

# **Yakima County Drug Court**

## **Participant Handbook**



**A Program of Yakima County Superior Court**

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## Introduction

***"Drug courts are an effective and cost efficient way to help non-violent drug offenders commit to a rigorous drug treatment program in lieu of prison."***

**—Former President George W. Bush**

This handbook is designed to provide detailed program information about Yakima County Drug Court (hereafter referred to as Drug Court), a program of Yakima County Superior Court. This handbook will explain in detail what is expected of you as a Drug Court participant. You are encouraged to share this handbook with family and friends. You are expected to know the information contained in this handbook to maintain compliance in the Drug Court program.

The primary purpose of Drug Court is to provide intervention and treatment for people that are facing felony criminal charges and want to make positive life changes and break the cycle of addiction and criminal behavior.

If your questions are not answered in this handbook, please do not hesitate to ask your treatment provider, case manager, Drug Court Coordinator, or your attorney.

The information contained in this handbook may change from time to time without prior notice and should not in any way be considered a binding agreement between you and Drug Court. You will be notified of changes by paper notice or through your case manager.

## Mission Statement

The mission of Drug Court is to help individuals suffering from addiction find a path to recovery that allows them to live a healthy, fulfilling life that is free from drug and alcohol use and criminal behavior. The drug court team seeks to promote community safety and recovery through empowering participants to take control of their lives and end the cycle of drug use and criminal behavior.

## Program Description

Yakima County Drug Court is a court-supervised comprehensive program for non-violent, felony defendants that have a substance use disorder. Drug Court is a special court that processes qualifying defendants through supervision and treatment instead of prosecution and incarceration. This is a voluntary program that includes regular court appearances before a designated Drug Court Judge or Commissioner who oversees your progress and compliance.

Treatment services and case management will be provided by Merit Resource Services. Drug Court also utilizes Comprehensive Healthcare as a community partner for Mental Health treatment. All program participants will complete a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Assessment with Merit and must enter and complete treatment as recommended. All participants will also be assessed by Comprehensive Healthcare for Mental Health Disorder(s).

If treatment is recommended by Comprehensive, participants must follow those recommendations as well.

The Drug Court program is a minimum of 18 months. There are five phases that must be completed, and each phase is designed to build on the skills learned in the last phase. Specific conditions must be met to move on to the next phase, these are laid out in the descriptions of each phase later in this handbook.

A visit to your home may be made to assess your living situation and people you are associating with. The visit to your residence will be made without a scheduled appointment.

Other community agencies partner with the Drug Court Program to provide services, education, and treatment support. The goal of the program is to have you become a productive member of your community by living responsibly, obeying laws, and living in recovery from your substance use disorder.

## **Drug Court Supervision**

In the Drug Court Program, you are required to appear in Drug Court on your appointed date and time. Each time you appear in Drug Court, the Drug Court Judge will be given a progress report, which has been prepared by your Drug Court Case Manager, treatment providers, and/or mental health therapist. The report will address your treatment plan, attendance and participation in the various Drug Court services, results of urinalysis and breathalyzer tests, and your living situation. The Drug Court Team will be informed about payment of court-imposed fees and restitution. The Drug Court Judge may ask you, your treatment provider, or your Case Manager questions about your progress and accomplishments and discuss any specific problems you have been experiencing.

A case plan will be developed to address your need areas, such as treatment, employment, counseling, living arrangements, and education. Regarding housing, your case plan may include changes to your living arrangements that may mean you cannot live with family members, significant others, or friends. It is important to your success in Drug Court that you are living in clean and sober housing and associating with people in recovery. Your case manager will discuss your progress and may refer you to community resources for assistance in addressing your needs.

If you are not progressing at an appropriate pace, the Drug Court Judge will discuss this with you and the Drug Court Team to determine further action. The goal is to break the cycle of drugs and crime by helping you reach sustained remission from your substance use disorder and learn a new way to live in recovery. To achieve this goal, drug court participants are expected to actively work towards achieving the program goals and requirements.

The use of non-prescribed, illegally obtained, mind and mood-altering substances, including alcohol and cannabis is not allowed in this program, and will be considered a relapse and interfere with your ability to be considered in remission.

The Drug Court Judge may change the requirements of your treatment plan and the length of

time you spend in each phase based upon your progress. When you accomplish certain program requirements, you will receive incentives. The Drug Court Judge may also impose sanctions for not following program rules. The goal is for you to be in remission from your substance use disorder and to remain crime free.

*The Drug Court Judge will have full jurisdiction over the entire program.*

### **Drug Court Acceptance Procedures**

Your Defense Attorney and the assigned Prosecutor on your case will decide if a referral to the Drug Court program is appropriate for your case. If they agree, a referral will be made to the Drug Court Prosecutor. The Drug Court Prosecutor will review your case and your history. If you appear to meet the general criteria, the Drug Court Team will receive your referral, and you will be added to the docket to appear in Drug Court. If you are in Yakima County Jail, the Jail Staff will arrange to have you appear for court, likely by video. If you are not in jail, you will need to come to court every Tuesday at 3:00pm for Drug Court.

Within seven days of receiving your referral, you will meet with the Therapeutic Court Coordinator to complete a Drug Court Intake Screening. Within the following two weeks, you will complete a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Assessment by a Merit SUD Counselor. You will also complete a Risk/Needs Assessment. The results will be submitted to the Drug Court Team to determine if you are eligible for the Drug Court program.

You will need to follow the treatment recommendations from your SUD Assessment. If you are recommended to go to inpatient treatment, the Drug Court Case Manager will arrange a bed date and transportation to treatment. If you are in jail, the court will arrange to have you released to the recommended treatment program. Once you complete inpatient treatment, you will start aftercare services Merit. Drug Court requires all SUD aftercare services to be done at Merit.

Once the Drug Court Team has determined you are eligible, and you are no longer in jail, you will begin the Practice and Commitment Phase. This Phase allows you to engage in the Drug Court program for a minimum of two weeks and begin to practice the Drug Court requirements. You will start to figure out a routine and start scheduling appointments that you will need to complete in Phase One.

You are expected to follow the Phase One requirements during these two weeks. This will also give you an opportunity to get to know the Drug Court Team, your peers, and program staff. At any time during the Practice and Commitment Phase of the program, you can decide not to enter Drug Court. Towards the end of the two weeks, the Judge will ask you if you want to be in the Drug Court Program. If you do, a message will be sent to your attorney that we are prepared to accept you into the program. If you do not, you will need to discuss this with your attorney.

