

**SEVENTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**ADULT FELONY DRUG COURT  
PROGRAM**

**DRUG COURT HANDBOOK**

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Please read this handbook carefully. It explains how you can complete the program successfully. We encourage you to read it and share it with your family and friends who support you in recovery. If you do not understand any portion of this handbook, please ask your attorney or a drug court team member to help you.

## **Introduction – What is the Broward County Adult Felony Drug Court?**

The mission statement of the Broward County Adult Felony Drug Court is to promote public safety and the quality of life for the participant and the community by providing structure and support for sobriety and recovery for the participant. The aim is to assist participants in regaining physical and mental health, finding, reestablishing, and enjoying supportive friends, repairing damaged family relationships, and meeting their responsibilities to their families, friends, community, the Court and themselves.

The Drug Court Program provides all clients with high quality drug treatment and services and care in accordance with the principles of best practices and due process and the philosophy of the Drug Court Model.

## **History of Broward County Drug Court**

The Broward County Drug Court Program was created in 1991 and consists of 1) the Pretrial Intervention Program, designed for people who have charges that qualify for dismissal under Florida Statutes and Florida best practices and 2) the Post Adjudicatory Drug Court (PADC) Program, aimed at diverting qualified offenders from state prison.

## **Introduction – Participants' Benefits**

### **The Opportunity to:**

- Develop a sense of purpose in life
- Develop self confidence
- Learn to love and value yourself
- Rebuild or develop relationships with family and friends
- Learn to have fun without drugs
- Gain friends who live a drug-free lifestyle
- Avoid lengthy incarceration such as prison or early termination of probation
- Dismissal of charges

## **Introduction – Drug Courts Work!**

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) tells us that:

- Drug Courts are the nation's most successful criminal justice program
- There are now over 2,900 Drug Courts nationwide
- Over the past 25 years, Drug Courts have served over 1.3 million seriously addicted people
- Drug Courts annually refer more people to treatment than any other system in America
- Nationwide, 75% of Drug Court graduates remain arrest-free at least two years after leaving the program
- The most rigorous and conservative scientific "meta-analyses" have all concluded that Drug Courts significantly reduce crime as much as 45% more than other sentencing options
- Drug Courts save money, cut crime and serve veterans in need of substance abuse and mental health treatment
- Drug Courts save up to \$27 for every \$1 invested

## **Program Description**

The Broward County Adult Drug Court Program is a court-supervised, comprehensive treatment program for nonviolent defendants. This is a program is voluntary and includes regular court appearances before a designated judge, outpatient treatment services, or another appropriate level of treatment (i.e. intensive outpatient, day/night, or residential treatment), co-occurring mental health treatment, random observed drug and alcohol testing, regular attendance at 12-step/sober support meetings (Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, SMART Recovery, etc.) and participation in sober pro-social events.

The Program is a combined effort of the State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Court Administration, the Department of Corrections/Law Enforcement and Community Treatment Providers. You will be assisted with obtaining educational and skills assessments and will be provided with referrals for job training, educational programs, and/or job placement services as well as transitional/sober living housing. The program length, determined by your individual progress, will be no less than one year. The time period, however, may be extended if necessary to complete and graduate from the Program. If you are a participant in the Pretrial Intervention Program, upon your successful completion of treatment, you will receive a dismissal of all felony charges in your case. If you are a PADDC participant, your successful

completion of treatment will allow you to satisfy a substantial condition of your felony probation, and you may be eligible for an early termination of probation if you meet other eligibility requirements.

Participants are screened for eligibility, clinically assessed and placed in the appropriate level of care. In addition, participants will be screened, and based on the screening, will be placed in 1 of 4 quadrants which are tailored to meet the needs of the participant with the combination of the appropriate levels of supervision of treatment. Participants must comply with their treatment plans, which include attending group counseling, individual sessions, and support groups. Participants are also expected to maintain employment, enroll in school, or if part-time, maintain a combination of both employment and school. Participants are also required to comply with their supervision plans from the Department of Corrections.

