

JUDICIAL DISTRICT 29A
DRUG TREATMENT COURT
MCDOWELL COUNTY
and
RUTHERFORD COUNTY

PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK



Honorable Laura J. Bridges
Superior Court Presiding Judge

Pamela Murray, CAP
Drug Treatment Court Case Coordinator
McDowell County

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WELCOME!

Welcome to the Judicial District 29A Drug Treatment Court (DTC). This court is a problem-solving court. Your dependence on drugs or alcohol is the problem – to you, your family and your community. This court provides a chance for you to be part of the solution. You can make positive changes in your life.

A probation officer, attorney, judge or counselor referred you to drug treatment court. The DTC coordinator and TASC case coordinator assessed your dependence on drugs or alcohol and your recovery support. DTC is offered to offenders who know that they need and want help.

You signed a release giving permission to the DTC team to discuss the history of your drug use and criminal charges. All members of the team have agreed that you are ready, willing and able to make good use of this program. A list of DTC team members is provided at the end of this manual.

A defense attorney reviewed the DTC contract with you. You will be given a copy of this contract to keep in your personal records. You have made a commitment to participate in DTC.

This handbook will tell you what you need to do while you are in DTC. Please ask questions if anything is not clear to you. Please share this information with the important people in your life.

You can do it!

Who?

Your success, or failure, in this program depends on your efforts. Honesty is the key to recovery. Do not lie to the judge or any member of the team. Be honest about your mistakes.

State and federal laws require strict confidentiality regarding substance dependence and treatment. You have signed a confidentiality release that allows the team to discuss your case. Your case file will not be shared with anyone who is not a member of the DTC team. If you have concerns about your privacy, ask your defense attorney or the judge.



Your support team includes:

1. The DTC Judge, who will meet with you at DTC court reviews and applaud your progress or address your obstacles,
2. The District Attorney, who represents the community and its concerns. No one participates in this program without the approval of the district attorney.
3. The Probation Officer, who is your case manager and will oversee drug testing, curfew compliance and hold you to a high standard of honesty.
4. The DTC Case Coordinator, who will meet with you on a regular schedule and will provide the team with reports on your progress and/or problems.
5. The TASC case manager, who assesses the level of treatment that you need and follows up on your treatment plan.
6. The Treatment Provider, who will provide the appropriate level of treatment and provide treatment advice to the DTC team.
7. The Defense Attorney, who will represent your legal interests in DTC.
8. A representative of CJPP, which is the agency that assists in connecting participants with treatment.
9. The DTC Court Coordinator, who oversees courts in both Rutherford and McDowell counties.
10. The DTC Court Administrator, who assists the judge in all business related to DTC.
11. A local representative who is involved in the recovery community.



WHAT?

The DTC team will meet before each court review to discuss your progress or your obstacles. This program is designed to provide immediate consequences for both good and bad decisions. Good decisions are rewarded in court with praise, applause, a star to place on the star board and an opportunity to draw from a “fish bowl” of small gifts. Bad decisions are sanctioned in court with assignments, community service, or jail time. Once the sanction is completed you are making a fresh start.

DTC Program Rules

1. Be honest with yourself and the DTC team.
2. All prescribed medication must be reported to the probation officer and DTC coordinator. It is your responsibility to inform anyone treating you that you cannot take narcotic medication.
3. Attend all treatment sessions, case management and probation appointments, and 12-step meetings **ON TIME**. Missing an appointment or arriving late requires prior approval.
4. Attend 12-step meetings as instructed and **ON TIME**. You are expected to find a home group and a sponsor **within thirty days**.
5. Violent, inappropriate, or disruptive behavior is not tolerated and will result in immediate sanctions or termination from DTC.
6. Bringing drugs, alcohol, or weapons to any treatment meeting, 12-step meeting, case management or probation appointment, court session, or any DTC event will result in immediate sanctions or termination from DTC.
7. Dress **and behave** appropriately for court, **treatment sessions, appointments and meetings**. Clothing with drug or alcohol related symbols or language is not allowed. Shoes must be worn at all appointments, sessions and court reviews.
8. Drug testing may be done at random.
9. Missing a drug test will be regarded as a positive drug test.