Once the Judge lets you and your attorney know that we are ready to accept you into the program, you will need to meet with your attorney to complete the Drug Court Acceptance paperwork. Your attorney will come to Drug Court with you for your acceptance into the Drug

Court program.

You will need to write a letter discussing why you want to be in Drug Court. This is called your acceptance letter. Your Drug Court Case Manager will have an outline for this letter. At a minimum, your acceptance letter will include the following:

- What your life has been like while using drugs and alcohol.
- A brief history of your legal charges that you got while using drugs and alcohol.
- Who has been most affected by your drug and alcohol use, and how they were affected.
- Why you want to change your life.
- What you want from Drug Court.

You will be reading this letter in court when you are officially accepted into the program. If you need help with reading or writing this letter, please talk to your Drug Court Case Manager.

When you agree to enter the Drug Court program, you will be required to give up your right to keep your SUD and mental health disorder treatment records confidential. It must be shared with the Drug Court Team. This information is used to help support you and guide you through the program. It also helps the team to gauge your progress as you move through the phases.

Drug Court celebrates success! We will provide incentives when you achieve certain goals or program requirements. Some of those successes may include completing a program phase, completing a specialty SUD group, getting your GED, getting your driver's license and other things that may have taken a lot of effort on your part. Some of our incentives include gift cards for McDonalds, Pizza, Burger King, Snacks, recovery related books and other items.

## **Team Members**

Accountability is the foundation of any therapeutic court, and our Drug Court program is no exception. You will be supported and held accountable by your peers and members of the Drug Court team. We understand that the level of supervision in this program is intense. Research shows that the level of supervision offered here will provide the best possible outcomes. As you move through the phases, the supervision will get less intense.

All our Drug Court team members are committed to helping you and your peers in Drug Court be successful in this program. The Drug Court team is a non-adversarial team of service providers. We work together to achieve the program goals and find solutions that best support the people in the program. Each team member has a role in the court and a part in your journey through the program. Here is a short summary of their roles.

### **The Drug Court Judge**

The Drug Court Judge works to make sure that everyone is treated fairly. The Judge also ensures that the team follows all laws when handling each case. The Judge works as part of the Drug Court team. The entire team meets each week before court to review each person's file. This meeting is called "staffing". Members of the team share about your progress in treatment, any achievements you have made, and any successes you want the Judge to know. They also discuss any areas where you may need additional support. If there were any program violations, they would be reported during these meetings as well. The team works together to come up

with solutions or creative plans to help meet the needs that you might have. The Judge takes in consideration the ideas and thoughts of each team member. Ultimately, the Judge is responsible for ensuring that you are held accountable to the program rules and requirements. All Drug Court orders are the Judge's decision. The Judge is committed to helping you in this journey and while there may be sanctions at times, there are incentives as well. The Judge will also be responsible for ordering and providing any incentives for recognizing your achievements.

### **Prosecuting Attorney**

The prosecutor takes on a much different role than you may have seen in the past. The Drug Court Prosecutor strives to help people that need something different than the normal process of the justice system. Our prosecutor helps coordinate the referrals of eligible people into the Drug Court program. The prosecutor serves as part of the Drug Court team and meets each week for "staffing". Through this process, the prosecutor will watch you accomplish your goals and experience successes in the program. If there are any program violations, they will usually recommend some type of sanction. Recommendations for sanctions and incentives become team discussions that the Judge untimely decides on. The prosecutor also makes recommendations for incentives or rewards when you experience success, meet goals or go beyond our expectations.

### **Defense Attorney ~ Paralegal**

The Defense Attorney ensures that each person's legal rights are protected. They attend "staffing" each week and ensures that the team maintains your best interest in mind. The defense attorney is your advocate! They ensure that your case is moving forward through the program in a timely manner, they advocate for approval of any reasonable requests that you may have. If ever there is an issue about a program violation, the defense attorney is there to represent you. This role, like the prosecutor's role, may be different than what you have seen in the past as well. They are not there to get you out of a violation. They work within the team, and are committed helping you achieve a successful outcome. Where it relates to a violation, or a sanction means that they may participate in team discussions about whether the incident needs to be considered a violation. They may advocate for a lesser sanction or make requests on your behalf regarding sanctions. The defense attorney, like the prosecutor, can also advocate for you to receive rewards or incentives for your accomplishments. They may also be a great resource for you as well. The defense attorney may be able to help you with getting your driver's license or help with other legal matters. Their goal is to help you succeed in anyway they can.

### **Law Enforcement**

Law enforcement works within the Drug Court team to build a new type of rapport with the people in our program. They strive to promote positive and influential relationships with the people in our program. Our law enforcement officer attends the Drug Court team "staffing" meetings each week. They participate in discussions about sanctions and incentives and can also make recommendations for either. They also attend all court hearings and graduations. They help the Drug Court team hold participants accountable to the program rules and requirements. The law enforcement officer may assist with random visits to your home and/or job sites. These visits are intended to help you build a between Drug Court and your life outside of court and treatment. This also provides the law enforcement officer with an opportunity to build a relationship with your family and friends closest to you. The law enforcement officer



will report back to the rest of the Drug Court team about the off-site visits, as well as any contact you may have had with other law enforcement officers.

### **Behavioral Health Specialist**

The Behavioral Health Specialist and staff at Comprehensive Healthcare work within the Drug Court team to reduce barriers to accessing mental health services through Comprehensive Healthcare. Comprehensive's case manager attends the Drug Court "staffing" meetings. Their case manager may meet with you to help you get your Mental Health Assessment. If you are recommended mental health treatment, their case manager will update the rest of the team on your recommendations. When you start their services, they will continue to report your progress and the plan for treatment, going forward. The case manager may be able to help you access other resources in the community that are related to Behavioral Health Services.

### **Drug Court Case Manager ~ Treatment Specialist**

The Drug Court Case Manager is SUD Counselor that works for Merit. They work with every person in Drug Court throughout their time in the program. Your Drug Court Case Manager will guide you through your program, helping you to achieve each of the program requirements. They coordinate your treatment and ensure that you have access to the necessary resources to help you be successful in this program. Your Drug Court Case Manager is your point of contact for all things throughout this program. Your Case Manager attends staffing weekly and updates the team on your progress in treatment and with your program requirements. Your Case Manager will be the person that supports you, challenges you, and encourages you while also holding you accountable to the program and to your commitments to your peers, to your family, but mostly to yourself. If you ever have any questions about your program, your Drug Court Case Manager is the person that you will want to go to. They are responsible for providing you with all the necessary information, tools and resources that you will need to be successful in this program. It is up to you to use them.