Status hearings are held to discuss a participant's progress among the team members. The frequency of the status hearing will depend on your progress, however initially, status hearings will typically be held at least every two weeks while a participant is in the first phase of the program. In order to facilitate communications among all the parties, appropriate waivers and releases of information must be signed by all participants. Staffings (discussion about your progress or lack of progress) are conducted with all team members present, including your attorney and the Drug Court Judge, to discuss cases and share pertinent information before the court status hearing. participants will not be present during Staffings.

The Broward County Drug Court Program adheres to the Drug Court Model, as outlined in the 10 Key Components of Florida Statutes, §397.334(4). The Drug Court Program also adheres to all evidence based practices outlined by the NADCP.

We want you to do well and stay in treatment until you graduate! It is better for you, your family and the community. We conduct a special graduation ceremony for those who graduate. It is a time for you to continue living a law-abiding, drug-free lifestyle without the external training wheels provided by drug court. Using the support systems that you put in place while in drug court will become very important. Program graduates are strongly encouraged to come back to see drug court team members if you need help, or better yet, simply to tell us how well you are doing!

## **Introduction – How Do I Join?**

To enter the Drug Court Program you must be eligible, must agree to complete the program, and must sign a participation agreement that explains exactly what is expected.

## **How do I know if I am eligible?**

Eligibility criteria include the following based on Florida Statute 948.08 (6):

- 18 or older
- Identified as having a substance use problem and being amenable to treatment.
- Is charged with a nonviolent felony
- Has never been charged with a crime involving violence
- Has two or fewer nonviolent felony convictions.
- Capable of benefiting from program regimen and being safely monitored
- Transfer to drug court as soon as possible
- Other considerations include health issues and prescription/controlled medications.

## **Drug Court Team**

The Drug Court team includes the Drug Court Judges, Drug Court Manager, Defense Attorney, Prosecutor, Treatment Provider, Drug Court Program Specialists, a sworn law enforcement officer and the Florida Department of Corrections.

Drug Courts are different from traditional courts because you appear before the Judge often to review your progress regardless of whether you are doing well or doing poorly.

## **A Word from the Judge**

1. Honesty is essential – with yourself, with me, with team members and with others.

2. Respect yourself, me, court personnel, counselor, supervising officer and your fellow participants.

3. Do not abscond! – Participate in treatment, come to court and comply with supervision, even if you find it difficult or impossible to abstain from using drugs or alcohol. As long as you continue to show up and put forth effort, we will work tirelessly to help you.

## **Court Appearances**

If you have a question about your next court date, please consult your court notice or contact your attorney, our supervising officer, or the Drug Court case management office. . A *capias* (warrant) is typically issued for those who fail to appear in court. In such an event, attempts to contact the participant will typically be made to encourage the participant to report to the court for a sanction. The matter will usually be addressed at the next available drug court hearing. If the participant does not follow

through as required, an additional number of days in jail may be imposed. An individual who remains absent from the program for thirty days or more will be viewed as an absconder and may face expulsion from the program.

## **Courtroom Behavior**

- Show up early
- Turn off cell phones
- Stay seated and quiet until addressed by the Court
- Stand up and approach when addressed by the Court
- Stay for the whole hearing unless you are given approval to leave
- Part of the drug court model is for participants to listen to what is happening with the other cases being addressed by the Drug Court Judge. Often, participants can learn by seeing how other participants are doing in treatment. For example, listening to an “All Star” participant tell the judge how they never thought they could live a drug-free life and how much better they now feel - that can be inspirational to a person just starting drug court who may feel hopeless about succeeding in drug court. (An “All Star” is someone who is going to all their treatment appointments, testing negative on all drug tests and is compliant with all drug court responsibilities.)

## **Courtroom – Dress Code**

You must dress appropriately for court, PTI/Probation visits and treatment sessions. If you have any concerns about how to dress for court, please ask your attorney, PTI/Probation officer or other team member. It is important to treat yourself and the Court with respect. Clothing with drug or alcohol related themes, promoting or advertising alcohol or drug use, and/or offensive material is considered inappropriate. Sunglasses, hats and bandanas are not to be worn inside the courtroom, treatment center or PTI/Probation office. You will be asked to leave the courtroom and you may be sanctioned for violating dress code policies in court and in treatment and supervision locations.

