



34th Judicial District Court



SERVING THE CITIES OF
ROMULUS AND BELLEVILLE
AND THE TOWNSHIPS OF
HURON, SUMPTER, AND
VAN BUREN

11131 S. WAYNE ROAD
ROMULUS, MICHIGAN 48174
PHONE: 734/941-4462

TINA BROOKS GREEN
BRIAN A. OAKLEY
DAVID M. PARROTT
DISTRICT JUDGES

SOBRIETY COURT

PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

WELCOME TO SOBRIETY COURT

“Sobriety Court” is a comprehensive treatment program for non-violent defendants where a team approach is used for supervision. The mission of this program is to address and reduce substance abuse problems among repeat offenders who are likely to otherwise continue a pattern of crime because of their addiction. **The incentive for most defendants to enter Sobriety Court is to avoid some or all of the jail time that would customarily be ordered.** In addition to avoiding jail time, participants will receive a great deal of support in obtaining and maintaining a drug and alcohol free lifestyle.

Through a collaborated effort between the Judge, probation officer, treatment providers, and other members of the Sobriety Court team we will be assisting you in achieving a clean and sober way of living. In addition, our goals for participants are to obtain basic life skills such as obtain/maintain employment and/or a high school diploma/GED.

As you enter this voluntary, intensively supervised treatment program, you will need to be motivated to work toward changing your lifestyle and becoming alcohol and drug free. Attendance is required at Sobriety Court status hearings before the Judge twice per month along with probation officer appointments on the alternate weeks. Sobriety Court uses a combination of positive and negative reinforcement to change behavior. An open line of communication between you and all Sobriety Court staff (Judge, probation officer, and therapist) is essential to your recovery and success in the program. You will need to be up-front and truthful with us at all times. If you run into difficulty during the program you need to discuss it with your probation officer whether it be related to your counseling, health problems, family problems, transportation, etc. We will work together to help eliminate obstacles which may arise.

This handbook is designed to answer questions, address concerns, and provide an overall description of the program.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY:

- Must live within court jurisdiction
- Must be a non-violent offender (present and past)
- Must be abusing alcohol or drugs **and** have the desire to stop

PROGRAM COMPONENTS:

Generally the length of the program is 24 months. Participants move through a total of three phases based on progress, compliance, and mandatory clean time. The following is a breakdown of each phase.

SOBRIETY COURT PHASES:

Program lasts 12-24 months

Phase I – Minimum 4 months

- Report to probation officer in person bi-weekly as directed by probation officer
- Attend therapy as directed by probation
- Submit to breathalyzers 2 times per week at JAMS (drug screens at court)
- Attend Sobriety Court bi-weekly
- Attend 5-7 twelve step-meetings per week and provide written documentation
- Obtain a sponsor and provide written verification
- Attend/direct Sobriety Court participant session once per month (may be used as AA meeting)
- Have a family member/friend or sponsor attend Sobriety Court as directed
- Must have 90 days clean time to move to Phase II

Phase II – Minimum 4 months (conditions to be determined upon entry)

- Report to probation officer in person 1-2 times per month or as directed by probation officer
- Attend substance abuse counseling as directed by treatment provider
- Submit to drug screens/breathalyzers as directed by probation officer or treatment provider
- Attend Sobriety Court once per month or as directed
- Attend 12 step-meetings as ordered by probation and provide written documentation
- Maintain sponsor and provide written verification
- Have a family/friend member or sponsor attend Sobriety Court as directed
- Provide proof of employment and/or education
- Minimum 90 days clean time to move to Phase III

Phase III – Minimum 4 months (conditions to be determined upon entry)

- Report to probation officer and/or Sobriety Court one time per month
- Attend substance abuse counseling as directed by treatment provider
- Submit to drug screen/breathalyzers as directed by probation officer or treatment provider
- Attend 12 step-meetings as ordered by probation and provide written documentation
- Maintain a sponsor and provide written verification
- Have a family member or sponsor attend Sobriety Court as directed
- Provide proof of employment and/or education
- Complete Community Service
- Minimum 90 days clean time to graduate
- Attend commencements with family member and/or sponsor (which may be scheduled up to 2 months after completed with this phase)

