

39TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STONE COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT



PARTICIPANT'S HANDBOOK

MISSION STATEMENT

The Stone County Drug Court program's mission is to provide substance abuse treatment with frequent supervisory contact from the court, the treatment provider, and probation for adult drug offenders as an alternative to incarceration, with a goal of breaking the cycle of addiction, crime, and incarceration.

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Stone County Adult Drug Court Program. Adult Drug Court is a court-supervised drug treatment program for non-violent individuals with a drug abuse problem. This handbook is designed to answer your questions and concerns about Adult Drug Court, provide overall information about the program, and detail what is expected of you as a participant.

The **Adult Drug Court Team** is under the direction of Judge Alan Blankenship. Members of the Adult Drug Court Team include the Judge, Prosecuting Attorney, Probation and Parole Officers, Stone County Circuit Clerk, Sheriff's Deputies, Coordinator, Trackers, Treatment Providers, Drug Test Provider, and the Drug Court Administrator.

Participation in the Adult Drug Court Program is voluntary. The program length is determined by each participant's individual progress, but is at least eighteen (18) months. You signed a Contract with Adult Drug Court agreeing to comply with program requirements. As a participant, you will be expected to follow the instructions given by the court, to comply with the treatment plan developed for you, and to respect all members of the team. Participation includes regular court appearances, following your court ordered treatment plan, drug testing, treatment services, as well as attendance at self-help meetings. Treatment plans will be individualized to meet your specific needs and routinely re-evaluated. Participants may also be assisted with education and skills assessments, referrals for vocational training, parenting life-skills, education and/or job placement services, mental health assessments, etc.

Your privacy is respected in Adult Drug Court. We are bound to make every effort to protect your identity and maintain confidentiality about your program. Upon entry into Adult Drug Court, you gave the court permission to obtain treatment information from your treatment provider and drug test provider by signing the consent to release information which allows us to talk with your providers about your progress in the program without your being present. We also expect you to allow us to access medical and other records of care and service to you (as necessary and with your full knowledge) that may impact your participation.

Upon completion of the program and successfully graduating you will receive a favorable disposition of your case. This may include the Prosecuting Attorney dismissing your case and agreeing not to prosecute your case in the future, or the court terminating your probation early. However, if you fail to successfully complete the program, and thereafter appear before the Judge for sentencing in your case, Missouri law provides that your sentencing judge may consider the reason(s) you were terminated from the Adult Drug Court.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

COURT APPEARANCES

As an Adult Drug Court participant, you will be required to appear in court on a regular basis. At each appearance, the Judge will be given a report prepared by your probation officer and treatment provider about your progress. The report will include drug test results, attendance at self-help meetings, and participation in treatment, successes and/or problems you are having, your health, your attitude and so forth. The judge will ask you questions about your progress and discuss any problems you have been experiencing.

If you cannot appear in court as scheduled, you must notify your probation officer as soon as possible to obtain permission from the judge. Unexcused **failure to appear** in court on the date and time you are scheduled is a crime and may result in a warrant being issued for your arrest.

TREATMENT EXPECTATIONS

Addiction, recovery and treatment are experienced differently by each person. Therefore, your treatment plan will be individualized to ensure that you and your counselor are focusing on the treatment and experiences that will help you grow and heal. Every Drug Court participant will receive an assessment that will be utilized to develop an individualized treatment plan. This plan will be based on a team approach using resources in a network of service providers in the Stone County area. The plan will act as a guide for you through treatment and will be updated as you progress.

The treatment provider will assess what level and intensity of treatment will best meet your needs and recommend to the Judge that you receive detoxification, residential treatment or outpatient services.

The treatment plan will include, but not limited to, individual, group and education substance abuse and/or mental health counseling. You must participate fully in all treatment programs. They are designed to help you develop self-awareness, self-discipline, and realize your self-worth.

If you are unable to attend a scheduled session, you must contact your treatment provider 24 hours in advance. You shall be assessed a \$40.00 fee for missing treatment sessions without prior approval from your treatment provider.

DRUG TESTING

You will be drug tested throughout the entire program. Testing will be on a random basis, may be any day of the week, and typically will occur several times each week. **You will be required to provide a valid ID prior to all testing.**

You are responsible for calling the drug testing hotline **1-888-557-5198** every day to find out if there will be testing. You must call every day, seven days a week, including holidays. When you call, you will get a recording which states whether or not there will be testing. Listen to the complete recorded message. You will be assigned a location for drug testing. The hours of operation at the two testing locations are provided below.