## **Incentives**

Participants may receive incentives for positive progress. These incentives are used to reward you for your efforts toward recovery. Some of the incentives include:

- **Applause**
- **Verbal Praise from the Judge**
- **All-Star status (called in court at the beginning of the docket)**
- **Handshake from the Judge**
- **Certificate of Accomplishment from the Judge**

## **Sanctions**

If you fail to comply with the program requirements, the Judge may order one or more sanctions. Sanctions are graduated and individualized. Sanctions are not negotiable and are imposed in an effort to modify your behavior.

Sanctions and treatment responses are very different. Sanctions are imposed in an effort to change behavior so that you learn to make better choices. While sanctions may be viewed as punishment, the intention is to teach or inspire changes in your behavior. Sanctions are not imposed arbitrarily, and are imposed after detailed discussion among the team and between you and the Judge occurs.

Sanctions are imposed on an individual basis. Other participants in similar circumstances may receive different sanctions than what appears to you to be the same infraction. This is not unusual nor is it inappropriate. You are viewed as an individual and thus, your individual progress, attendance, and history is taken into account at each occurrence.

Some of the sanctions include:

- **Community service**
- **Essay on topic of related infraction**
- **Witnessing court on appointed day to document others' successful habits**
- **GPS monitor**
- **Curfew**
- **Lockdown at residence when not at work or treatment**
- **Incarceration**
- **Phase extension**



- Stay to the end of court
- Increased court appearance
- Return to lower phase in ADC
- Increased drug testing
- Increased supervision
- Program termination

## DRUG COURT INCENTIVES AND SANCTIONS GUIDELINES

<b>PHASE 1 – 1 MONTH (minimum)</b>			
<u>Requirements</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Complete risk/needs assessment</li> <li>● Attend and participate in all scheduled group sessions</li> <li>● Attend and participate in all scheduled individual treatment sessions</li> <li>● Submit to weekly random/observed drug testing</li> <li>● Reassessment/ Make application to phase up</li> </ul>			
<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Incentive</b>	<b>Sanction</b>	<b>Goal</b>
All negative drug tests	High	--	Distal
Attend all treatment services, submit all drug tests, attend all PTI appointments, and attend all court hearings	Moderate	--	Proximal
Missed treatment service, drug test, PTI Supervision visit and/or court hearing	--	Moderate	Proximal
Positive drug test, but disclosed that the test would be positive at least 1 day before the day of the test.	--	Low-Moderate	Distal
Positive drug test, but failed to disclose that substance(s) were used prior to testing	--	High	Proximal

**PHASE 2 – 4 MONTHS (approximate)**

Requirements

- Attend and participate in all scheduled group sessions
- Attend and participate in scheduled individual treatment session
- Submit to weekly random/observed drug testing
- Reassessment/ Make application to phase up
- Develop a Relapse Prevention Plan

<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Incentive</b>	<b>Sanction</b>	<b>Goal</b>
All negative drug tests	High	--	Distal
Missed support group		Low	Proximal
Positive drug test		Low - Moderate	Distal
More than 1 or all positive drug tests		Moderate	Distal
Refusing to pay fees as agreed		Low	Distal
Positive drug test, but disclosed that the test would be positive at least 1 day before the day of the test.	--	Low- Moderate	Distal
Missed treatment session		Moderate - High	Proximal
Positive drug test, but failed to disclose that substance(s) were used	--	High	Proximal
Missed drug test		High	Proximal
Missed drug test and positive drug test		High	Proximal
Missed appointment with PTI Supervision		High	Proximal

**PHASE 3 – 4 MONTHS (approximate)**

Requirements

- Attend and participate in all scheduled group sessions
- Attend and participate in all scheduled individual treatment sessions
- Submit to weekly random/observed drug testing
- Attend a minimum of 1 support group weekly
- Reassessment/ Make application to phase up
- Assessment Update (Biopsychosocial completed by Treatment Provider)

<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Incentive</b>	<b>Sanction</b>	<b>Goal</b>
On-going employment/job search	Low		Distal
All negative drug tests	Moderate	--	Proximal
Obtained new employment	Moderate		Distal
No employment or job search		Low	Distal
Positive drug test		Moderate	Proximal
Refusing to pay fees as agreed		Moderate	Proximal
Missed support group		Moderate	Proximal
More than 1 missed treatment session		Moderate - High	Proximal
Positive drug test, but disclosed that the test would be positive at least 1 day before the day of the test.	--	Moderate	Distal
Refusing to pay fees as agreed		Moderate - High	Proximal
Missed all treatment sessions		High	Proximal
Missed appointment with PTI Supervision		High	Proximal
All positive drug tests		High	Proximal
Missed drug test		High	Proximal
Positive drug test, but failed to disclose that substance(s) were used	--	High	Proximal