COST OF SOBRIETY COURT

Participants are responsible for payment of fines, costs, victim fund fee, alcohol screening/Pre-Sentence Investigation fee, state costs, probation costs, restitution to the arresting agency, and court appointed attorney

TREATMENT

Sobriety Court Participants will have a substance abuse assessment before entering the Sobriety Court Program. The assessment is used to determine the required level of treatment. The court communicates with your counselor regularly to discuss progress and attendance. Missed counseling appointments are considered a violation and will be dealt with immediately in Sobriety Court. Your treatment plan may be altered by the Sobriety Court to better suit your needs. If you do not believe you need treatment, you do not belong in Sobriety Court.

STATUS HEARINGS

During Phases I and II, participants are required to attend Sobriety Court as directed by your probation officer. Prior to the hearing date the Judge reviews your progress with treatment, A.A., etc. and will determine, along with the probation officer, what rewards, sanctions or adjustments may be appropriate. You are encouraged to ask the Judge questions and voice concerns that you may have about your treatment program. Failure to report for a status hearing may result in a sanction or bench warrant being issued.

PROBATION APPOINTMENTS

During Phases I, participants in Sobriety Court report to their probation officer twice per month, on the weeks opposite of status hearings with the Judge. Your probation officer will personally give you advance written notice of your scheduled appointments. There are evening and early morning appointments available to ensure that you do not miss work or school. It is crucial to report on the scheduled **date and time**.

When reporting for probation you should come prepared with AA/NA verification along with any other information requested. You need to inform your probation officer of any changes in your address, employment, school, etc. at your appointment. If you need to change your appointment date or time you should call your probation officer directly.

BREATHALYZERS AND DRUG SCREENS

Participants may be required to submit to daily preliminary breath tests. These are done through JAMS, local police departments, and through the court – you will be instructed by your probation officer on the procedure.

In order to participate in Sobriety Court you must be able to provide a urine sample on a random basis. There are no exceptions. All urine screens will be observed. Participants must provide a list of all prescription medications with telephone number of corresponding physician.

Sobriety Court participants may NOT take any prescription pain or narcotic medication without first notifying their probation officer. A valid prescription must be provided. Any positive result on a drug screen will be a violation unless a valid prescription is submitted to the drug screen agency along with probation officer approval.

Failing to report for a drug screen within the specified time period will be considered a positive test result. Any attempts to dilute your urine with fluids or other products will be detected and treated as a positive result. Temporary medical conditions which prevent a participant from producing urine during a drug screen will result in a blood test being conducted instead (at your expense). All participants must follow guidelines set forth by the designated drug screening agency.

EMPLOYMENT AND/OR EDUCATION

One of the primary goals of Sobriety Court is that participants obtain/maintain full-time employment and/or continue education. All employment and schooling will routinely be verified by your probation officer. It is recommended that you notify your employer of Sobriety Court participation and required court dates, etc.

DISCHARGE

You may be terminated from the program for a variety of reasons including:

- You petition the court for voluntary termination
- You exhibit violent behavior or threats of violent behavior toward self or others
- You display inappropriate, disruptive or non-compliant behavior
- You refuse to participate in program requirements
- You are charged with another criminal offense (case by case determination)
- Repeated violation of program rules

AA/NA - 12 STEP SUPPORT GROUPS

It is our belief that attendance at 12-step support groups, such as A.A., is crucial to staying clean and sober. Therefore, it is a **mandatory component** to this Sobriety Court program. Participants will be attending between two and seven meetings per week, depending on the current phase. Verification of attendance is required and will be reviewed by your probation officer and the judge. Obtaining an AA sponsor is an important method of ongoing support and is required in Sobriety Court.

MISSED DATES

Any time a participant fails to show up for a probation appointment; a counseling session, AA meeting, Sobriety Court or any other scheduled appointment, it is assumed that the participant is using again. Any time you run into a problem with a scheduled date, you are expected to call your probation officer immediately.