**Avertest (Branson) Operation Hours: 9am-12Noon
290 Wintergreen Road, Branson, MO. 65615**

**Alliance Counseling (Reeds Spring) Operation Hours: 6am-8:00am
22065 Main Street, Reeds Spring, MO. 65737**

If you are unable to respond to your assigned testing location you must get prior approval from your Probation Officer to test at an alternate site.

You are encouraged to respond to testing locations at least 30 minutes prior to closing. If you are unable to provide a sample during normal operation hours then the test will be assumed positive. This will affect your clean time and may result in a formal sanction from the court.

You shall also be subject to drug and/or alcohol testing during routine office visits at Probation and Parole, as well as during random home visits that will be conducted by either your probation officer or assigned Drug Court Tracker.

DILUTION: Excessive ingestion of fluids can result in a diluted sample and the court screens to ensure that provided samples are not diluted. The submission of a diluted sample will be viewed as both a positive drug test and fraudulent activity and may result in a harsher sanction. Dilution is dishonest. It is your best interest to be completely honest.

The substitution or altering of your urine specimen in any way for the purposes of changing the drug-testing results will be considered as a positive test for drugs/alcohol and will result in sanctioning and may be grounds for immediate termination from programming.

BANNED SUBSTANCES

- Usage of any products containing alcohol, such as mouth washes, breath strips, cough medicines (e.g. Nyquil, etc.), hand sanitizer, non-alcoholic beer and wine, herbal supplements (e.g. ginkgo biloba, etc.), flavoring extracts (e.g. vanilla, etc.), communion wine, flambé dishes (e.g. baked Alaska, etc.), colognes, body sprays or any other product containing alcohol, will NOT be a valid excuse for a positive alcohol screen (UA or BA).

- You shall minimize frequency of use and exposure to solvents, lacquers, and insecticides. If contact with such products cannot be avoided due to employment reasons, you need to discuss with your Treatment Provider and Probation Officer. Do not wait for a positive test result to have this discussion. Exposure to such products will NOT serve as a valid excuse for a positive alcohol test.
- Performance enhancing supplements and/or diet supplements are NOT allowed.
- Foods containing poppy seeds (i.e. muffins, beagles, etc.) are NOT allowed.

You shall abstain from the use of any synthetic or mood altering chemical(s)/substances or any substances deemed “not for human consumption.”

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION POLICY

In order to succeed in the drug court program there must be abstinence from the use of all addictive substances, including all prescribed pain medications and mood altering medications. If an emergency arises where such a prescription is necessary, it must be obtained in coordination with the prescribing doctor, your drug court treatment providers and probation officer. If you obtain a doctor’s prescription, the following must be done:

1. Inform your doctor of your history of substance abuse and your current involvement with the drug court program and current treatment participation. Ask your doctor if there are non-narcotic pain medications or alternative forms of medical treatment available.
2. Immediately advise your probation officer and treatment provider of the prescription or prescriptions you have received.
3. If directed by your probation officer, treatment provider or court, you will make your prescription available in order to count the number of pills used from the date the prescription was filled.
4. Once the prescription has expired or the time all pills should have been used, none of the pills will be in the possession of the drug court participant. A positive drug test after that time due to use of “leftover medication” will be a violation of the program.
5. Participants will not be allowed to use ANY narcotic medications while participating in this program. If a participant is allowed to enter the drug court program and is participating in such medication treatment at the time of entry, he or she will stop taking such medications within 60 days.

The drug court participant is responsible for the use of ALL medications, including over the counter medications. Check with your probation officer for a list of acceptable over the counter medications. OTC medications must be taken at the appropriate dosage listed on the drug’s label or a positive urine test could result. DO NOT take more than the dosage indicated on the label!

PARTICIPANT FEES & BOARD BILL

A base fee of \$2,400 is assessed for the eighteen-month (78 weeks minimum) ADC court program. If you are unable to complete the program in the allotted time, you shall be assessed an additional \$100 per month to cover the cost of treatment needed beyond the eighteen-month programming period.

If you are unable to attend a scheduled session, you must contact your treatment provider 24 hours in advance. You shall be assessed a \$40.00 fee for missing treatment sessions without prior approval from your treatment provider.

