
29TH DISTRICT COURT MENTAL HEALTH COURT PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK



**MENTAL HEALTH COURT JUDGE
HONORABLE LAURA R. MACK**

**MENTAL HEALTH COURT PROBATION OFFICER
PURITY MARSH**

**34808 SIMS AVE.
WAYNE, MI 48184
(734) 722-5220**

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INTRODUCTION

Mental Health Court is a joint initiative between the 29th District Court and Hegira Programs (Community Mental Health). Persons eligible for the program include individuals with severe and persistent mental illnesses, co-occurring disorders, and/or developmental disabilities who have committed a misdemeanor offense.

Mental Health Court referrals can come from a variety of sources including judges, attorneys, mental health professionals, law enforcement professionals, or family members.

Once the Mental Health Court Team determines that an individual is eligible for the program, the case is transferred to the Mental Health Court Judge's docket, and the Mental Health Team develops a set of terms that the individual must follow. These terms vary from participant to participant, and are developed based on the individual's unique circumstances.

You will be expected to follow the terms of participation given in the Mental Health Court by the Judge. Because you have received this handbook, you have voluntarily agreed to participate in the Mental Health Court.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Mental Health Court, sometimes called MHC is designed for adult individuals with a severe mental illness, co-occurring disorder, and/or a developmental disability who have been charged with one or more criminal offenses. The criminal offense must be a misdemeanor or ordinance violation, or a felony charge which the Prosecuting Attorney is willing to reduce to a misdemeanor. MHC is a voluntary program.

The Mental Health Court Team consists mainly of the 29th District Court Judge, Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Defense Attorney, Mental Health Coordinator (Probation Officer), Hegira Programs Inc.(Case Manager), (Community Mental Health), and Wayne Police Department. By working together as a team, our key goal is to provide proper treatment and to keep offenders with mental illnesses out of jail or the criminal justice system.

Each participant will receive a judicially supervised, community-based treatment plan designed and implemented by the Mental Health Court Team.

Treatment plans and other conditions will be reviewed for appropriateness at regular review hearings. Incentives may be offered to reward progress toward goals or following the terms of participation. Sanctions may be imposed if the terms are not followed.

For those who follow the terms of participation for the designated time (usually one year), their cases are either dismissed or the sentence is greatly reduced. If they do not follow the rules or decide to leave the program, the case will return to the original court where the prosecution proceeds as normal.

REVIEW HEARINGS

You will be required to appear in Mental Health Court on a regular basis.

The review hearings are scheduled according to your progress in the program. The program consists of two phases, each designed to last approximately 3-6 months. The first phase requires every participant to appear two times per month. Based on your progress and when the Mental Health Court Team feels it is appropriate, your review hearings can be decreased to once per month.

During the review hearings, the Judge will ask questions about your progress and discuss any setbacks that you may be having. If you are experiencing a setback, the Judge may set a date for a Care Conference to help re-determine your treatment program.

Mental Health Court review hearings will be held on Thursday afternoons. The Judge will tell you at the end of your hearing when your next review will be. This date should be written in the back of this handbook or in a pocket calendar. In addition, a Notice to Appear letter will be mailed to your current address.

Failure to appear for any scheduled Mental Health Court hearings may result in the immediate issuance of a bench warrant.; and you may be held in jail until you can be arraigned by the Judge.

STAFFING REPORT

Before each Mental Health Court review hearing, the team members will provide the Judge with an update on your progress. The progress updates will come directly from your Case Manager (Hegira) and MHC Coordinator (Probation Officer) . These progress updates include your attendance, participation and cooperation in the treatment services, medication compliance, drug/alcohol testing, and any other court requirements and case worker recommendations.

CARE CONFERENCES

Care conferences are used to discuss crisis situations or other issues that are too significant or complex to discuss during regular hearings. The purpose of the care conference is to develop a different way to better assist you. Some members of the Mental Health Court Team and other appropriate parties (ie: family members, guardian, group home staff) are invited to attend the meeting. In some instances a care conference is used as a time for professional consultation, while in other instances, you will be present. The nature of the meeting depends on the issues being discussed.

CONFIDENTIALITY

To identify and supervise participants, Mental Health Court Team Members require information about your mental illnesses and treatment plans. State law requires your identity and privacy to be protected. The Mental Health Court Team has developed policies and procedures that guard your privacy. To participate in this treatment program, you were required to sign the Mental Health Court Consent for Disclosure of Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Medical Records form. You may be required to sign other forms and documents as well.

FEES

There are no costs generally associated with participating in the Mental Health Court Program. However, you may be ordered to pay court fines, costs or assessments, or restitution as part of your Terms of Participation, or to contribute to the cost of your drug testing or tether when the MHC Team deems appropriate



RULES

You will be required to follow the rules outlined in the Mental Health Court program including, but not limited to the following:

1. Attend all of my Mental Health Court hearings.
2. Maintain contact with my Probation Officer as required.
3. Maintain contact with my Mental Health Court Care Manager as required.
4. Take all my medications as prescribed.
5. Comply with my Hegira's Treatment Plan.
6. Not use or possess alcohol or controlled substances.
7. Submit to PBT/Urinalysis upon request of my Mental Health Court Case Manager or Probation Officer.
8. Obey the law.
9. Stay in the State of Michigan, unless I get permission from the Court to leave.
10. Tell my Probation Officer if I move, change my job, or change my telephone number.
11. Abide by all other rules and regulations imposed by the Mental Health Court Team.

INCENTIVES



The Mental Health Court seeks to reinforce your positive behavior and uses incentives to reward your achievements.

Some examples of the kinds of incentives given may include judicial praise, reduction in drug testing, reduction in fines/costs, decreased court appearances, gift cards or other tangible recognition.

SANCTIONS

Sanctions are determined on a case by case basis and will vary depending on the severity and nature of the offense. The purpose of a sanction is to emphasize the importance of compliance with your treatment and following through with the commitment you made to yourself and to the Mental Health Court Team.

Some examples of sanctions can include judicial reprimand, community service, increased drug/alcohol testing, increased court appearances, electronic tether, and/or jail.



TERMINATION

Warrants, new crimes, or court violations could result in you being terminated from the Mental Health Court program.

Upon recommendation from a Mental Health Court Team member, the Mental Health Court Judge will schedule a violation/termination hearing. At this hearing, you will have the right to be represented by an attorney and have the opportunity to present evidence challenging the decision to terminate you from the Mental Health Court program.

If you are unsuccessfully discharged or terminated, you will be sentenced on the original charge after the hearing.

GRADUATION

Upon successful completion of the Mental Health Court Program, you will graduate.

Graduation is an important event. As a result of your accomplishment, you will take part in a small ceremony as the Mental Health Court team congratulates you for successfully completing the program and achieving your goal to establish a better life.



IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

29th District Court

Mental Health Court

MHC Probation Officer, Purity Marsh

32808 Sims Ave. Wayne, MI 48184

734-722-5220

Community Mental Health

Hegira Programs, Inc.

8623 N. Wayne Road Westland, Michigan 48185

Court Care Manager, Cheryl Triplett, PsyS, LLP

734-742-0605

For 24/7 Psychiatric Emergencies

Psychiatric Intervention Center (P

734-721-0200



Important Dates to Remember

Next Court Dates:

Appointments with Court Care Manager:
