



## Program Structure

Adult offenders who are charged with a violation of the conditions of their probation and juvenile offenders who are petitioned or at risk of being petitioned for a violation of their probation are referred to the appropriate Drug Court for an assessment of their program eligibility. Offenders entering a Drug Court program are continued on special conditions of probation that support the goals of recovery and rehabilitation. While under the supervision of a Drug Court program, enrollees must voluntarily agree to participate in a highly structured, multiple phase program that includes individualized treatment plans, attending group sessions, random urinalysis, breathalyzer testing, family therapy for juvenile participants, and other program-related requirements including remaining drug and alcohol free.

Successful participants graduate from the program in 10 to 18 months by completing their program requirements. They are released from their probationary status already linked to community resources to continue the process of recovery outside of the formal requirements of the Drug Court Program

## Who Can Make Referrals to a Montgomery County Drug Court?

Referrals may come from a number of sources including: the probation judge, defense counsel, the State's Attorney's Office, the Department of Parole and Probation or the Department of Juvenile Services, a juvenile offender's parent, a treatment provider or from other sources who believe that an adult defendant or juvenile respondent meet the program's eligibility criteria.

If you believe a defendant or respondent qualifies for and would benefit from participation in the Adult Drug Court or the Juvenile Substance Abuse Treatment Court Programs, please contact his/her probation agent/worker or the Drug Court Coordinator on 240-777-9141.

## To Learn More

To learn more about Drug Court and to download our Drug Court documents, please visit our Website at:

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/circuitcourt/Court/drugcourt/index.asp>

### **Adult Drug Court and Juvenile Substance Abuse Treatment Court Programs**

Drug Court Coordinator  
50 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD 20850

Phone: 240-777-9141  
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# Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland

## **Adult Drug Court and Juvenile Substance Abuse Treatment Court Programs**



*For more information, contact:*

Drug Court Coordinator  
50 Maryland Avenue  
Rockville, MD. 20850

**Tel: 240-777-9141**

# Introduction

In November, 2004, the Montgomery County Circuit Court implemented two drug treatment court programs that target adult and juvenile offenders with histories of alcohol and other substance abuse problems. This brochure provides you with a general overview of Drug Courts, what they are, how they differ from traditional courts, and provides information on who is eligible to participate, and how to contact the Court for further information on its drug court programs.

More detailed information is available at the Court's website, listed on the last page of this brochure.

## What is a "Drug Court"

The first drug court was implemented in 1989 in Miami, Florida when Judge Herbert M. Klein, troubled by the disabling impact of drug offenses upon Dade County courts, was determined to find new solutions to the growing numbers of substance-abusing offenders coming through the courts. Since that time, more than 1,500 courts have implemented, or are planning to implement, a drug court program to address the problems of substance abuse and drug-related crime.

Generally, a drug court can be defined as a special court given the responsibility to handle cases involving drug-addicted offenders through extensive supervision, consistent monitoring, and intensive treatment. Often referred to as "problem solving courts", drug courts adopt a model of habilitation, or rehabilitation, for offenders who meet specifically defined criteria for entry into a drug court program.

## Why Develop a Drug Court?

The problems associated with alcohol and drug dependent offenders are well-known: high rates of re-arrest; fragmented approaches to treatment; a traditional focus on punishment rather than rehabilitation; and a lack of resources to respond rapidly to conditions that might interrupt the process of recovery. All

of these conditions contribute to a well documented "revolving door" that returns alcohol and drug-dependent offenders to the court when they commit subsequent offenses.

In response to these issues, the Montgomery County Circuit Court has implemented two Drug Court Programs: the Adult Drug Court and the Juvenile Substance Abuse Treatment Court. Both programs focus resources on rehabilitation, collaborative team decision-making, an emphasis on therapy and recovery, and a commitment from the offender to undergo an intensive program designed to end his or her cycle of substance abuse and criminal or delinquent behavior.

## The Montgomery County Drug Courts

The Montgomery County Drug Court program are offender-focused rehabilitation programs that recognize the powerful influence of substance use or abuse on behavior. Recognizing that recovery from addiction is vital to community safety and individual accountability, the Montgomery County Drug Court programs leverage key aspects of the program to promote offender accountability for their recovery:

- Intensive involvement of the Drug Court Judge;
- Weekly meetings of the Drug Court Team to evaluate the progress of drug court enrollees and to make recommendations to the judge about each participant;
- A non-adversarial, collaborative, integrated approach to treatment;
- Weekly Drug Court sessions;
- Recognition, reward and positive reinforcement for progress; and
- The rapid imposition of graduated sanctions as motivators to improve compliance with the requirements of their probation.

Building from the well-documented success of drug courts across the country, the Montgomery County Adult Drug Court and the Juvenile Substance Abuse Treatment Court represent collaborative partnerships with the Departments of Health and Human Services,

Correction and Rehabilitation, Parole and Probation, Juvenile Services, the State's Attorney's Office, the Public Defender, other law enforcement agencies, the schools, and health and substance abuse treatment programs.

## Who is Eligible for Drug Court Enrollment?

The Montgomery County Drug Courts are post-dispositional programs that target offenders facing a violation of their probation where there is a reasonable assumption that the offender's criminal or delinquent activity is connected directly to the ongoing, habitual, use or abuse of drugs and/or alcohol. Absent an interruption in their cycle of substance abuse, it is likely that criteria-eligible offenders will continue to re-offend, reenter the criminal justice system, and be exposed to long-term incarceration. or commitment.

### Criteria:

Adult Drug Court Participants must be residents of Montgomery County, Maryland, who are:

- Charged with a Violation of Probation (VOP) from a Circuit Court sentence;
- Subject to at least 18 months of continuing probation;
- Non-Violent;
- A diagnosed substance abuser; and
- Screened as physically, emotionally, and mentally capable of participating in Drug Court activities and programs.

Juvenile Substance Abuse Treatment Court (J-SATC) participants must be residents of Montgomery County, Maryland, who are:

- Petitioned/facing being petitioned for a Violation of Probation (VOP);
- 14 to 17 years, 3 months in age;
- Non-Violent;
- A diagnosed substance abuser;
- Having trouble staying clean and sober; and
- Capable of participating in program activities and programs.