

CITY OF JACKSON DRUG TREATMENT COURT

JUDGE BLAKE ANDERSON JACKSON CITY COURT



DTC Mission Statement:

The mission of the City of Jackson Drug Treatment Court is to enhance public safety by providing judicially supervised drug treatment and innovative-intensive case management to substance abuse offenders with the goal of retuning drug and alcohol free, law-abiding citizens to our community and thereby closing the “revolving door” of the criminal justice system.

Eligibility Criteria

- Candidate must voluntarily agree to enter the DTC program
- Candidate must be a permanent resident of Jackson-Madison County
- Candidate must be aged 18 years or older
- Candidate must not be a “*violent offender*”
- Must be potential agreement among sentencing Judge, District Attorney General’s office, and the Defense Counsel for the candidate that DTC would be an appropriate option
- Candidate must plead guilty to his/her pending charge(s)
- Candidate must self-report a history of drug and/or alcohol abuse
- Candidate must have all legal matters in other courts resolved
- Candidate cannot be acutely mentally ill or suicidal
- Current charge cannot be a DUI
- Candidate must be able to pass drug test prior to program entrance/release from jail

DTC Treatment Team

The DTC Treatment Team reviews and discusses each participant’s case on a weekly basis.

Current Team Members:

- DTC Judge
- DTC Coordinator
- DTC Clinical Director
- Public Defender’s Office
- Pathways
- Jackson Police Department
- Local Volunteers

Referral Process

- An initial referral form will be sent to the DTC office by Jackson City Court.
- The Assistant District Attorney will review NCIC’s to ensure that no “*violent offender*” is considered for program entrance.
- The DTC staff will meet with the candidate to present / explain the DTC program.
- If all eligibility requirements are met, the DTC Clinical Director will conduct a bio-psycho-social assessment.
- The DTC Treatment Team will interview the candidate, review all aspects of the candidate’s case, and determine his/her appropriateness for the DTC program. If appropriate, the DTC Treatment Team will make a recommendation to the Judge regarding the candidate’s Program entrance.
- The DTC staff will verify that the candidate’s proposed living arrangements are drug and alcohol free by conducting a home visit prior to his/her entrance into the DTC program .
- If the candidate is not interested, not eligible, or denied entrance by the DTC Treatment Team; he/she will return to Jackson City Court for a due process hearing and/or the imposition of sentencing on his/her charges.
- The screening process is open-ended, typically lasting one to five weeks.

Phases of the DTC Program:

There are three core phases of the Drug Treatment Court Program that all participants shall adhere to until completion.

Phase One:

Designed to last 12 weeks

- Random drug/alcohol screens at least twice per week
- Attend self-help support meetings daily
- Perform weekly community service work
- Successfully complete/advance in all recommended treatment modalities
- Appear in Jackson City Court for DTC weekly

Phase Two:

Designed to last 16 weeks

- Random drug/alcohol screens at least twice per week
 - Attend self-help support meetings at least four days per week
 - Perform community service work every other week
- OR
- Attend six hours GED tutoring weekly
 - Successfully complete/advance in all recommended treatment modalities
 - Attend Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT®)
 - Pay \$5.00 weekly fee
 - Appear in Jackson City Court for DTC weekly
 - Maintain, at minimum, part-time W-2 employment or educational enrollment

Phase Three:

Designed to last 20 weeks

- Random drug/alcohol screens at least once per week
- Attend self-help support meetings at least four days per week
- Attend six hours GED tutoring weekly (if applicable)
- Successfully complete/advance in all recommended treatment modalities
- Attend and complete Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT®)
- Pay \$5.00 weekly fee
- Appear in Jackson City Court for DTC every other week
- Maintain, at minimum, part-time W-2 employment or educational enrollment

Sanctions and Incentives

The motivational tools of the Drug Treatment Court are sanctions and incentives.

- A sanction, or punishment, is defined as any response that decreases the likelihood that the participant will engage in undesirable behavior in the future.
- An incentive, or positive reinforcement, increases a desired behavior by rewarding that behavior.
- Punishment teaches what not to do while reinforcement contingencies teach what to do.
- Generally, sanctions and incentives are discussed with the Drug Treatment Court Treatment Team prior to each DTC Court session.
- The DTC Judge ultimately makes all decisions, and employs creativity and flexibility when handing down sanctions and incentives.

DTC Staff:

Honorable Blake Anderson

Judge

Rebekah Provost-Emmons, LMSW

Coordinator

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Damien Nethery, LCSW

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