

**LANCASTER COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

ADULT PROBATION & PAROLE SERVICES



ADULT DRUG COURT PROGRAM

**150 N. Queen Street, Suite 212
Lancaster, PA 17603
717-735-2196**

PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

YOUR NAME

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WELCOME!

Welcome to the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas Adult Drug Court. This Handbook is designed to answer your questions and provide overall information about the Drug Court Program. As a participant, you will be expected to follow the instructions given in Drug Court by the Judge and comply with the treatment plan developed for you by your Treatment provider and Drug Court Team.

This Handbook will describe what is expected of you as a Drug Court participant. It will review general program information. If you are reading this Handbook it means that you are being considered for acceptance into Drug Court based on a review of your history of drug/alcohol use and other encounters with law enforcement. It also means we are confident that Drug Court may help you learn how to make successful choices free of the influence of drugs or alcohol.

OVERVIEW OF DRUG COURT

The Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas has instituted a voluntary Adult Drug Court based on proven national research and program models. This provides the participant an opportunity to pursue treatment for their addiction(s), while productively addressing associated legal problems.

Once accepted, program participants can expect frequent contact with the Adult Drug Court Judge, Probation Officer, and Treatment Providers. They will be required to complete a Four Phase program culminating with graduation. The Phase program was designed to be completed in one year. When appropriate and following graduation, a participant may petition the court to have their charges dismissed, and/or reduced or record expunged.

Program participants will be expected to complete and participate in numerous pro-social, treatment-oriented activities. These will include: AA/NA Meetings, group and individual therapy, weekly Court appearances, probation appointments, and urine testing. The aforementioned ideas represent typical participant activities. Other activities should be expected, as each individual may require different levels of intervention based on their progress in Drug Court.

Adult Drug Court participants can also expect to receive sanctions if they violate Adult Drug Court program rules or fail to achieve Phase requirements. Possible violations include: missed appointments, failed or adulterated urine tests, new arrests/charges and lack of participation in treatment. Sanctions will be imposed relative to the violation, but will be graduated or progressive in nature. Sanctions may include: demotion in phase, fines, curfew restrictions, incarceration, and termination from the Adult Drug Court Program. The Adult Drug Court Team reserves the right to impose sanctions appropriate to the participant and violation.

Participants who maintain positive participation in the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas Adult Drug Court may receive appropriate incentives as well. These incentives will be determined by the Adult Drug Court Team and will be dependent on available resources.

THE DRUG COURT TEAM

The Drug Court Judge will make all decisions regarding your participation in the Drug Court Program with input from the Drug Court Team. In addition to the Judge, the Drug Court Team consists of the following members:

- Assistant Public Defender
- Assistant District Attorney
- Drug Court Coordinator
- Probation Officer
- Treatment Provider

Prior to the Drug Court session, the Drug Court Team members familiarize themselves with your progress so that they may discuss that progress with you during the Drug Court session.

STAFFINGS

Before your Drug Court hearing, the Drug Court team will discuss participants' progress. This discussion will include your drug testing results, attendance, participation and cooperation in the treatment program, employment or other requirements that may have been imposed. The judge may ask questions about your progress and discuss any problems you may be having. If you are doing well you may be rewarded with reduced program requirements or, at times, other incentives. If your progress reports show that you are not doing well, the judge will discuss this with you and determine future action, which could include sanctions in order to help you remember your goals in the program.

DRUG COURT HEARINGS

As a Drug Court participant, you will be required to appear in Drug Court on a regular basis. The number of times you must appear depends upon the phase of Drug Court you are currently in. Failure to appear may result in a warrant being issued for your arrest and detention in jail until you can appear before the Court. If you have questions about your Court appearances you may contact your Probation Officer, Treatment Provider or your attorney. The phases of Drug Court are listed on the next page.

CONFIDENTIALITY

State licensing requires that your identity and privacy be protected. In response to these regulations, the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas Adult Drug Court and its treatment providers have developed policies and procedures that guard your privacy. You will be asked to sign a Consent for Disclosure of Confidential Treatment Information. This disclosure of information is for the sole purpose of hearings and reports concerning your specific case. Failure to sign the appropriate releases will render you ineligible to participate in the Drug Court program.

- Participants should be reminded that, similar to other Adult Court proceedings, their appearance in Adult Drug Court, before the Drug Court Judge is open to the public. They should expect members of the community, other Drug Court participants, and/or news media to be present at the Drug Court hearings.

PHASES OF DRUG COURT

Drug Court is, at minimum, a 12-month program divided into four phases. A participant must successfully complete each phase before transitioning to the next phase. When requesting a promotion the participant must complete a written application.

Phase I

In Phase I, participants will be required to focus almost exclusively on their addiction.

Requirements will include: (but may not be limited to)

- Active participation in appropriate treatment program
- Attendance at AA/NA meetings
- Developing short term treatment goals
- Community Service hours

Phase II

In Phase II, participants will maintain much of the requirements from Phase I. However, they will be required to apply skills learned in treatment to the broader community.

Requirements will include: (but may not be limited to)

- Active participation in treatment program
- Seek employment or employment training
- Pursue appropriate educational goals

Phase III

In Phase III, participants will continue to address individual recovery issues, while developing a long term recovery plan.

