



Superior Court of California

County of Marin

**Juvenile Drug Court
Participant Handbook**

The Marin County Juvenile Drug Court Program is an intensive, Court-supervised counseling and treatment program for eligible minors who have law violations and substance abuse problems. It is designed to give you an opportunity to take responsibility for your actions and change your life.

What Is Juvenile Drug Court?

A program to help kids overcome their addiction and do better things with their lives. – Stephen, age 15.

A drug program to help kids change and succeed. – Paula, age 16.

Rehab. – Chris, age 18.

Recovery court. – Alton, age 17.

A system to help drug users get their lives back. – Rob, age 16.

A way to keep my life in order and to keep me off drugs. – Mark, age 17.

What Do Participants Learn in Drug Court?

Support is the rock in everyone's sobriety. – Alton, age 17

Being honest is important. – Heather, age 14.

Running away from problems never solves them. – Katie, age 16

Drug Court works for people who work a program. – Derek, age 16.

How to be responsible. – Joey, age 18.

My life is better when I am sober. – Conor, age 17.

School is important. – Morgan, age 16

Respect for myself and my family. – Careina, age 16

Drug Court taught me skills. I go to school, I go to work, I meet my appointments. – Daniel, age 18

Who Is Eligible for Juvenile Drug Court?

Participants must be Marin County residents between 14-18 years old who have non-violent criminal charges against them and a history of drug or alcohol use. Juveniles with a history of serious or violent felonies or any sex offense are ineligible.

What Is Required of Parents in Drug Court?

Parents play an important role in Drug Court. Teens are most likely to succeed if their parents attend court sessions, follow the Drug Court team's directives, and support their child's sobriety. If parents are drinking irresponsibly or using illegal drugs in the home, it will be nearly impossible for their child to become clean and sober.

Parents must be willing to participate in the Drug Court program and abide by the rules outlined in this handbook. They must sign a waiver of confidentiality and participate in family therapy if ordered.

What Is Required of Participants in Drug Court?

Participants must admit the Section 602 petition, disposing of the pending charges without litigation. Negotiation of the charges is permitted. The child must be declared a ward of the court, have a need for substance abuse treatment, and sign the waiver of confidentiality form.

Participants are required to express a willingness to change. They must acknowledge that their drug and alcohol use is causing problems, and commit to leading a clean and honest life. Participants are asked to stop blaming others for their problems and to take responsibility for their choices. This often requires that teens avoid their former using friends. Gang affiliation is not permitted in Drug Court.

Drug Court is highly structured and demanding. Participants will be required to meet with their probation officer, participate in treatment, submit to random UA testing, attend AA meetings, maintain a journal, exercise, and attend court regularly for a minimum period of 9 months. Graduated sanctions – such as increased counseling, more random testing, or detention in Juvenile Hall – are imposed for inappropriate behavior. Rewards and incentives are given for appropriate and extraordinary behavior.

How Does Drug Court Work?

The Drug Court Team includes the Judge, Deputy Probation Officer, Deputy District Attorney, Deputy Public Defender, and treatment providers.

After acceptance into the Juvenile Drug Court Program, you are given a “Task List,” which details what you need to accomplish before your next Drug Court appearance. When you appear for Drug Court, you will provide proof of compliance with the items on your Task List. You are encouraged to explain to any Team Member any problems you have completing your Task List.

There are three Phases to the Marin County Juvenile Drug Court Program.

Phase I (approximately 3 to 4 months)

The focus of Phase I is to begin treatment and to recognize responsibility to others. You will participate in a Treatment Plan. You will be tested frequently for use of drugs and alcohol, and you will be expected to be an active participant in drug and alcohol counseling.

Focus: Treatment, Accountability to others, recovery

Components:

- * School Attendance – no unexcused absences or tardies
- * Multiple Weekly Drug Tests
- * Two weekly 12-Step Meetings (AA, NA, MA)
- * Exercise 3x weekly for 30 minutes
- * Create Drug Court journal
- * Weekly Court Appearances and homework
- * Regular contact with Probation Officer
- * Write an autobiography (1000 words)

Promotion to Phase II will be determined by your participation and task accomplishments during Phase I and must be preceded by a minimum of two weeks without any sanctions for violation of your Drug Court Orders.

Phase II (approximately 3 to 4 months)

The focus of Phase II is to maintain treatment and recognize responsibility to others. You will be required to get a sponsor, complete 25 hours of Community Service, appear in court as directed, give regular UA’s, attend counseling meetings, and attend school or maintain employment as directed.

Focus: Maintenance of Treatment, Community Service Work

Components:

- * School Attendance – no unexcused absence or tardies
- * Regular exercise, maintain journal, complete Drug Court homework
- * Exercise increased responsibility
- * Drug Counseling – no unexcused absences
- * Drug Testing - as directed
- * Two weekly 12-Step Meetings (AA, NA, MA)
- * Court Appearances – Generally weekly or as directed
- * Contact with Probation Officer as directed
- * Community Service – Complete Twenty-Five (25) hours of community service work prior to promotion to Phase III

Promotion to Phase III will be determined by your participation and task accomplishment during Phase I, and must be preceded by a minimum of two weeks without any sanctions for violation of your Drug Court Orders.

Phase III (approximately 3 to 4 months)

The focus of Phase III is continued recovery and responsibility to self and others. You are expected to recognize responsibility to yourself, to your family and to the community. Remember that during any phase of Juvenile Drug Court, you can request specific goals to be included in you contract. This may be an appropriate time to consider educational and vocational goals.