### **Drug Court Coordinator**

The Drug Court Coordinator is responsible for planning, organizing and attending regular team meetings, including Drug Court staffing and court hearings. They will document your progress and maintain your court file during your time in the program. They work closely with the other team members to make sure the Drug Court Judge has all the information needed to make decisions on the next steps for your Drug Court journey. The Coordinator is responsible for providing communication, resources and support to the entire Drug Court team. Throughout the program, the Coordinator may meet with or speak with you to provide similar communication, resources, support or other help.

## **SUD & Mental Health Treatment**

The Drug Court program requires that you engage in Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment at the level of care recommended. We also require that you follow all treatment recommendations.

The same is true for Mental Health Disorder Treatment. Everyone that enters Drug Court will get a mental health assessment. If there is a mental health diagnosis and a recommendation for therapy, you will be required to engage in the recommended therapy.



**It is your responsibility to prioritize Drug Court and all the program requirements, including SUD Treatment, Mental Health Treatment, and Sober Support Meetings. If you are recommended or ordered to do any additional services by the court, or by the treatment provider, you will be required to prioritize these additional services as well. These MUST be prioritized over everything else! This includes work, school, other appointments, and outside activities.**

There are zero acceptable excuses, other than a medical emergency, for not showing up to a scheduled treatment or case management session. If you have a medical emergency, you must provide your paperwork from the hospital or medical provider to your Drug Court Case Manager immediately. Not showing up for an appointment will result in an unexcused absence. Any unexcused absences will result in a Drug Court Sanction.

We do understand that life happens. There may be times that you have a genuine reason that you need to miss a treatment session. Part of being accountable and responsible means that you call ahead and inform your provider about your absence or need to reschedule the session. Not every reason will be considered excused, regardless, you are expected to call ahead and make appropriate arrangements.

It is important to understand that Drug Court does not determine your treatment recommendations. Your recommendations are based from the SUD assessment completed by Merit. If you have questions about how they came to those recommendations, you should speak with that provider, or your Drug Court Case Manager.

### **Drug Court Phases**

Drug Court is a minimum of 18 months from the date of acceptance. The program is broken into five phases. You will complete all five phases prior to your graduation. Each phase is designed to help you develop self-awareness, self-worth, and responsibility and accountability. We focus a lot of attention on helping you to learn effective thinking and decision-making skills.

The skills you develop in each phase will prepare you for the next phase. While the program may seem like a lot in the beginning, it is designed to be that way. Research has taught us that you are far more likely to be successful in your recovery and with the program goals when certain things are in place. First, it is an intense supervision that is based on recognizing your strengths and incentivizing positive change. Second is just as important as the supervision. It is an equal level of support, with access to resources to help achieve the goals that you have identified for yourself. Finally, it is the idea that you are capable doing great things in your life, if you are given the chance to do so, and shown a way to get there.

There is a lot more to this program, but these core ideas build the phases. As you move through the phases, you will see less intensity and find that you are managing your own life, taking responsibility for yourself and your family. By the end of phase five, you will have found recovery and a life that perhaps you did not know was possible.

**How to phase up:**

To phase up, you must meet all of the phase requirements and submit a “Phase Up Application” to the Court Coordinator. This is done at least **one week before you can phase up**. You can get the phase up application from your Drug Court Case Manager or the Court Coordinator. The applications are also available online on the Yakima County Superior Court Therapeutic Court website. You will fill out the form, and then get it signed by the people listed on the form. Once it is signed, you will turn it into the Court Coordinator for the team to review. The Judge will tell you when you phase up.

**Petitioning Phase – Practice & Commitment – Two Weeks**

The phase requirements for these two weeks are listed under phase one. See phase one for a full list of requirements during your Petitioning Phase. During these two weeks, you are asked to attempt to follow the program requirements. This will allow you to develop a routine or a schedule prior to being accepted into the program. It is designed to give you an opportunity to practice the phase requirements, engage in treatment, attend court and get to know the team and the other people in the program.

We want you to make an informed decision about whether you want to participate in this program or not. This is also an opportunity for the team to evaluate your commitment to the program. In addition to practicing the phase one requirements, we encourage you to attend daily sober support meetings until you are admitted into SUD treatment. Once you have been admitted into treatment at MERIT, you will then attend the minimum of five sober support meetings per week and verify with your Drug Court Case Manager at every Drug Court check-in.

You are encouraged to attend a variety of sober support meetings. Not every meeting is the same. Talk to your Drug Court Case Manager to help guide you towards meetings that would best fit your individual needs.

During phase one, you will have to complete a mental health assessment, get a primary care doctor and get a physical, and get a dental exam. These appointments can sometimes take a while to get. We recommend that you schedule these appointments as soon as possible, even during the petitioning phase.

**Phase 1—Stabilization – Minimum of eight (8) weeks:**

This phase consists of frequent contact and supervision for support and connection to resources. The focus for Phase One is on helping you build a foundation of people around you that are safe and sober. We want you to become surrounded by recovery. It is important that people in early recovery find other people that they can connect with and build meaningful relationships with. During this phase, you will not be allowed to stay overnight outside of your approved house.

**Requirements:**

- Weekly Drug Court “check ins” with your Drug Court Case Manager. You may be asked to check in more often based on your individual needs.

- Weekly court attendance. Court is every Tuesday at 3:00pm. Everyone on the Drug Court Docket Drug Court is required to stay for the entire Drug Court hearing. This allows your peers to support you and allows you all to spend time together as a whole group.
- Get a sponsor. Your sponsor will need to be your same-gender and have a minimum of five years in sobriety. If you need help finding a sponsor, talk to your Drug Court Case Manager.
- Daily UA Checks with the Drug Testing Notification System. You will need to call in or log in online with the information provided by MERIT to verify whether you have a UA that day or not. This must be done every day, including weekends and holidays. Provide a UA if directed to do so. If you miss a UA, you must provide a “make-up” UA first thing in the morning on the next business day and immediately contact your Drug Court Case Manager.
- Complete a mental health assessment. The Comprehensive Healthcare case manager will help you navigate getting this assessment and setting up any appointments you may need.
- Establish care with a primary care doctor and get a physical completed. The purpose of this is to address any current medical needs that you may or may not know about and have a regular doctor that you can see in times of need going forward.
- Establish care with a dentist and get a dental exam. The purpose of this is to begin to address any dental needs that you may or may not know about. Oral health is often largely neglected when we are using substances. As you start your recovery journey, your health needs to become a priority.
- Verify attendance at a minimum of five sober support meetings with your case manager weekly.
- You must live in a stable, clean and sober living environment that has been approved by the court.
- There can be no sanctions within **two weeks of your phase up** date.
- Submit phase up application one week prior to your expected phase up date.