<b>PHASE 4 – 3 MONTHS (approximate)</b>			
<u>Requirements</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Attend and participate in all scheduled group sessions</li> <li>● Attend and participate in all scheduled individual treatment sessions</li> <li>● Submit to weekly random/observed drug testing</li> <li>● Attend a minimum of 1 support group weekly</li> <li>● Develop a Discharge Plan with Treatment Provider</li> </ul>			
<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Incentive</b>	<b>Sanction</b>	<b>Goal</b>
Job search	Low		
All negative drug tests	Low	--	Proximal
On-going employment	Moderate		
Obtained new employment	Moderate		
Refusing to pay fees as agreed		Moderate	
Failure to complete ordered Community Restitution hours (if applicable)		Moderate	Proximal
Missed support group		Moderate – High	Proximal
Refusing to pay fees as agreed		Moderate – High	Proximal
Positive drug test, but disclosed that the test would be positive at least 1 day before the day of the test.	--	Moderate	Proximal
No employment or job search		Moderate-High	Proximal
Missed drug test		High	Proximal
Missed treatment session		High	Proximal
Missed appointment with PTI Supervision		High	Proximal
All positive drug tests		High	Proximal
Missed drug test		High	Proximal
Positive drug test, but failed to disclose that substance(s) were used	--	High	Proximal

<b>Incentives and Sanctions Used Throughout the Program</b>		
<b>Behavior</b>	<b>Incentive</b>	<b>Sanction</b>
All Star List	High	--
Sobriety Milestones – 30 days, 60 days, 90 days, 6 months, 1 year	Certificate High	--
Complete GED or School/Vocational (if applicable)	High	--
Moving without permission		Moderate-High
Tampering with Electronic Monitor/ GPS Monitor	--	High

New non-drug related offense	--	High
Dishonesty		High
Failure to do a Court ordered sanction		High
Providing a false address (Probation Officer will bring a copy of address provided on intake sheet or goldenrod sheet.		High
Leaving before Court is finished		High
Missed Court appearance		High
Failure to complete self-surrender		High

Drug Court Participants will be provided a Drug Court Passport and application information for Phase advancements. Phase advancements will be supported by clinical recommendations and will be determined by the Drug Court Judge.

## Monitoring Devices

As a result of non-compliance or as a method of additional monitoring for specific circumstances, you may be required by court order to wear a monitoring device, or a drug testing patch. Such a device may be a GPS ankle monitor, a SCRAM alcohol monitoring device, or a drug testing patch. The ADC has established policies and procedures pertaining to the application and removal of such devices as described below.

If you are required to wear a monitoring device, you may be required to do so at your own expense. If you are not in compliance with the Drug Court program or have had a recent incident, you will be required to absorb the cost of any such device or may have the cost of such device split with the program. This decision shall be at the discretion of the Judge.

## Discharge from ADC

A participant shall be terminated from Drug Court if:

- There is an outstanding capias for a period of six (6) months for a participant in the Pretrial Intervention Drug Court Program; or
- There is an outstanding capias for a period of three (3) months for an individual in the Post-Adjudicatory Drug Court Program; or
- New criminal charges are filed against the participant other than possession of drug charges; or

- The PADC participant violates probation, the basis for which is a new law violation that is an offense that is not encompassed within the provision of sections 948.08(6), Florida Statutes or
- The Drug Court Judge with input from the rest of the team determines that the Drug Court cannot safely monitor the participant or that there is no suitable treatment for the participant.
- The Drug Court Judge with input from the rest of the team determines that the participant is not amenable to treatment.

## **TREATMENT**

It is remarkable how well SUD treatment works when patients apply themselves in the course of evidenced based services. There are millions of people in recovery all over the world who are leading very successful lives. Why not you? The Drug Court is committed to providing the most up to date and the highest quality of services to its participants. In order to ensure that this is done, the Drug Court follows national and State best practice standards. Your length of time will depend on your progress through the phases outlined above, but in no case will be less than 12 months in duration.