10. Drug tests with evidence of tampering will be regarded as positive tests.
11. You will be required to be employed full-time or attend school unless you can provide documentation of disability.
12. Failure to report to probation will result in immediate sanctions or termination.
13. Inappropriate relationships will result in immediate sanctions or termination.
14. You may NOT possess or consume any illegal controlled substance, alcohol, or prescribed narcotics while in DTC.
15. Drug and/or alcohol use is not allowed. Positive drug and/or alcohol tests will result in sanctions. Sanctions are determined by the team. **Your** honesty will influence the sanction.
16. You may not move from the Judicial District. **Moving** between counties within the district requires prior team approval.



We want you to succeed!

DTC Phases



Phase I: This is the most intensive phase of the program. The primary goal of Phase 1 is compliance. You will be rewarded for compliance and sanctioned for non-compliance. You will be in Phase I for at least the first three months of the program. Phase 1 requirements are:

1. One face-to-face contact with the DTC coordinator every week.
2. Compliance with probation instructions.
3. Enrollment in the appropriate treatment program and compliance with your counselor's instructions.
4. Compliance with 6:00 PM curfew.
5. Attendance at a minimum of three 12-step meetings.
6. A minimum of three drug screens per week.
7. Compliance with TASC instructions.
8. Enrollment in classes for a GED, if you do not have a GED or high school diploma.
9. Compliance with court instructions and assignments.

Before you move to Phase II you must be in compliance with the above-listed requirements, have 90 consecutive days of clean drug tests, have a 12-step sponsor and home group, have stable and suitable housing and be employed full-time or enrolled in school.



"I'm not afraid of storms, for I'm learning to sail my ship."

Louisa May Alcott



Phase II: You will be in Phase II for a minimum of six months. **The primary goals for Phase II are to build clean time and to build recovery support. Phase 2 requirements are:**

1. One face-to-face contact with the DTC coordinator every week.
2. **Compliance with probation instructions.**
3. Compliance with treatment instructions.
4. Compliance with 8:00 PM curfew.
5. Attendance at a minimum of three 12-step meetings per week, or more as determined by the DTC team.
6. A minimum of three drug screens per week.
7. Compliance with TASC instructions.
8. Enrollment in classes for GED, if you do not have a GED or high school diploma.
9. Full-time employment or community service.
10. Compliance with court instructions and assignments.

Before you move to Phase III you must be in compliance with the above-listed requirements, be in Phase II for a minimum of six months, have 120 consecutive days of clean drug tests, have stable and suitable housing and be employed full-time or enrolled in school.



SUPERSTAR STATUS

In Phase II you are eligible for superstar status. The criteria for being a superstar are:

1) 120 consecutive days of clean drug tests, 2) employment, school enrollment, or community service, 3) compliance with DTC requirements, and 4) approval by the team.

Benefits of being a superstar are: 1) called first for court reviews, 2) excused from court after their review, and 3) extension of curfew until the next court session.



Phase III: You will be in Phase III for a minimum of 3 months. **The primary goals for Phase III are to demonstrate strong recovery support and to demonstrate leadership.**

1. One face-to-face contact with the DTC coordinator every two weeks.
2. **Compliance with probation instructions.**
3. Compliance with treatment instructions.
4. Compliance with 10 PM curfew or removal of curfew with DTC team approval.
5. Attendance at a minimum of two 12-step meetings per week, or more as instructed by the DTC team.
6. A minimum of two drug screens per week.
7. Compliance with TASC instructions.
8. Enrollment in classes for GED, if you do not have a GED or high school diploma.
9. Full-time employment or community service.
10. Compliance with court instructions and assignments.
11. Development of a relapse prevention plan.

Before you move to the after-care phase you must be in compliance with the above-listed requirements, be in Phase III for a minimum of three months, have 120 consecutive days of clean drug tests, have stable and suitable housing and be employed full-time or enrolled in school.



"Not everything we face can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

James Baldwin



After-care Phase: After-care is the least intensive phase of the program and is intended to be a transition phase from DTC to maintaining your recovery with your own plan. You will be in after-care for a range of three to six months. The after-care requirements are:

1. Attendance at after-care meetings twice per month.
2. Compliance with probation, treatment and TASC instructions.
3. Attendance at a minimum of two 12-step meetings per week.
4. A minimum of one drug screen per week.
5. Enrollment in classes for GED, if you do not have a GED or high school diploma.
6. Compliance with court instructions and assignments.
7. Attendance of DTC at least once per month or as instructed by the DTC coordinator.