You need to have your phase up letter ready to present prior to court. You can get the outline for this letter from your Drug Court Case Manager. They may also want to review your letter with you prior to your court hearing to make sure you have included all the required information. You will read this letter in court.

### **Phase 2 – Minimum of twelve (12) weeks:**

This phase will focus on SUD treatment and clean and sober activities. During this phase you will start to normalize your recovery and settle into a routine for this program. Involving your family and friends in your recovery, and your Drug Court program can be helpful part of this process.

In phase two, you are allowed to stay overnight outside your home with prior approval. You will need to request permission by submitting a “Travel Request”. Travel Requests MUST be submitted at least seven days in advance. You can get this form from your Drug Court Case

Manager. To be sure that the court receives them, they should be submitted directly to your Case Manager, or the Court Coordinator. Requests for travel are considered on an individual basis. If approved to travel, you will need to plan with your Drug Court Case Manager to provide a UA immediately when you return.

Requirements:

- Compliance with SUD treatment and compliance with MH treatment if recommended.
- Weekly case management contact
- Weekly court appearances
- Daily UA Checks with the Drug Testing Notification System. Provide a UA when directed to do so.
- Continue to address medical and dental needs as indicated
- Continue to live in approved safe, stable, sober housing
- Verify attendance at a minimum of five sober support meetings with your case manager weekly
- Continue to work with your sponsor. You will sign a release to your sponsor at Merit. Your Drug Court Case Manager will contact your sponsor and verify that you are working with them. You must have weekly contact with your sponsor throughout the Drug Court Program. This will be verified periodically by your Case Manager.
- Obtain a Driving Abstract. This can be done through your Drug Court Defense Attorney, the Drug Court Coordinator, or the Department of Licensing. If your Driver's License is not valid, you will need to complete a Reinstatement Plan. Your plan must include your reinstatement requirements and the dates of when you plan to have each requirement completed. Your Drug Court Case Manager can help you complete this plan. As a team, we will help you stay accountable to your plan to get your license.
- Begin searching for employment. Provide verification of job search to your Case Manager. Verification may include printed emails from places that you applied, verification from Indeed or other similar websites, reports from attending Job Fairs, or completing work shops through Work Source. Your Drug Court Case Manager may refer you to community programs to assist in job training and placement. A combination of employment and education, or full-time enrollment in school is sufficient to meet the employment requirement. Employment must be with a tax-paying employer who will provide valid paystubs. Under-the-table work will not satisfy this requirement. For those with documented inability to work, there are alternatives to meet this requirement. If you are unable to find work for an extended period of time, you may be required to engage in prosocial activities, including regularly scheduled community service or DOC work crew, while you continue to look for work. It is important to recognize that this is not a punishment for not finding work, but rather a way to continue to engage in positive daily activities, and a way to continue to be involved in your community.
- If you do not have a verified GED or High School Diploma, you will complete the GED placement tests and engage in classes, if indicated.

- You will need to make at least one payment towards your restitution if you are ordered to pay restitution.
- You will need to begin Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT). This usually happens after intensive outpatient treatment. Your Drug Court Case Manager may have started you in this class during phase one.
- There can be no sanctions within **four weeks of your phase up** eligibility date.
- Submit phase up application one week prior to your expected phase up date.

You need to have your phase up letter ready to present prior to court. You can get the outline for this letter from your Drug Court Case Manager. They may also want to review your letter with you prior to your court hearing to make sure you have included all the required information. You will read this letter in court.

### **Phase 3 – Minimum of sixteen (16) weeks:**

In phase three there is a shift in the program oversight. The program will become less intense, and you will experience more freedom. You will begin to utilize the skills that you have learned in the first two phases: emotion processing, patterns of thinking, decision making, problem solving, and other skills. You will do these things without the constant direction of the Drug Court team. We will still be “on standby” if you need us.

During this phase and beyond, you are allowed to stay overnight, **in county**, outside of your home without prior permission. You are still required to follow all program rules. You are not allowed to be around people that are using drugs or drinking alcohol. You are not allowed to be in places where the sale of alcohol or marijuana is the primary source of business (like bars or dispensaries). You will still need to follow any house rules for your clean and sober house. Out of county requests will still need to be submitted to your Drug Court Case Manager seven days prior to the requested date. The judge will either approve or deny your travel request.

#### **Requirements:**

- Compliance with SUD treatment and compliance with MH treatment if recommended.
- Daily UA Checks with the Drug Testing Notification System. Provide a UA when directed to do so.
- You must live in approved housing that is stable and conducive to your recovery.
- Case management appointments twice per month. These generally occur the Thursday or Friday prior to your court date, or as recommended by your Case Manager.
- Court attendance on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. All Drug Court Graduations are scheduled on the first Tuesday of every month. If there is a graduation, everyone is required to attend. You will be notified in advance that there is a graduation that you need to attend.
- Gain employment or continued employment. You will verify your employment by giving a copy of your paystub to your Case Manager. You may also meet this requirement by enrolling in and starting an approved educational or vocational

program. If you are interested in enrolling in school to meet this requirement, talk to your Drug Court Case Manager first to ensure that the program will be approved. They may also be able to help you with applying for the program.

- Meet or adjust your goals on your license reinstatement plan. You will need to provide documentation when you have completed any of the requirements, if there are any.
- Continue to work toward getting your GED, if indicated. You will need to provide documentation of continued studying or attending classes such as attendance at school, completed study packets, and improved test scores.
- Verify attendance at five sober support meetings per week. This will be 10 in total at your case management appointment. You need to have weekly contact with sponsor.
- You must have  $\frac{1}{4}$  of your restitution amount paid to be eligible to phase up, if you were ordered to pay restitution.
- There can be no sanctions within **four weeks of your phase up** eligibility date.
- Submit phase up application one week prior to your expected phase up date.

