I Get In?

Entrance into the Manatee County Drug Court may occur in various ways. The majority of Drug Court participants enter through a referral from the Public Defender's Office, some through private attorneys, some through self-referral. If you have or know someone who has a pending non-violent offense, you make ask your lawyer t contact the State Attorney's Office to see if they qualify or call the Drug Court office to help.

Hours of Operation

Monday, Wednesday, & Friday 7am-5p
Tuesday & Thursday 7am-6:30p

Drug Testing Lab

Monday-Friday 7am-5p*
Must be here by 4:30