Participants will be assessed the cost of secondary confirmation testing that results in positive findings. Confirmation test pricing will vary depending on the substances screened for.

CASE MANAGEMENT & TRACKING SERVICES

You are to schedule regular appointments with your probation officer as directed. You are expected to be on time. Your probation officer will give continuous updates to the court and team about your progress. The probation officer will make home visits, and check in with your work place, your treatment program, as well as any other persons involved in working with you while you are in Drug Court.

Trackers will be used as well, with their primary function to make unannounced home visits, administer portable breath tests (checking for alcohol use), as well as random drug screens. Trackers are off-duty Stone County Sheriff's Deputies and have the full power of that office at their disposal if needed.

SELF-HELP GROUP MEETINGS

Attendance at self-help group meetings such as Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous and/or Celebrate Recovery is required as recommended by the ADC team throughout the entire program. These meetings are a vitally important part of your recovery. You must provide written proof to your treatment provider and probation officer bi-monthly. Your treatment provider will determine your frequency of attendance based on your individual needs.

EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

The General Education Degree, also referred to as the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) is the diploma adults can receive if they didn't get their original high school diploma. Beginning in Phase III of programming you shall be required to register for an exam and then take classes to prepare for it.

Your educational development is an important part of this program and the team will support you as you work towards this achievement. As an incentive, community services hours will be awarded for this deserved accomplishment.

- **10 hours will be awarded for completing the GED placement exam.**
- **40 hours will be awarded for passing the GED exam.**

***NOTE* Participants will not be awarded community service hours for partial completion of any component of the GED. You MUST pass the GED in order to satisfy the educational component of programming. GED completion is a requirement prior to graduation.**

COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

All participants are required to complete 150 hours of community service prior to graduation. You will be required to complete at least one half of those hours (75 hours) with a community based organization. The other 75 hours can be earned through the completion of community service that is viewed as self-improvement. Examples would include: GED completion, fitness and wellness classes, etc.

DRUG COURT RULES

As a Drug Court participant, you will be required to abide by some basic rules:

1. Always tell the truth.

Overcoming drug dependence is not easy, yet thousands of individuals do it every year with the help of others. Your success will take your best effort, including constant truthfulness on your part.

a. **Do not forge documents** such as N/A meeting attendance sheets. Forgery is a crime.

b. **Do not miss urine drops or attempt to subvert any urinalysis test in any way.** Missed drops are considered dirty drops. Tampering with urine specimens will not be tolerated and will be considered a violation of the program.

2. Become and remain drug and alcohol free.

Sobriety is the primary focus of this program. Maintaining a drug free lifestyle is very important to your recovery process.

3. Avoid any establishment where the principle business is the sale of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs or gambling.

Just as using alcohol and other drugs may become an addiction, gambling may become an addiction, also, and is therefore not approved behavior for Drug Court participants.

4. Follow the treatment plan made for you by your treatment provider and attend all assigned treatment sessions, including individual and group counseling, educational sessions and self-help group meetings (e.g. AA/NA).

If you are unable to attend a scheduled session, you must contact your treatment provider 24 hours in advance. You shall be assessed a \$40.00 fee for missing treatment sessions without prior approval from your treatment provider.

5. Report to your Probation Officer as directed.

If you have any problem keeping a scheduled appointment, contact your probation officer immediately. Do not just “drop in”. You must inform your probation officer of any changes in your address, telephone number, job or people living in your home within 48 hours of such change.

6. Attend and be on time to all Adult Drug Court sessions, meetings with Probation Officer and treatment sessions.

Being late may mean that you miss counseling sessions and are considered “non-compliant”. Contact your treatment counselor if there is a possibility that you may be late. The judge may sanction you for being late to court. Additionally, it is very important that you attend all treatment/counseling sessions. You will want to share your thoughts on all plans that affect you/your family.

7. Behave appropriately in court and at treatment:

- a. **Inappropriate physical and/or verbal behavior** will not be tolerated and may result in your termination from the program. Make **NO** threats toward other participants, counselors, probation officer, or Drug Court Team members nor behave in a violent or aggressive manner.
- b. **Dress appropriately** in court and at treatment. You are required to dress appropriately in the Courtroom. This means wearing shirts, pants, dresses, etc. of reasonable length. No tank tops or clothing with drug or alcohol themes is acceptable. Gang attire is unacceptable. Sunglasses should not be worn inside without medical approval.