You need to have your phase up letter ready to present prior to court. You can get the outline for this letter from your Drug Court Case Manager.

#### **Phase 4 – Minimum of sixteen (16) weeks:**

In this phase, you will experience a variety of recovery opportunities. Some of these opportunities may include attending recovery events and attending Drug Court Alumni meetings. This phase also focuses on planning and preparing for your future. We will also address social living skills, the possibility of higher education, any employment needs or opportunities for looking at planning for a future career. Your Drug Court Case Manager or the Drug Court Team may require you to attend workshops, educational tours, job fairs, orientations, career searches or other tasks. If assigned, you will be required to attend and participate in these activities.

#### **Requirements:**

- When you enter phase 4, you will meet with the Drug Court Coordinator to complete a review of your current financial status. You will complete a financial plan and budget. You may
- Compliance with SUD treatment and compliance with MH treatment if recommended.
- Daily UA Checks with the Drug Testing Notification System. Provide a UA when directed to do so.
- You must live in approved housing that is stable and conducive to your recovery.
- Case management appointments once per month. This appointment will be the week prior to your court date.
- Court attendance on the third Tuesday of the month. All Drug Court Graduations are scheduled on the first Tuesday of every month. If there is a graduation, everyone is required to attend. You will be notified in advance that there is a graduation that you need to attend.



- You will complete your Moral Reconciliation Therapy class.
- Verify attendance at five sober support meetings per week. This will be 20 in total at your case management appointment. You need to have weekly contact with sponsor.
- Meet or adjust your goals on your license reinstatement plan. You will need to provide documentation when you have completed any of the requirements, if there are any.
- Continued work toward getting your GED, if indicated. Continue to provide appropriate documentation.
- Verify your continued employment with your Drug Court Case Manager by providing your Pay Stubs. If you are attending school, you will need to provide your schedule, and copies of grades as posted. This could include grades on assignments. You may not be able to wait until the end of a class to provide verification of attendance.
- You must have ½ of your restitution amount paid to be eligible to phase up, if you were ordered to pay restitution.
- There can be no sanctions within **four weeks of your phase up** eligibility date.
- Submit phase up application one week prior to your eligibility date.

You come to court with a phase up letter. You can get the outline for the letter from your Case Manager. The Drug Court program fee will not hold you back from phasing up. However, it will need to be paid in full for graduation. If your restitution is paid off, and you can make payments towards this fee, we recommend doing so.

### **Phase 5 – Monitoring – Minimum of sixteen (16) weeks**

This phase is focused on preparing you to live your life without after Drug Court while staying clean and sober. You will also be involved in your community as a contributing member of society. During this phase, your Drug Court Case Manager and or the Drug Court Team may require you to attend, participate in, or help organize recovery related events and attend the Drug Court Alumni meetings. We may also ask you to mentor new people coming into Drug Court or participate in Drug Court Orientation for the new people entering the program. This is a way to continue to give back to your community and to continue to stay connected to your recovery.

#### **Requirements:**

- If you have not already completed SUD Treatment, you will need to do so prior to applying for your graduation.
- Compliance with MH treatment if recommended. Some MH treatment programs may last longer than the Drug Court program. You are not required to complete MH treatment prior to graduation.
- Daily UA Checks with the Drug Testing Notification System. Provide a UA when directed to do so.
- You must live in approved housing that is stable and conducive to your recovery.
- Case management appointments once per month. This appointment will be the week prior to your court date.
- Court attendance on the first Tuesday of the month.



- Verify attendance at five sober support meetings per week. This will be 20 in total at your case management appointment. You need to have weekly contact with sponsor.
- Reinstatement of your Driver's License. Some people may not be able to have their license reinstated during their time in Drug Court. In this case, the Drug Court Judge may wave this requirement.
- Complete your GED and provide verification to your Drug Court Case Manager.
- Verify minimum of six months of employment and/or to have been enrolled in higher education and/or a vocational program during the six months prior to graduation.
- You must have a minimum of six months of negative UAs.
- Your Drug court fees, and restitution must be paid in full.
- You will complete an "Exit Interview" with the Drug Court Team. This is an informal meeting with you and the Drug Court team where we speak with you about your time and experience in the program.
- There can be no sanctions within **eight weeks of your graduation** eligibility date.
- You must apply for your graduation in the same way that you would apply for phase up. However, you will need to apply for your graduation at least **four weeks prior to your graduation** date. This will give us time to schedule your exit interview.

### **Phase Up Letters**

*You will write a letter to the Drug Court team each time that you are phasing up. This letter will discuss why you should be able to move forward in the program. It will also include your accomplishments reached in the current phase, sanctions, behaviors changed, and what you hope to accomplish in the upcoming phase. You can get the letter outline from your Drug Court Case Manager.*

### **Graduation Letters:**

*You will write a letter for graduation as well. Your Case Manager will provide you with the outline for the letter. You need to review your letter with your Drug Court Case Manager prior to your graduation. Your Case Manager must make sure everything that is required is written in the letter. Your graduation letter must include, at a minimum, what your life was like prior to Drug Court and how it has improved. What goals you have accomplished during your time in Drug Court, and what goals you have for your future. It also should include a message of encouragement for newer participants in Drug Court.*

## **Drug Court Hearings**

Drug Court hearings are held every Tuesday at 3:00pm. The week you are required to attend will be based on the phase that you are in. Phases one and two attend court every week. See the chart below to see which week the other phases attend. Please remember that if there is a graduation, it is always on the first Tuesday of the month, and all Drug Court phases are required to attend. Every Drug Court Graduation is celebrated and honored for the amazing accomplishments that you all have made!

See the chart on the next page for a visual guide on which phases attend court on which week.

<u>Phases Present for Court</u>				
Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5
1st Phase	1st Phase	1st Phase	1st Phase	There will be <b><u>No Drug Court</u></b> <b><u>Hearings</u></b> on the 5th Tuesday of the month.
2nd Phase	2nd Phase	2nd Phase	2nd Phase	
5th Phase	3rd Phase	4th Phase	3rd Phase	
<b>Graduations:</b> All phases will attend graduation. Only phases 1, 2, and 5 will be on the docket. Your Drug Court Case Manager will notify you if there is a graduation scheduled.				