### **Individual Counseling**

You get to develop, review and update your treatment plan together with your assigned counselor. You will be required to attend individual counseling sessions that must not be missed unless properly excused in advance or in the event of a true emergency. If there is an unavoidable emergency, you will be expected to bring in documentation to treatment verifying the reasons for missing services. For example, if your car breaks down or the bus is late, take video of it if you have a phone or can otherwise document the event. Effective individual counseling sessions are an invaluable part of your treatment process. Please take advantage of this time to progress in the program and to achieve your goals. Please know that it may be necessary for your treatment counselor to schedule extra individual treatment sessions with you if a need is identified.

## **Group Counseling**

You will be required to attend group treatment counseling sessions and education classes that must not be missed unless properly excused in advance or in the event of a true emergency. As with individual counseling sessions, you will be expected to bring in documentation to your counselor to verify the reasons for your absence(s) in the case of any missed sessions. Treatment groups are a major component of this program. Arrive on time, participate as appropriate and remain until the group session is over. Otherwise, you will be counted as absent. Follow all of your treatment provider's "house rules," policies and procedures.

## **Treatment Costs**

Participants in the Drug Court program receive treatment services which may be provided at a discounted rate. Proof of financials, such as a pay stub or W2 form, will be required to evaluate potential discounts available to you. If you are serious about living a law-abiding lifestyle that is free of alcohol and other drugs, drug court is the right place for you – and it is also a good value. Financial accountability is an important part of recovery. If a participant is delinquent in payment, it will be brought to the team's attention and addressed in court. Delinquent fees will likely delay your advancement in the program. Your treatment provider will provide you with information about your assessed fees and a payment schedule.

## **Treatment Confidentiality**

To encourage candid participation in the treatment process, federal and state law protects your identity and privacy. Because of these regulations, policies and procedures have been developed to guard your confidentiality. To enable collaboration which is necessary for an effective drug court, you will be required to sign a waiver authorizing the communication of information among drug court team members. Your private information will only be used for purposes of treatment and will not be shared with anyone outside of the Drug Court, unless you direct and authorize. Your treatment provider will provide information regarding the confidentiality of treatment during your intake.

Nevertheless, some portion of your drug court hearings are open to the public according to state law. We will take every measure to ensure that we do not disclose or ask you to disclose private information in any setting that is open to the public.

## **Treatment Rules**

1. No violence or threats of any kind to staff or other participants
2. No rude or disrespectful behavior
3. No destroying or damaging property

4. No possession of any type of weapon
5. No inappropriate sexual behavior or harassment
6. No breach of confidentiality of other patients in treatment (not talking about what is discussed in treatment with others who are not in the group)
7. No possession of non-prescribed drugs on the premises
8. No possession of prescribed drugs with the potential of abuse on the premises
9. No possession of substances with the intent to sell on or off the premises
10. Additional program rules will be provided by your particular treatment provider

## **Treatment – Ancillary Services**

Often, participants need additional services such as mental health counseling, medication assisted treatment, residential treatment, transitional housing, family involvement, child care assistance, vocational counseling, primary medical services, and bus passes. Based on available resources, we will do our best to help you meet your needs. We know recovery is not an easy process. We praise your efforts and your courage. We will attempt to provide the services you need in order to help you through your journey. These services are designed to help you manage the stress, problems and conflicts that may otherwise block your recovery. Please let us know if at any time you feel that you are not realizing the benefits of this program and we will gladly renew our efforts to help you connect with the services you require.

## **Supervision**

You will be assigned a Pretrial Officer or Probation Officer employed through the Department of Corrections. You will be responsible to report to your PTI or Probation Officer at least once per month, or more frequently if required by your Officer. You will be required to complete a written monthly report detailing your employment and income and also detailing any current educational or vocational pursuits, and your personal goals which you have set in the program, i.e. staying sober, spending more time with children, getting a job, etc. Your Officer will also visit your residence at the beginning of your time in Drug Court, and will likely visit your residence at regular intervals or upon your report of a change of residence. Your Officer wants to help you achieve your goals. If you are in the pretrial diversion program, your Officer will also work with you to create a supervision plan to help you achieve your stated goals.