8. Obey all laws and pay outstanding traffic fines.

- a. Do **Not** drive a vehicle without a valid **driver’s license**.
- b. A **felony** arrest may result in your termination from Drug Court. Remember that drug use or sale is illegal.
- c. Take care of all outstanding cases you may have in **municipal courts**. You may find yourself locked up all over the area in various municipalities because you have been irresponsible there. Such a problem can ruin your Adult Drug Court participation completely. If you need help, let your defense attorney and the judge know the extent of your problem right away.

9. Travel is a privilege and all requirements of your Probation must be met prior to traveling, either inside or outside the state. All travel requiring an overnight stay must be

approved prior to travel by either the court or your probation officer. A UA will be done prior to your leaving and on your return from travel, or you may be required to wear a patch at your expense.

10. Avoid any person who possesses or uses illegal drugs.

11. Pay a \$2,400.00 Adult Drug Court fee.

You must pay the entire fee to complete the program. We recommend you pay the fee as follows: **\$400.00** by the end of Phase 1; **\$800.00** by the end of Phase 2; **\$800.00** by the end of Phase 3; and **\$400** by the end of Phase 4.

CONSEQUENCES OF BEHAVIOR

It is important for you to know what will happen when you do well and when you are non-compliant in Adult Drug Court.

INCENTIVES

When you consistently cooperate and participate in the Adult Drug Court program, you may expect the Court to recognize you, at their discretion, in one or more of the following ways:

1. Give you credit toward the payment of your Drug Court fee.
2. Call you first on the docket.
3. Let you go to the next Phase.
4. Allow you privileges to travel out of town.
5. Reward you with leisure tickets (movies, attractions, shows, vouchers, etc.)
6. Give you applause and praise in the Courtroom.

SANCTIONS

When you fail to comply with the Adult Drug Court program, the Judge may, at his discretion, order one or more of the following sanctions:

1. Judicial Admonishment
2. Writing assignment.
3. Additional Community Service
4. Additional Support Group Attendance
5. Increased UA's per week
6. More Intensive Supervision Level
7. Phase Demotion or Modification

8. Jail Time
9. Expulsion/Termination from Drug Court

LIMITED DRIVING PRIVILEGE

The Stone County ADC Court Judge will be assigned eligibility determinations for all limited driving privilege applications filed by participants or graduates of Adult Drug Court.

Stone County's response to H.B. 1695 is based on recommendations outlined by the Limited Driving Committee that was convened to determine the minimum requirements necessary to grant a Limited Driving Privilege (LDP).

MINIMUM STANDARDS

ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS

Before being granted a LDP the participant must be in compliance with section 302.309, RSMo:

1. The participant must have completed the first twelve months of the DWI Court program;
2. The participant must have filed proof with the Missouri Department of Revenue that any motor vehicle operated by the person is equipped with a functioning, certified ignition interlock device;
3. The participant shall have on file with the Missouri Department of Revenue proof of financial responsibility (SR-22 insurance).

Additional Requirements:

1. The participant may file an application requesting a limited driving privilege no sooner than 12 months.
2. The participant must demonstrate substantial and sustained compliance with all program requirements.
3. The participant has not unlawfully operated a motor vehicle for at least one year prior to the granting of the limited driving privilege. The LDP applicant is responsible for providing the court with a current criminal history check that is dated no later than 7 days prior to the LDP Hearing. Additionally, the court will review whether the applicant incurred any traffic violations while in the program. Traffic violations include, but not limited to, driving while revoked or suspended.
4. There must be a substantial and sustained abstinence from drugs and alcohol by the participant. The participant must have been clean from drugs and/or alcohol for at least 6 months prior to making application for LDP. All urine samples that are screened dilute or in some manner adulterated within this same six month time frame will be viewed as

positive and therefore disqualify the applicant. The court closely monitors alcohol and/or drug use through frequent testing.

5. The participant must continue to submit to random drug and alcohol testing.
6. The participant must have a stable residence. The participant will provide the court with documentation that verifies proof of residency.
7. The participant must demonstrate the ability to comply with and maintain the financial obligations required by the DWI Court program.
8. The participant's habits and conduct must demonstrate that they no longer pose a threat to the public safety of citizens of the state and that the participant is able to maintain a sober, law-abiding lifestyle.

