

TOMPKINS COUNTY FELONY DRUG TREATMENT COURT

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Tompkins County Court
320 North Tioga Street
Ithaca, New York 14850

FDTC Satellite Office
225A Center Ithaca
171 East State Street, Box 136
Ithaca, New York 14850
(607) 277-1455

The goal of the Tompkins County Felony Drug Treatment Court is to assist alcohol and drug addicted defendants in breaking the cycle of addiction and criminal activity while at the same time providing safety to the community. Defendants considering the program must cooperate with a Pre-Plea investigation conducted by the Probation Department and abide by the Release Under Supervision (RUS) or Interim Probation Supervision (IPS) order of the court.

STABILIZATION PERIOD: This stage begins when the defendant receives either a Release Under Supervision of a Drug Court Probation Officer or placed on Interim Probation Supervision. The focus of this period will be to evaluate the defendant's receptiveness to treatment and the program. Defendants who remain in detention may also be evaluated during this period and will only be required to follow "a", "b", and "c" below.

- a) Complete an intake questionnaire
- b) Complete a substance abuse evaluation
- c) If requested, complete a mental health evaluation
- d) Submit to random drug screenings and alcohol breath tests
- e) Attend weekly Drug Treatment Court sessions
- f) Permit home visits to be completed by a Probation Officer
- g) Be subject to a 10 p.m. curfew
- h) Attend 12 step meetings as directed
- i) Attend a Drug Court Orientation session

Upon the defendant being considered appropriate for the program by the Drug Treatment Court Team, the defendant enters a plea and is then sentenced to a 5 year period of probation supervision, which may include a period of Electronic Monitoring. As a condition of probation, the defendant must successfully complete the following three phases, each lasting a minimum of four months. The length of the program is variable depending on the progress of the participant. Movement through the phases occurs at the discretion of court.

PHASE I - Early Recovery: The focus of this phase is to engage the participant in treatment and support their efforts to stay clean and sober. Participants will:

- a) Report to their Probation Officer 3 times per week or more, as directed
- b) Permit random unannounced home visits by Probation Officers
- c) Appear in Drug Treatment Court as directed
- d) Participate in recommended alcohol/drug treatment
- e) Be subject to random drug screening and alcohol screening tests up to 3 times per week
- f) Provide verified attendance at a minimum of three 12 step meetings per week
- g) Complete an educational/employment assessment
- h) Have a complete physical and dental exam
- i) Be subject to a 10 p.m. curfew
- j) Complete a mental health screening and attend all recommended follow-up or treatment appointments.
- k) Attend a minimum of 2 life skills, health, employment, or education programs as directed
- l) Obtain a 12 step sponsor

During Phase I, participants are asked to fully participate in the Drug Court program. The goal of this phase is to have participants abstain from drug and alcohol use and to begin to develop the skills necessary to maintain this state. To advance to Phase II, participants must have 90 days of clean urine screens, have at least four satisfactory home visits, and have met all other Phase I requirements.

PHASE II - Decision Making: The goals of this phase include demonstrating a commitment to living without alcohol and other drugs and getting involved in an educational/employment program. Participants will:

- a) Report to their Probation Officer as directed, up to two times per week
- b) Permit random unannounced home visits by Probation Officers
- c) Report to Drug Treatment Court as directed
- d) Attend group and individual counseling sessions
- e) Be subject to random drug screening, up to 3 times per week
- f) Provide verified attendance at a minimum of three 12 step group meetings per week
- g) Start educational classes or job skill training
- h) Attend a minimum of 2 life skills, health, employment, or education programs as directed
- i) Follow up with any recommended physical or dental treatment.
- j) Follow up with any recommended mental health treatment

To advance to Phase III, participants must have a minimum of 90 days clean and be involved in their individual educational/employment plan.

PHASE III - Community Transition: This phase will focus on relapse prevention and maintaining a clean and sober life. Emphasis will be on educational and vocational training as needed. Participants will:

- a) Report to their Probation Officer as directed, at least once per week
- b) Permit random unannounced home visits by Probation Officers
- c) Report to Drug Treatment Court as directed
- d) Attend group and individual counseling as recommended
- e) Be subject to random drug screening, up to 2 times per week
- f) Provide verified attendance at a minimum of three 12 step group meetings per week
- g) Actively participate in their education/employment plan
- h) Attend a minimum of 1 life skills, health, employment, or education programs as directed
- i) Plan and complete a community service project as directed
- j) Participate in victim/offender mediation as directed
- k) Follow up with any recommended mental health treatment
- l) Attend a graduate group as directed

Commencement: Successful participants will complete Drug Court after finishing Phase III, remaining drug and alcohol free for at least 12 consecutive months in the program, and finishing treatment (including satisfying outstanding financial obligations). In addition he/she must have obtained meaningful employment or be engaged in a course of study or training to achieve that goal. Prior to commencement, all potential graduates will be required to fill out a graduation application and attend a graduation review panel. Participants must also resolve all pending cases and pay all outstanding fines, surcharges, and restitution prior to commencement. The presiding judge will have final say regarding satisfaction of program requirements and a participant's readiness to graduate.

Participants will continue to be monitored by the Probation Department for the remainder of the term of their probation, unless granted an early discharge from probation by the Court upon the recommendation of the Probation Department.

SANCTIONS/RESPONSES

Noncompliance with the program may result in one of a series of graduated sanctions being imposed. Behaviors considered to be noncompliant include unexcused absences (from Drug Treatment Court or any program appointment), positive urine screens, providing a fraudulent or altered urine sample, disruptive or disrespectful behavior, failure to attend 12 step meetings, failure to complete a sanction, or a new arrest. Sanctions may include writing assignments, increased reporting to probation, attendance at extra court sessions, community service, movement back to a earlier Phase, a period of electronic monitoring and local incarceration of variable length.

INCENTIVES/REWARDS

Progress in the program is recognized in a variety of ways including praise in the court room, gift certificates, and Phase Movement Ceremonies. In addition to these awards, Team members continually look for opportunities to recognize and support participants' efforts to make positive changes.