DTC GRADUATION CRITERIA

1. Successful completion of all program requirements, including up-to-date payment of restitution.
2. Satisfactory completion of community service and other program assignments.
3. Completion of GED or high school diploma program, if applicable.
4. Full time employment (exceptions may be made by the DTC team).
5. 120 consecutive days of clean drug tests.
6. A positive recommendation by the DTC team.
7. Approval of the DTC judge.



"Hard work does not guarantee success, but no work guarantees failure."

Febegas

WHEN?

Your formal commitment to DTC will be for a minimum of fifteen (15) months and a maximum of thirty (30) months. Our court targets intermediate offenders who have long histories of drug use and arrests. You have spent a long time digging this hole and it will take time to get out. This court will encourage you to stop digging, put down the shovel, and start climbing out. Our hope is that once you have found your path you will continue to help others coming into DTC.

Each phase of this program requires a time commitment from you. The intention is to direct your attention to your recovery and to keep you too busy to make bad decisions or return to old playmates and playgrounds. As you move to the next phase curfews will be extended and commitments will be reduced. Our hope is that you will start building your own support network and find ways to fill your time that support your recovery.

Where?

Your court reviews and meetings with the DTC coordinator will take place at the court house. Your other meetings and appointments will take place in locations throughout the community. Please keep in mind that you represent DTC when you move through the community and attend 12-step meetings with others in recovery in your community. The reputation that you build for this court in your community will fall back on you.



"You may be disappointed if you fail, but you are doomed if you don't try."

Beverly Sills



The graduates of DTC can best explain why this commitment is worth all of the hard work:

"Some changes are good and before I knew it my relationships started to change.... I started gaining some respect back... and then one day before I knew it I started loving myself. I never did that before. Then I started having some dignity and self-respect."

"...the greatest benefit was getting the tools to stay clean and now wanting to stay clean for myself and my family."

"... learning to live life on life's terms."

GOOD LUCK!

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Judicial District 29A Drug Treatment Court is to attack drug addiction through intensive supervision and treatment of addicted offenders with the goals of: a) sobriety and public safety, b) a reduction of: alcohol and/or drug dependence, criminal activity, and drug-related court load recidivism and prison admissions, and c) replacing hopelessness with productive futures. To eliminate drug abuse, crime and their consequences this court will forge continuing partnerships with the court, health treatment providers, concerned community organizations and law enforcement. Leveraging its partnerships and authority the court will direct substance-abusing offenders into evaluation and treatment to achieve personal responsibility and productive citizenship.



"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery; and today is a gift, that's why they call it the present."

Unknown

The Drug Treatment Court Team

Judge Laura Bridges

Cindy Wharton – DTC Administrator

Karen Long-Moore – DTC Coordinator II

David Chambers – Assistant District Attorney

Pamela Murray – DTC Case Coordinator, McDowell

Lamonda Davis – Probation, Rutherford

Jason Hutchins – Probation, Rutherford

Rebecca Loftis – Probation, McDowell

Chris Hall – Probation, McDowell

Lori Greene - TASC, Rutherford

Matt Gannon - TASC, McDowell

Chris Taylor – Marion Police Department

Rob Martelle – Defense Attorney, Rutherford

Krinn Evans – Defense Attorney, McDowell

Denise Harrison – Matrix Counselor, McDowell

Thomas Butler – CJPP, McDowell

Amy DePriest – Counselor, Parkway Behavioral Health Rutherford

Travis McEntyre – Foothills Harvest Ministries Rutherford

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

McDowell County

Pamela Murray DTC Case Coordinator	(828) 652-7404
Rebecca Loftis Probation Officer	(828) 652-7919, ext 23
Chris Hall Probation Officer	(828) 652-7919, ext 24
Denise Harrison Matrix Counselor	(828) 652-5444
Matt Gannon TASC Case Manager	1-(828)-779-1687
Krinn Evans Defense Attorney	(828) 652-1849
Patti Turner Community Service	(828) 652-7919, ext 21
McDowell Tech	(828) 652-6021