TERMINATION OF A LIMITED DRIVING PRIVILEGE

The court shall provide notice and an opportunity to be heard on the issue of termination of the limited driving privilege whenever required by due process and for violations pertaining to positive drug or alcohol tests, altered or diluted samples, alcohol or drug related law enforcement contacts, or otherwise presenting a public safety risk.

The court shall notify the Missouri Department of Revenue immediately upon termination of the limited driving privilege.

1. Failure of the participant to maintain proof of financial responsibility, as required by Chapter 303 or to maintain proof of installation of a functioning, certified ignition interlock device shall terminate the privilege.
2. Failure of the participant to successfully complete DWI Court for reasons other than successful completion of the program shall terminate the privilege.
3. The participant submits a positive drug or alcohol test, or submits an altered or diluted sample, or incurs an alcohol or drug related law enforcement contact, or otherwise presents a public safety risk.
4. The participant fails to comply with any condition imposed on the limited driving privilege including continuous drug or alcohol testing or monitoring.

PROGRAM PHASES

PHASE ONE	
Length of phase:	A minimum of 3 months
Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete assessment • Complete treatment plan • Participation in treatment as determined by your needs • Meet with probation officer as directed • Attend self-help group meetings (at a minimum) bi-weekly • Attend court bi-monthly • Submit to frequent, random urinalysis testing • Begin community service • Subject to curfew as directed by your probation officer • Phase 1 participant fees paid in full (\$400) • Participant must have at least 30 days clean prior to Phase II advancement • Participant must fill out an application to advance to the next phase

PHASE TWO	
Length of phase:	A minimum of 6 months
Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete assessment • Participation in treatment as determined by your needs • Meet with probation officer as directed • Attend self-help group meetings (at a minimum) bi-weekly • Attend court bi-monthly • Submit to frequent, random urinalysis testing • Continue community service requirements • Subject to curfew as directed by your probation officer • Be gainfully employed (at least 20 hours/week) or in an educational training program at least 90 consecutive days prior to Phase III advancement • Obtain a sponsor and verify with probation officer • Phase 2 participant fees paid in full (\$800) • Participant must have at least 60 days clean prior to Phase III advancement • Participant must fill out an application to advance to the next phase

PHASE THREE	
Length of phase:	A minimum of 6 months
Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete assessment • Participation in treatment as determined by your needs • Meet with probation officer as directed • Attend self-help group meetings (at a minimum) bi-weekly • Attend court monthly • Submit to frequent, random urinalysis testing • Continue community service requirements • Complete Relapse Prevention Book • Subject to curfew as directed by your probation officer • Be gainfully employed (at least 20 hours/week) or in an educational training program at least 90 consecutive days prior to Phase IV advancement • Obtain a sponsor and verify with probation officer • Phase 3 participant fees paid in full (\$800) • Participant must have at least 90 days clean prior to Phase IV advancement • Participant must fill out an application to advance to the next phase

PHASE FOUR	
Length of phase:	A minimum of 3 months
Requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in treatment as determined by your needs • Complete after-care/relapse prevention plan with treatment provider • Meet with probation officer as directed • Attend self-help group meetings (at a minimum) bi-weekly • Attend court monthly • Submit to frequent, random urinalysis testing • Complete community service requirements • Be gainfully employed (at least 20 hours/week) or in an educational training program at least 180 consecutive days prior to graduation • Obtain a sponsor and verify with probation officer • Phase 4 participant fees paid in full (\$400) • Participant must have at least 180 days clean prior to graduation • Participant must fill out an application to graduate

CONTACT INFORMATION		
Drug Testing Hotline		1-888-557-5198
Probation Officer	Rob Watson	1-417-334-5613 or 1-417-357-1216
Probation Officer	Heather Fletcher	1-417-334-5613 or 1-417-357-1216
Public Defender's Office		1-417-235-8828
Prosecuting Attorney's Office		1-417-357-6137
Larry Simmering Recovery Center 360 Rinehart Road Branson, MO 65616	Anna Mason Gloria Engel	1-417-335-5946
Alliance Counseling 22065 Main Street Reeds Spring, MO. 65737	Karah Young	1-417-880-7310
Alliance Counseling 154 Wintergreen Road Branson, MO. 65616	Thuy Rudy	1-417-880-7736
Circuit Clerk's Office		1-417-357-6114
Treatment Court Administrator	Shawn Billings	1-417-357-3056