Focus: Maintenance of Recovery, Complete treatment, Aftercare Plan, Accountability, Job Development and Career Counseling, Leadership.

Components:

- * School Attendance – no unexcused absence or tardies
- * Regular exercise, maintain journal, complete Drug Court homework
- * Exercise increased responsibility
- * Drug Counseling – no unexcused absences
- * Drug Testing - as directed
- * Two (2) weekly 12-Step Meetings (AA, NA, MA)
- * Court Appearances – Generally every other week or as directed
- * Contact with Probation Officer as directed
- * Act as a mentor to Phase I participants as directed
- * Education Plan/Job Training

What Happens If I Break A Rule?

The goal of the Juvenile Drug Court Program is to help you become clean and sober. Overcoming substance abuse is not an easy process and that there may be setbacks. Setbacks do not automatically disqualify you from the Program; however, you will be subjected to graduated sanctions, including increased phase time, counseling, essays, 12-step meetings, homework, random testing, and community service. Sanctions may also include home detention or time in Juvenile Hall.

Can I Be Removed From Juvenile Drug Court?

Failure to appear in court on the date and time scheduled may result in a warrant for your arrest. You may be placed in custody and brought back to Juvenile Court for sanctions.

Some behaviors can result in termination from Juvenile Drug Court, including repeat violations of the Drug Court contract, a new law violation, violence or threats of violence directed at anyone, being disruptive or disrespectful in treatment.

All decisions regarding termination from the Juvenile Drug Court Program will be made after a review by the Juvenile Drug Court Team. The Team will consider what you have to say.

What Happens If I Don't Graduate?

If you are unable to complete the Program, you will return to regular 602 Court for disposition of your case, and you will be required to serve the remainder of your Juvenile Hall sentence. Your attorney will answer any questions you might have about this possibility before you decide whether to admit the petition and participate in the Juvenile Drug Court Program.

What Happens When I Graduate?

Graduation from Juvenile Drug Court means that you have succeeded in fulfilling all program requirements. This completes your probation and ends court appearances. Your case will be closed, the charges against you will be dismissed and you will receive an application to have your records sealed. A graduation ceremony will be held in court, and you are the guest of honor!

What Are the Juvenile Drug Court Rules?

1. SIGN THE CONTRACT .

A contract is included in your orientation packet that outlines your responsibilities while in the Juvenile Drug Court Program, incentives for compliance, and sanctions for noncompliance.

2. COMPLETE TASK LIST.

You will be given a task list each week. Complete all tasks. Your progress on the tasks is presented in court at each hearing

3. ATTEND APPOINTMENTS.

Attend all appointments on time. This includes all individual, family and group counseling, educational sessions, drug testing, 12-Step meetings, community service, and meetings with your probation officer.

4. REQUEST TIMELY LEAVE FROM DRUG COURT IN WRITING.

Request for a leave from Drug Court (e.g., a family vacation) should be presented to the Drug Court Team at least one week before departure.

5. NO THREATS, VIOLENCE, WEAPONS OR DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR

Violent or inappropriate behavior – including threats, violence, combative behavior; disrupting treatment – will be reported to the Court. Such behavior will result in immediate sanctions. Possession of a firearm will result in termination from the program.

6. NO POSSESSION OR USE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES.

Do not possess, conceal, or carry drugs or alcohol into any treatment meeting, appointment, county facility, Court or event.

7. DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR COURT, TREATMENT SESSIONS, OUTINGS.

Participants must dress neatly and modestly Court. No shorts, skimpy tops, bare shoulders, belly shirts or short skirts. Shoes must be worn. Clothing with gang, drug or alcohol themes is inappropriate.

8. NO ASSOCIATING WITH USERS

Do not associate with people who are using drugs or alcohol. Drug Court will not accept as an excuse that “I got a contact high.” Any attempt to flush your system by drinking huge amounts of fluids will be considered a positive UA test and will result in sanctions.

9. HONESTY ABOVE ALL

Honesty is more important than anything else. Without it, there is no recovery.

What Are My Confidentiality Rights?

State Law requires that your identity and privacy be protected. In response to these regulations, the Juvenile Drug Court has developed policies and procedures that protect your confidentiality. You and your parents will be asked to sign a statement releasing appropriate information to the Juvenile Drug Court Team. You will also be required to sign a statement promising to maintain the confidentiality of others in the Program and to sign a waiver allowing other participants to be present at your Court hearings.

Am I Ready for Drug Court?

The Juvenile Drug Court Program will help you live a clean, sober and productive life. It is designed to give you every chance to become an honest and responsible person. At the same time, participation in the program is your personal choice. The Judge and Juvenile Drug Court Team are here to assist you., but the final responsibility is yours. We care about our participants, but you are the one who must make the commitment toward a clean and sober life.

Marin County Juvenile Drug Court
Task List

Minor:

Date:

Before your next court date, you are to complete the following tasks:

- € See Probation Officer _____
- € Complete requested UA test _____
- € Attend treatment/counseling _____
- € Attend ___AA/NA or other approved 12-step meeting _____

- € Do Drug Court homework _____
- € Exercise _____
- € Attend school without tardies or unexcused absence _____

- € Home restriction _____
- € Juvenile Hall _____
- € Other _____
- € _____

I promise to stay clean and sober for the next 7 days.
Dated:

Participant Signature

Next court date:
Weekend Drug Testing Telephone: 415-499-3683 UA# _____