### **Urinalysis Testing & Breathalyzer**

You will be randomly tested throughout the entire program for the use of non-prescribed, mind and/or mood-altering substances, including alcohol and cannabis. Your initial baseline is provided during the intake and assessment process. Every urinalysis test shall be observed and monitored by a technician. Your treatment provider will administer testing which may occur at the time of Drug Court as well. The Drug Court Judge and Drug Court Team will be informed immediately of all urinalysis and breathalyzer test results including positive tests, refusals to test, missed tests, and dilute tests. A refusal, dilute, or missed test will be treated as a positive drug screen. Any attempt to adulterate or falsify a test result will be considered a positive drug screen and may result in termination from the Drug Court program. When a positive drug screen result occurs, the testing laboratory automatically retests the sample.

The use of non-alcoholic beverages, certain over-the-counter medications, certain foods, and alcohol-based mouthwash may impact urine samples. It is your responsibility to be aware of what you put into your body and how it may impact your urine sample results. Prior to using any similar products, please discuss with your primary care physician and your Drug Court Case Manager about what is safe to ingest.

When you first meet with your Drug Court Case Manager at MERIT, they will give you all the information you need to begin checking in for the Daily UA Checks with the Drug Testing Notification System. You will need to call in, or log in online with the information provided by MERIT, to verify whether you have a UA that day or not. You must provide a UA when the Notification System states you are required to do so.

You are responsible for knowing the hours that the office is open. Weekends and Holidays have different reporting times. We highly recommend that you do not wait until the end of the day, or just before the UA office closes. Waiting until the end of the day may increase the likelihood that you will forget to do the UA. If you are unable to provide the UA before the cut off time, it is considered a missed UA. Missed UAs, for any reason, will result in consequences.

If you know that you missed a UA, you must contact your case manager immediately, or as soon as possible. You must also come into the office and provide a “make up” UA first thing in the morning on the following business day.

There are several Merit offices throughout Yakima County. The Yakima office is located at 315 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Yakima, WA 98901. The hours to provide a UA are different on week days than they are on weekends. Please pay attention to dates, and times. Make sure that you are checking the UA Notification System EVERY DAY, weekends, and on holidays. The normal hours for MERIT’s Yakima UA office are listed below.

Monday – Friday – 7:30am to 6:00pm.  
They are closed for lunch from 12:00pm until 1:00pm.

Saturday, Sunday, Holidays – 8:00am to 1:00pm  
They do not close for a lunch break.

If you are going to provide a UA at one of Merit’s other office locations, please check that office’s hours for UAs in advance.

### **Self – Help Meetings**

You will be required to attend 12-Step self-help meetings or other sober support groups, as instructed by the Drug Court Team. In the beginning of Drug Court, if you are waiting on a bed date, or if you are waiting to start intensive outpatient treatment, you will need to go to a meeting every day until you start treatment. Once you have started treatment, you will attend a minimum of five meetings per week in all phases of Drug Court. Surrounding yourself with other people in recovery is important at the beginning of your recovery. This will help you build a foundation of support that will support you throughout your recovery journey.

It is also very important for you to find a sponsor. The sponsor you choose needs to have at least five years of quality recovery or be approved by the Drug Court Team. If you are not sure what a sponsor is, talk to your Drug Court Case Manager. Your sponsor will be a key part of your recovery. They will guide you through your recovery. They support you and they will work through the 12 steps with you. Your sponsor will also help you to develop healthy relationships in recovery.

### **Education & Employment**

Recovery means more than just not using drugs and alcohol. It also means becoming a responsible person who contributes to the community. It means being able to support yourself. It means being honest and accountable. In Drug Court, you will continue to make forward progress. This means that you will always be working on yourself and improving your life. You do not have to do this alone. Your Drug Court Case Manager is there to help guide you through this program. They will help you figure out your needs and skills. They will send you to places that can help you with specific training and job placement.

They can also help with signing up for education programs if you are interested in going that

route. Your Drug Court Case Manager can help you apply for financial aid when it's available. The job or education program must be with a recognized employer or educational/vocational program. You will need to be employed and/or involved in an educational program for at least six months before you graduate from Drug Court.

### **Detox & Inpatient Treatment**

After being referred to the Drug Court Program, you will receive a full Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Assessment. Based on the information gathered during that assessment, you will be placed in treatment at the appropriate level of care. The initial treatment placement could include detox, intensive outpatient, intensive inpatient, or long-term treatment. There is also treatment specialized for women that are pregnant or have children under five years old. These treatment centers allow the mother to go to treatment with their child. If you think you qualify for this type of treatment, and you are interested in knowing more about it, talk to your Drug Court Case Manager.

You should know that your treatment recommendations are made based off your SUD Assessment. Your SUD treatment provider is the only person that makes decisions about your SUD treatment. The Drug Court Judge and Drug Court Team do not make decisions regarding your treatment recommendations, the level of care you go into, or your treatment plan.

As you grow in your recovery, your needs will change. You will be assessed throughout the program to determine where you are at in your recovery and how the team can continue to help you. If a relapse occurs, your treatment provider will need to meet with you. Together, you will try to figure out what led to the relapse. You will identify a therapeutic response to the relapse and develop a plan to avoid relapse in the future. If any recommendations are made, you will be expected to follow them.

### **Housing & Social Contacts**

Your case plan may include changes to your living circumstances that may mean you cannot live with family members, significant others, or friends. You may be required to live in clean and sober housing that is preapproved by the Drug Court Team. If you are approved to live with family members or friends, they will be expected to be clean and sober. If you live in a clean and sober house, you will be expected to follow the rules of the clean and sober house in addition to Drug Court rules. If you plan to move from your residence, the move is required to be preapproved by the Drug Court Team.

It is important that you eliminate association with family members, friends, or situations in which alcohol or drugs are being used. Part of your change toward recovery is the association with clean and sober people. Social situations, work contacts, and residences will be reviewed to know that there are clean and sober activities occurring. Any living situations that are questionable will be checked on and reported to the Drug Court Team.

## Community Services & Resources

When you enter Drug Court, you will be assessed for your general health and living needs. If you need help with resources, your Drug Court Case Manager will help you access community resources. Some examples of services and resources may include:

- Financial resources such as ABD, or the SNAP program (EBT)
- Medical insurance
- Childcare
- Mental health services
- Family services, family counseling, parenting classes
- Health, wellness, and nutritional assistance
- Emergency shelter, transitional housing, including clean and sober housing
- Life skills to make you self-reliant
- Anger/stress management
- Services for special needs populations
- Cultural/ethnic groups, including sober support meetings for this population
- GED or ESL tutoring
- College courses and scholarships
- Community service programs to fulfill sanctions
- Spiritual groups or church programs of client choice
- Connections to employers and job skill training, including resume writing

There are an extensive number of resources available. If there is something that you need, it is important that you talk to your Drug Court Case Manager. You never know what is out there and available to you, until you ask about it.