## **Phase Advancement**

Each phase of the program includes treatment goals, activities, and requirements that you must meet in order to successfully complete each phase and graduate from Drug Court. These are things that you will be required to do no matter what phase you are in.

- Appear in Court regularly and on time
- Pay treatment fees
- Progress in treatment and attend all treatment services and supervision appointments
- Stay sober for a minimum specified period of time for each phase.
- Make application for advancement

All of the phase requirements for the program are spelled out in this handbook and your Drug Court Passport. Your completion of each phase's requirements enable you to advance to the next phase.

## **Code of Conduct**

1. In addition to attending treatment services, supervision appointments, court hearings, and required drug testing, we expect you to demonstrate civility toward and respect for your fellow participants and all program staff. You should respect the opinions and feelings of other program participants. Verbal or physical threats toward anyone will not be tolerated. Any inappropriate behavior will immediately be reported to the Court and may result in a severe sanction. Aggressive behavior towards staff or participants will not be tolerated and will likely lead to your discharge from the Drug Court program and your return to a regular criminal division.
2. Participants are encouraged to build healthy relationships with others who are living a law-abiding, drug free lifestyle. Helping other participants in the program by listening to each other, giving wise input when requested and carpooling together to treatment sessions, are often good things that are encouraged.
3. Be very careful about the people with whom you spend your time, the places where you spend your time, and the things that you do. Those who are in their first year or two in recovery typically experience huge changes in their life.

Early in recovery, people are often vulnerable in ways they do not fully understand. For this reason, entering into new, intimate relationships, especially with others who are new to recovery, including other program participants, is strongly discouraged. Sadly, it is more common for a person in early recovery who relapses to pull down their significant other, rather than for a person who is strong in recovery to pull up their intimate partner. We cannot emphasize enough how important it is for you to use this opportunity in drug court to focus yourself and your efforts on to make yourself the best you can be.

5. Do not possess, sell, or use alcohol or illegal drugs. Do not frequent areas where drugs are being sold or used.

6. Any relapse you have with drugs or alcohol must be reported immediately to your counselor and PTI/Probation officer. If you cannot contact your counselor in person, leave a message and also contact your counselor's supervisor. Also attempt to make contact with your PTI/Probation Officer. Please document your disclosure, i.e. when, to whom, what form of communication, etc. ,

7. You are required to refrain from further violations of the law. Additional offenses may result in your termination from the Drug Court program. Abstinence from drugs is not the only program rule. We are very interested in you leading a law-abiding lifestyle.

8. We strongly suggest that you get involved in activities to improve your employment situation and education level, attend religious/spiritual services, participate in organized sports, join social clubs, and/or engage in family friendly activities.

## **Drug Testing**

It is a best practice for drug courts to drug test participants randomly, frequently and through observation. Drug testing can provide support for staying away from drugs. Many participants have said that being held accountable by knowing that they will be tested for drugs has helped them to not use drugs.

Drug courts also use drug testing as a way to monitor a participant's drug use. There are various ways of testing for drugs. We rely primarily on urine samples for our drug tests. In certain instances, and especially if the judge approves a request by you to travel, , you may be asked to wear a "sweat patch.". All participants must provide directly observed and random urine samples, at least twice a week, and during some weeks, three times. . Drug tests may sometimes fall on days where you are not scheduled to report for group or individual treatment services. Your treatment provider will inform you specifically how to submit drug tests at their facility. Most treatment

providers use a drug testing hotline which you will call every morning you may be expected to provide a urine sample. If a different method will be used to notify you of your days to drop, your treatment provider will let you know.

Ideally, a participant starting in Drug Court would immediately stop using drugs. We realize, however, that often a participant with a moderate to severe substance use disorder cannot stop using drugs immediately upon entry into drug court. You wouldn't need the Drug Court program of treatment if you were able to stop and stay stopped at any time. . The judge will not sanction you for using drugs when just starting treatment. We realize that abstinence is a long-term goal. However if you struggle continually with relapse for a period of approximately three months or more, your counselor may recommend that you receive more intensive treatment, such as intensive outpatient treatment or inpatient residential treatment, to help you get and stay sober. .