SANCTIONS

When violations occur in the program sanctions are imposed. You will be informed of the violation and given a Probation Violation Advice of Rights form to read and fill out. Your probation officer will discuss the violation with you and explain the recommended sanction(s). If the proposed sanction against you is jail time you will have the opportunity to speak with your court appointed attorney. You may request to speak with an attorney at any hearing where sanctions are involved.

We follow a graduated sanction outline which clearly states what the consequence will be for specific violations throughout the program. The following is a brief overview of possible sanctions.

SANCTIONS: SOBRIETY COURT

FIRST VIOLATION:

Missed or positive drug screen/PBT
Failure to attend SAEP at court
Failure to attend treatment
Failure to attend support group meeting
Failure to report to Work Program
Failure to attend probation appointment
Failure to maintain/obtain employment or education
Additional police contact/additional charges
Positive for alcohol and have driven to court
Failure to attend Sobriety Court

SECOND VIOLATION:

Missed or positive drug screen/PBT
Failure to attend SAEP
Failure to attend treatment
Failure to attend support group meeting
Failure to attend Work Program
Failure to attend case manager appointment
Failure to obtain/maintain employment and/or education
Additional police contact/additional charges
Positive for alcohol and have driven to court
Failure to attend Sobriety Court

THIRD VIOLATION:

Any/all above violations
Failure to attend Sobriety Court

SANCTIONS

Immediate drug screen, increased testing,
1-5 days Work Program and increased counseling (options)
Next SAEP and add 1 day Work Program
Immediate drug screen and document therapy (options)
1-5 Work Program days and document AA/NA (options)
add additional days or tether/jail
1-3 days Work Program (options)
Work Program until employed or in educational program
Up to maximum jail time and discharge,
Back to start of phase, increased AA/NA, day jail, interlock, counseling, daily drug/alcohol screens
Wake-Up Weekend (options)
Warrant – revoke any suppressed

5 days jail, back to start of phase, increased testing (options)
5 days jail, back to start of phase, next SAEP (options)
5 days jail, back to start of phase (options)
5 days jail, back to start of phase, increased AA/NA (options)
Work Program/tether/jail (options)
Work Program/tether/jail (options)
Work Program until employed or in educational program
Up to maximum jail time and discharge (options)
5 days jail, back to start of phase, increased AA/NA, interlock, counseling, increased breathalyzer (options)
Warrant – revoke suppression

Subject to discharge from Sobriety Court (options)
Warrant – revoke suppression

If a second violation occurs for the same thing – options! Multiple breaches will result in increased sanctions. In addition, above sanctions are subject to change.

OPTIONS:

Additional community service hours
Increase drug/alcohol testing
Interlock device through term of probation
Additional required support meetings
Increased Sobriety Court/case manager meetings
Tether with alcohol monitor
Jail
Jail with work release
Wake-up Weekend
Etc.

INCENTIVES

Because entry into Sobriety Court is optional for all eligible participants, the greatest incentive for compliance is discharge from supervision early. All participants are placed on probation for a period of twenty-four months. However, participants are advised that the actual length of probation is dependant upon compliance with treatment and program requirements. Sobriety Court participants may be discharged after 12-18 months if compliant. Below are suggested incentives:

- Praise by Judge
- Advancement in the phases of Sobriety Court
- Curfew extensions
- Permission to travel out of state (Judge may grant)
- Decrease in frequency in urine/breath screens
- Reduction in intensity of probation supervision
- Applause (standing ovation by court employees)
- Decrease in Court appearances
- Reduction in community service/work program
- Decrease in intensity of probation supervision

GRADUATION

The expected length of the Sobriety Court Program is 12-24 months. Graduation occurs after successful completion of the program which includes a minimum of 90 days clean time immediately prior to graduation. Each potential graduate must meet the following criteria:

- Clean and sober
- High School diploma or G.E.D.
- Full-time employment or continued education
- Register to vote
- Successful completion of all probation terms

I, _____, agree to the terms set by the sobriety court, and understand that if I do not follow the Sobriety court rules, I will be removed from the program. I have received a copy of the rules and agree to comply.

Defendant's Signature

Witness Signature

Date

Date