## Program Rules

### **You will be required to abide by the following rules:**

1. Attend and actively participate in all assigned Drug Court sessions. You are expected to remain in court the entire duration of court. You must plan to attend the entire court session. You are required to attend all scheduled treatment sessions. This includes individual and group counseling, educational sessions, self-help groups, mental health appointments, and case management appointments. If you are unable to attend a scheduled session, you must contact your treatment provider or case manager as soon as possible prior to your scheduled appointment or session. You must view your treatment groups and other Drug Court activities as a priority and ensure that any other activities that you wish to participate in accommodate these priorities.
2. Be on time to all scheduled services and activities. If you are late, you may not be allowed to attend and will be considered non-compliant. Contact your case manager if there is a possibility you may be late. You will be given names and office phone numbers of other individuals to contact any time you anticipate being late or absent. Generally, only a medical matter is considered a reasonable excuse for absence or

tardiness. You will be required to provide a physician's note.

3. You are expected to be polite and show respect to staff and peers at all times. You are a representative of Drug Court while you are in the community. Your actions, attitudes, and behaviors are expected to always be appropriate. This includes both in and out of court and treatment. Maintaining appropriate behavior shows the progress you are making toward your recovery. Participant's children are expected to be quiet and under the control of the parent while in the courtroom or at other agencies.
4. Dress appropriately for Drug Court hearings and treatment sessions. Shoes must always be worn. Clothing bearing drug or alcohol-related themes, promoting or advertising alcohol or drug use, sexually explicit pictures or language, or gang affiliation is considered inappropriate. Sunglasses and hats are not to be worn inside Drug Court unless medically required. Your Case Manager or the Court Coordinator can provide clothing assistance if you need these resources.
5. Participation in gang activity or wearing of gang clothing or colors will not be tolerated.
6. Your attitude and behavior are important at all times. Do not make threats towards other participants or staff or behave in a violent or inappropriate manner. Violent or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Drug Court Team. This may result in termination from the program.
7. Your social and work associations are expected to be clean and sober people. Work at restaurants and other businesses that bring you into contact with alcohol or drugs are to be avoided.
8. Inappropriate sexual behavior or harassment towards other participants or staff will not be tolerated. Relationships of an intimate or sexual nature among Drug Court participants are strongly discouraged, as it diverts attention away from your recovery and can be disruptive in the treatment process. Drug Court participants are **required** to disclose any relationship with another Drug Court participant to their Drug Court Case Manager. Participants in a relationship with another participant will not be allowed to participate in the same group. Failure to disclose a relationship of any kind with another Drug Court participant will result in a sanction.
9. Cell phones and other electronic devices are to be **turned off** while you are participating in court as well as any treatment and case management session. If cell phones become a reoccurring issue in the court room, the Court Coordinator may collect cell phones at the beginning of court, and you may pick it back up after court has been dismissed.
10. Receiving another criminal charge or committing criminal acts while participating in Drug Court will result in a review and could be immediate grounds for termination from Drug Court. Report immediately any contact with law enforcement to your Drug Court Case Manager. This includes any traffic violations as well.
11. Submitting forged 12-step/community service forms will be grounds for termination



from Drug Court. This includes leaving meetings early.

12. **Written requests to travel out-of-county must be filed in the Drug Court file 7 days prior to travel with final consideration made by the Drug Court Judge.** Travel requests will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Phase 5 participants may travel out-of-county up to two nights without prior approval from the judge. A UA must be provided upon return. Phase 5 participants must submit a travel request for out-of-county travel lasting more than two nights. A UA must be provided upon return.
13. You must fill out a “Change of Circumstances” form and submit to your Case Manager every time there is a change in your address, phone number, employment, or sponsor. These changes must be pre-approved and must be submitted within 72 hours of the change(s). You must also inform the team of medication changes using the same form. Prior approval is not required for medication changes.

## **Compliance & Accountability**

### **Drug Court Compliance Components**

1. **Attendance** – Mandatory attendance is required for all Drug Court appearances and Drug Court services. Excusable absences require documentation from a physician, a verifiable legal issue, or other set of circumstances that are acceptable to your treatment provider, your Case Manager, and the Drug Court Team.
2. **Financial Responsibility** – You must pay court-imposed fees and restitution where applicable as set by the Drug Court Judge. Payments will be documented on your progress reports to the Drug Court Team and at each Drug Court appearance. At the beginning of phase five, you will meet with the Court Coordinator to discuss your financial situation. The Court Coordinator will help you determine if you qualify for a waiver of a portion of the Drug Court fee. Restitution can not be waived. Restitution and your Drug Court Fee must be paid in full before you can graduate.
3. **Participation** - All Drug Court services require you to actively participate and share information about yourself. Attendance alone is not the same as participation. During groups and individual sessions, you will be asked to share about yourself and respond to your group members when they share about themselves. You are also required to complete treatment assignments. For example, if you do not work on your MRT book and complete the exercises or other treatment homework assignments may result in a special therapeutic response from your treatment provider. If you continue to not complete assignments, you will be placed in non-compliance. You are required to follow treatment rules and recommendations. If you do not, it may result in a court response in the way of a sanction.
4. **Contract Compliance** - You will be expected to abide by all of the conditions set forth in the Drug Court contract, the treatment plan, and any other Drug Court conditions including direction from the Judge. Violation of any terms will immediately be reported



to the Drug Court Judge who will make the final decision regarding a course of action.

5. **Housing Requirements** – During phase one, you will not be allowed to be away from your home over night, under any circumstances. During phase two, you must have prior approval from the Drug Court Judge to be away from the home overnight, even in town. You can get Travel Request forms from your Drug Court Case Manager. They must be submitted directly to your Case Manager at least 7 days prior to the date you want to leave. During all other phases, participants will be allowed to stay overnight outside of their home without prior permission as long as it is in town. Travel requests will still need to be submitted to leave the county. Everyone in Drug Court is required to follow any house rules if they live in clean and sober housing. You must be pre-approved by the Court to move to a different home. You must notify your Drug Court Case Manager immediately if you've been evicted from your home or clean and sober housing. During all phases, you represent Yakima County Drug Court. Your behavior should reflect Drug Court standards, rules and expectations always.
6. **Criminal Activity-** It is important to recognize engaging in any criminal activity is a violation of the Drug Court Contract. These behaviors may be grounds for immediate termination from Drug Court.