**Honesty and accountability are the foundation for a strong recovery. Being honest and accountable for your drug use is something you can and must do immediately. You will not be sanctioned if you are honest about using drugs before your drug test comes back positive for drugs. Our scientifically accepted methods of drug testing is extremely reliable and extremely sensitive. We assure you that if you are using drugs or alcohol, your tests will come back positive from the lab. The Drug Court expects you to immediately disclose to your counselor and PTI/Probation Officer if you have used drugs or alcohol, or if they you around drugs or people using drugs. If you do not disclose, your failure to do so will become evident when the drug test results are returned from the lab. Admitting use after a test comes back positive for drugs or alcohol is NOT honest. You will be sanctioned for failing to immediately disclose any use of drugs or alcohol while in he Drug Court program.**

***DO NOT DRINK MORE THAN 16 OUNCES OF FLUIDS DURING THE THREE (3) HOURS BEFORE PROVIDING A URINE SAMPLE.***

Some people mistakenly believe that they can drink a lot of fluids to “flush out” drugs in their system. This is detectable in drug Court by testing for diluted samples. Repeated submission of dilute samples is viewed with great suspicion, and will likely result in harsh sanctions, unless you can provide a verifiable medical reason, such as an issue with your kidneys. The Drug Court will actively and diligently monitor your drug tests to ensure that you are supplying valid samples

## **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING WHAT YOU PUT IN YOUR BODY**

- Check all medicines and food and anything else you eat or drink to make sure it does not have alcohol in it.
- Do not accept cigarettes, food, snacks, or drinks from anyone, even if you feel you can trust them.
- Do not take medicine offered by anyone other than a licensed physician, even your own family and friends, even if you feel you can trust them. Do not eat any foods with poppy seeds. This can cause a false positive drug test for opiates.
- Do not use Sudafed or any pseudoephedrine products or medications. This can cause a false positive drug test for amphetamines.
- Do not drink kombucha. It can cause you to test positive for alcohol.
- Do not ingest apple cider vinegar.
- Do not use anything with CBD in it.
- You are forbidden from using kratom, kava, spice, and bath salts.
- Do not use any herbal supplements, energy pills, diet pills and/or diet enhancers. Be extremely cautious about consuming supplements found in nutrition stores. Usually, they are not FDA approved, and the manufacturers are not required to comply with many health and safety guidelines, nor are they required to disclose all ingredients.
- Do not keep leftover medication. Safely dispose of all medications for which you no longer have an active and valid prescription.. You must also bring to your counselor all prescriptions that you are currently taking. You may also be required to provide a printout from your pharmacy detailing all medications prescribed to you and/or dispensed over a certain lookback period. The court will not accept a claimed lack of knowledge on your part as an excuse for drug or alcohol use. Again, you are responsible for what you put in your body, so be careful!

## **Conclusion**

The Drug Court program has been established to help you achieve total abstinence from illicit and illegal drugs and assist you to build the education skills and self-esteem to enable you to refrain from criminal activity. The program is designed to promote self-sufficiency and to return you to the community as a productive and responsible resident. The Judge, your counselor, your PTI/Probation Officer, and the Drug Court team stand ready to guide and assist you, but ultimately, it is you and only you who is responsible for your success in this program. We hope that you are motivated to make this transformative change and commit to a drug-free life.

We hope this Handbook has been helpful to you and answered most of your questions. If you have additional questions or concerns about the Drug Court program,

please feel free to ask any Drug Court team member. Below is a telephone list of Important numbers you may wish to have handy for easy access.

## DRUG COURT TEAM MEMBERS

Judge Michael Davis  
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### Public Defender's Office

Karen Black-Barron, Attorney ..... 954-831-8659 (Office)

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### State Attorney's Office

Jamie Potash, Attorney ..... 954-831-7928 (Office)

Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Drug Court Treatment Program (your counselor)

Main Office ..... 954-497-3610  
Front Desk ..... 954-375-6293  
Drug Testing Hotline (recorded message)..... 1-866-460-0525

Department of Corrections (your PTI/Probation Officer)

Main Number..... 954-497-4121

Broward Addiction Recovery Center (BARC)

Main Number..... 954-357-4880  
Detox and Residential & Outpatient Treatment Services... 954-357-4851