

SARASOTA COUNTY DRUG COURT

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SARASOTA COUNTY DRUG COURT PROGRAM

"Never A Wrong Time To Do The Right Thing"



For additional information and to view the
program contract please visit our website at

www.jud12.flcourts.org

Drug Court Mission Statement

The mission of Drug Court is to reduce crime and substance abuse by adult offenders through drug treatment and judicial supervision, while promoting educational and vocational participation and improved social functioning, resulting in decreased recidivism and a safer community.

The Sarasota Drug Court is dedicated to changing behavior targeting offenders ranging from first time drug offenders to those suffering with drug & alcohol dependence. Drug Courts are a proven method to effectively address community struggles with severe drug abuse.

The Drug Court has a highly successful concept through having a graduated sanction /reward structure and following its specific *10 Key Components*.

It adds elements within the court such as mandatory counseling, case management, drug and alcohol testing, and community supervision. Statistics show that recidivism decreases substantially after successful program completion.

The requirements of the Drug Court are as follows:

How do people find their way into Drug Court?

- Public Defender screening
The Public Defender's Office represents over 90% of all program participants.
- Referral from First Appearance
- Pretrial screening
- Post arrest- conditional release terms
- Opportunity presented at Arraignment
- Private Attorney referral

Applications are made primarily through:
The Public Defender's Office

Referrals can also be made directly to:
State Attorney's Office, Probation,
Program Director, and the Court

Upon official program acceptance into the Drug Court, offenders are placed under supervision for a period of at least one year. During this time, the offender is required to comply with statutory requirements and all phases of the Drug Court program.

Every participant must follow all rules and regulations of treatment. Program length is a standard 12 months. There are four distinct phases of the Drug Court program and each phase must be fully completed in order for participants to reach commencement. Supervision is truly a crucial link between participants and the Drug Court. Random home visits are conducted in the community by probation. Participants are also monitored through other ways such as ongoing random drug and alcohol tests, electronic monitoring and comprehensive case management.

Eligibility Criteria

Defendant having a non violent drug charge or related offense with history of substance abuse.

No violent criminal history.

No prior sexual offenses or pending sexual offense charges.

No evidence of drug dealing.

Must be 18 years of age or older.

Must reside in Sarasota County.

Probation violation cases (both misdemeanor and felony), may be screened for eligibility if the offense for which the person was placed on probation does not otherwise make the person ineligible under the offender eligibility criteria.

Defendant has a history of at least moderate substance abuse.

Defendant is in need of drug education, substance abuse counseling and drug use monitoring.

Defendant has sufficient emotional stability, mental and intellectual capacity to be capable to attend all required court appearances, treatment sessions and support meetings.

Defendant desires to change behavior including a willingness to complete a treatment program and participate in recovery.

Financial Requirements

Participants are required to invest in the costs towards their individualized program of \$15.00 per week which covers all offered program services. Community service work is encouraged and can be completed in lieu of program treatment fees. Mandatory contributions from participants has therapeutic benefits, allowing participants to be empowered by having a sense of ownership through their steps of sobriety and recovery.

Phase Requirements

Phase I

Orientation & Engagement

Duration - approximately 45 days

Phase II

Early Recovery

Duration - approximately 90 days

Phase III

Maintenance & Relapse Prevention

Duration - approximately 140 days

Phase IV

Pre-Grad & Commencement

Duration - approximately 90 days

Alumni Group support network



Staffing and Participants Progress

The progress of each participant will be reported to the entire Drug Court through weekly team staffings which are held prior to the status conference court proceeding. Detailed status reports are prepared for the Judge and all team members to review as a part of the staffing process. A review of treatment and overall program status is discussed, along with any program violations and recommendations. The judge finalizes all rewards and sanctioning.