Requirements will include: (but may not be limited to)

- Active participation in treatment program
- Maintain full-time employment
- Develop long term recovery goals and action plan

Phase IV

In Phase IV, participants must complete their individual treatment programs. Participants will update long term recovery goals, and submit an application for program graduation.

Requirements will include: (but may not be limited to)

- Completion of approved treatment program
- Update and submit Aftercare Plan
- Completion of approved education program

ADULT DRUG COURT RULES

1. The participant must attend all required Court Hearings.
2. The participant must attend all required Probation appointments.
3. The participant must attend all recommended Treatment Meetings and sign appropriate Release of Information and Confidentiality forms allowing Treatment Providers to release relevant information regarding their drug and/or alcohol treatment.
4. The participant may not change their residence without prior consent from the supervising Probation Officer.
5. The participant must agree to abstain from the possession or use of, drugs and alcohol and related paraphernalia.
6. The participant must not possess any firearms, weapons, instruments of crime, drug paraphernalia, or contraband. The participant will submit their person, residence or property, to search at any time based upon reasonable suspicion of possession of the aforementioned items.
7. The participant must submit to urinalysis and/or breathalyser tests as directed.
8. The participant must obtain and maintain regular employment, as directed.
9. The participant may not provide false statements, verbally or in writing, to the Adult Drug Court Program.
10. The participant must waive their right to a Preliminary Hearing, enter a Guilty Plea and agree to have their sentence deferred pending completion of the Adult Drug Court Program.
11. The participant must comply with all local, state and federal laws. Participants must immediately notify their supervising Probation Officer of any arrest or investigation by a law enforcement agency.
12. The participant is expected to adhere to all conditions imposed upon them by the Adult Drug Court Team. Failure to comply may result in sanctions being imposed by the Adult Drug Court Judge.
13. Each Drug Court participant will be given a complete set of rules and regulations to sign upon admission to the drug court program.

INCENTIVES

The Drug Court Team has implemented an incentive program called “PAR Program.” This stands for Participant Achievement Recognition Program. As a participant in the Drug Court Program, you will be given a PAR card. With this card, you can earn incentives based on your recent performance in the Drug Court Program. Incentives will be awarded by the Drug Court Team dependent upon available resources.

SANCTIONS

Participants may incur sanctions for noncompliance with Adult Drug Court requirements. Sanctions will be graduated and become more severe in nature depending on the type and frequency of the infraction. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, the following: demotion or freeze in Phase status, increased drug testing, Time in Courtroom, and supervision requirements, fines, incarceration, and expulsion from Adult Drug Court.

TERMINATION FROM DRUG COURT

Warrants, new arrests, or a violation of any aspect of program rules and regulations, may result in your termination from the Drug Court Program. Specific violations which could result in termination, include the following:

- Missed and/or positive drug tests;
- Tampering with drug test;
- Demonstrating a lack of program response by failing to cooperate with the drug court team or treatment program;
- Violence or threat of violence directed at Drug Court Team members, treatment staff, other participants of the program or other clients of the treatment providers.

Participants terminated from Drug Court shall be returned to court for sentencing on the original charge. Sentencing shall be within the sole discretion of the Sentencing Judge, limited only by the maximum penalty allowed by law.

SEARCH AND ARREST REQUIREMENTS

As a participant in Drug Court, you are required to submit your person, vehicle, place of residence or area to search and seizure of narcotics, drugs or other contraband at any time of the day or night with or without a search warrant, without prior notice and without probable cause by any authorized representative of the Adult Drug Court Program.

Participants who are detained on new charges will be re-evaluated for retention in the drug court program. If a participant is retained, sanctions may be imposed by the Drug Court Judge. Participants are reminded to notify their supervising Probation Officer of any contact with a law enforcement agency.

CHEMICAL TESTING

- You will be drug tested randomly throughout your entire Drug Court Program.
- You will be observed to ensure freedom from errors.
- If you miss a test, it will count as a positive (dirty) test.
- If you have a positive test in any Drug Court Phase, the Judge, based on recommendations from the Drug Court Team, will apply immediate sanctions.

Drug Court Graduates are reminded they must submit to random testing during their aftercare phase, to monitor their compliance and assure their eligibility to have their original charge(s) dismissed or their record expunged.

GRADUATION

Upon your successful completion of a treatment program and satisfaction of all other Court requirements including continued sobriety, you will graduate from Drug Court.

Graduation from the Drug Court Program is recognized as a very important event. Your loved ones will be invited to join you at a special ceremony as the Drug Court Team congratulates you for successfully completing Phases I – IV of the Drug Court Program and achieving your goal to establish a drug-free lifestyle.

ALUMNI GROUP

As a graduate of the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas Adult Drug Court you are invited to form and participate in a recovery-based support group. This group is independent of the Drug Court and its sustainability would be dependent on drug court graduates participating.

CONCLUSION

The goal of the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas Adult Drug Court Program is to help you achieve a life free of dependence on mind-altering substances. The Judge and the Drug Court Team are here to guide and assist you, but the final responsibility is yours. To succeed, you must be motivated to make this commitment to a drug free life.

DRUG COURT PHONE NUMBERS



Drug Court Office: _____

Probation Officer: _____

Attorney: _____

Treatment Provider: _____

Assigned Drug Testing Color

Additional Notes:
