

Fact Sheet for Maryland Problem-Solving Court

Date: March 31, 2017

Name of Court: Howard County Adult Drug/DUI Treatment Court
County: Howard County
Court Address: 3451 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Administrative Judge: Judge Pamila J. Brown
Presiding Judge/Magistrate: Judge Ricardo Zwaig
Court Administrator/ Administrative Clerk: Mary K. Smith
PSC Coordinator: John "Jack" Altfather
Phone: 410-480-7730
Email: john.altfather@mdcourts.gov

Start Date (Month/Year): July 2004

Structure of Program: Post-conviction sentencing model with probation conditions, consisting mainly of fulfilling the conditions of Drug/DUI Court and any incarceration contemplated by a plea agreement or as required by statute.

Program Capacity: Fifty (50) participants total between both Drug and DUI Courts

Court Hearing: Every other Wednesday: Drug Court in the morning (10:30 am) and DUI Court in the afternoon (2:30 pm)

Treatment: Assigned as needed

Supervision/Monitoring: Court supervision varies from every two weeks to monthly depending on the participant's phase and the need for monitoring

- The team meets to review each participant's progress;
- The Court (Judge) having the advice of the team; makes rulings/orders to each participant to encourage positive progress;
- The Case manager meets with each participant based on the Judge's orders;
- The participants are ordered to various level of health-care or mental health-care treatments based on their needs.

Types of Drug Testing: Transdermal patches, Urinalysis (drug testing); Preliminary Breath Test (Breathalyzer); and SCRAM bracelets

Eligibility criteria: (i.e.: County residents, Non-violent offenses, etc.)

DRUG COURT:

Offense and Offender Qualifiers:

Charged with:

- a. Possession of CDS
- b. Possession of CDS paraphernalia
- c. Prescription fraud
- d. Theft
- e. Bad Checks
- f. 4th Degree burglary
- g. Credit Card Fraud
- h. Prostitution
- i. Violation of Probation with the consent of the sentencing judge

Offense and Offender Disqualifiers:

The Defendant has previously been convicted of:

- a. Any Crime of Violence
- b. Abduction
- c. Child Abuse
- d. Rape or Sexual offense
- e. Kidnapping
- f. Robbery
- g. Robbery w/ a Deadly Weapon
- h. Carjacking
- i. Use of a weapon in commission of a felony or crime of violence
- j. Arson or
- k. Any attempts of the above delineated offenses
- i. An exception may be made if the prior conviction for an enumerated offense occurred more than 10 years earlier

OTHER Eligibility Criteria: DRUG COURT

1. 18 years of age or over
2. Howard County resident (an exception could be made if the Defendant agrees to and is available to undergo treatment and supervision in Howard County)
3. Prior history of drug abuse and/or convictions, as determined by the Judge, State's Attorney, or defense counsel
4. Not currently on parole
5. Not currently on probation unless the sentencing judge agrees to participation
6. Only charges pending in Howard County will be eligible for inclusion in plea negotiations, unless parties involved in cases from the other jurisdiction agree

DUI COURT:

Offense and Offender Qualifiers:

Charged with a DUI/DWI and has at least one prior conviction or probation before judgment

Offense and Offender Disqualifiers: same as above for Drug Court

1. The Defendant has been previously convicted of:
 - a. Any Crime of Violence
 - b. Abduction
 - c. Child Abuse
 - d. Rape or Sexual Offense
 - e. Kidnapping
 - f. Robbery
 - g. Robbery with a Deadly Weapon
 - h. Carjacking
 - i. Use of a weapon in the commission of a felony or crime of violence
 - j. Arson or
 - k. Any attempts of the above delineated offenses
 - i. An exception may be made if the prior conviction for an enumerated offense occurred more than 10 years earlier

OTHER Eligibility Criteria: DUI COURT

1. 18 years of age
2. Howard County resident (an exception could be made if the Defendant agrees to and is available to undergo treatment and supervision in Howard County)

3. No pending sentencing, warrants, or detainers
4. Not currently on parole
5. Not currently on probation, unless the sentencing Judge agrees to participation
6. Only charges pending in Howard County will be eligible for inclusion in plea negotiations, unless parties involved in cases from other jurisdiction agree
7. The charges before the Court are either the second or third DUI charge, only. Anything more will not be admitted into the program

Average Program Length: At minimum 52 weeks and may last for a longer period of time depending upon a number of factors (participant compliance, recovery, amenability to release from supervision without unreasonable risk of relapse).

Upon graduation, the participant may be released on a period of probation, either supervised or unsupervised, for a period not to exceed thirty-six (36) months from their initial entry into Drug/DUI Court.