### **Program Accountability**

Accountability has proven to be a very important aspect when treating people in early recovery. You will be held accountable to the Drug Court Contract and rules. Being held accountable means to be responsible for always following them. If you violate a rule, you will be held responsible for the violation. Consistency and reliability when it come to the Drug Court team's responses should be expected.

It is through this consistency and reliability that you will develop a strong working relationship with the Drug Court Team.

We always tell the people that come into our court that the two most important things you need to do is to be honest, and you show up! We cannot help you if you are lying to us. If it comes out that you were lying, a sanction with a sanction will be given. We also cannot help you if you do not show up. If you stop attending treatment sessions and miss court, the court may issue a warrant for your arrest. This may be grounds for termination from the Drug Court program.

### **Confidentiality**

1. Federal confidentiality laws, known as [CFR42 Part 2], require SUD treatment providers and Drug Court, to protect your confidentiality and your records. Our Drug Court Team may not identify a Drug Court client without the written consent of the Drug Court client, except as allowed by law.

Drug Court, as an organization, is considered a substance use disorder treatment program in a judicial program. Drug Court is comprised of several people or

organizations that are outside any specific substance use disorder program. It is necessary that each member of Drug Court be able to communicate with the other members about each participant. A proper disclosure request is used to obtain information about a Drug Court client. Drug Court conducts all status hearings in an open courtroom.

Therefore, you are required to sign an irrevocable Consent for Disclosure of Confidential Substance Use Disorder Information which allows the Drug Court Team, contracted Case Manager and work crew supervisor, your attorney, the Drug Court Prosecutor, the Drug Court Defender, the Drug Court Judge, Court Coordinator, and your treatment provider to receive information and communicate with each other. They are not allowed to divulge any information to third parties without written consent from the Drug Court participant.

You will agree to make available to the Drug Court Team information from other treatment agencies, medical or mental health professionals whose services you have previously used. You will also agree to extend information about your progress in Drug Court to other agencies that are supervising you.

2. All program compliance violations and illegal behavior will be immediately reported to the Drug Court Judge.

## **Sanctions & Incentives**

If you break the Drug Court rules, you will be sanctioned by the Judge. You could also be sanctioned for not making progress on your requirements. While we want to treat everyone the same, it does not always work that way. What works for one person, may not work for you. Additionally, you don't always know the full story when someone is being sanctioned. This is why sanctions may look different from one person to another.

There are a wide range of sanctions that the Drug Court Judge could order. Some sanctions could include verbal reprimand, community service, jail time, or possible termination from Drug Court. Honesty from all participants is expected. We also consider whether you were honest about your actions immediately when determining possible sanctions. Dishonesty will lead to more severe sanctions. If you continue to break the rule the sanctions will become more severe.

You will be rewarded for accomplishments in Drug Court. We want to recognize the effort and hard work that you have put in so that you can meet your goals and the program requirements. Incentives may include gift cards, books, recovery related items, or other items of client interest. Incentives are funded through the Drug Court fees or donated items from the community.

Getting your GED, a job, and a driver's license will be rewarded with incentives. You will also receive incentives when you complete level 2.1 IOP, complete MRT, and level 1.0 OP. If you were recommended to go through additional therapeutic groups, you will receive incentives when you complete those as well. Phasing up to the next phase will be rewarded. You may receive up to \$50.00 in gift card incentives in a year.

We also recognize that accomplishments do not always come in the form of completing a specific class or getting a certificate. We recognize when each person has made remarkable achievements as an individual. For some people, remember to be on time for appointments, checking the UA line every day and communicating with their Drug Court Case Manager is an amazing change in behavior. For these people, we also recognize and find ways to reward your hard work.

### **Medication Assisted Treatment**

At any course of your treatment, you may seek any federally recognized medication approved by the FDA for the treatment of your substance use disorder. These medications are called Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) or Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD). Drug Court will not deny admission into the therapeutic court program if you are prescribed MAT or MOUD.

If you are prescribed medications, including MAT or MOUD, you will need to sign a release to the prescribing provider. Your Drug Court Case Manager and MAT provider will need to communicate regularly to provide updated reports to the Drug Court Team. Any changes to your prescription will need to be reported to the Drug Court Team and documentation needs to be provided.

Medication compliance is a requirement for the Drug Court program. This means that if you choose to be on the MAT or MOUD program, you will need to take the medications as prescribed. If you decide that you no longer want to take the medication, you will need to discuss this with your doctor first and get approval to stop the medication in a safe way. Additionally, using your medication in any way or any amount other than prescribed will be reported to the prescriber. Sharing or selling your medication will not be tolerated and may be grounds for termination from the Drug Court program.

If you are interested in MAT or MOUD, talk with your Drug Court Case Manager to help you connect with an appropriate provider. Be sure to ask the provider about the options available to you as there are many medications. Being educated on the benefits of and side effects of each one will help you make an informed decision about what is best for you.

### **Termination**

The Drug Court Team and Judge will review your progress throughout the program. If you continuously break the rules or refuse to do what is asked of you, you will be given a termination notice. Termination notice will give you the opportunity to get back on track and start to make progress in the program. However, if you break ANY rules while you are on termination notice, you will be terminated from the Drug Court program.

New criminal activity, inappropriate behavior with Drug Court Team members or other Drug Court participants can result in immediate termination from the Drug Court program.

Upon termination from Drug Court, you may be placed into custody. Your case will be set for a stipulated trial on the Drug Court calendar in two weeks unless otherwise noted. Your original referring attorney will handle the stipulated trial and sentencing. The terms you agreed to in the Stipulation and Waiver Agreement are in effect for the termination process.

## **Graduation**

To successfully graduate from the Drug Court Program, you must complete all phase requirements. The court must receive written documentation that you completed all program goals in this handbook. Any additional goals assigned by the Drug Court Judge or Drug Court Team must also be completed and verified.

### **Requirements for Graduation:**

1. You must provide six months continuous months of negative UAs and breathalyzers if applicable.
2. You will need to pay off your court ordered restitution, if any was ordered. Your Drug Court fees must be paid in full or waived by the judge if you meet criteria to request a waiver.
3. Completion of MRT and SUD Treatment.
4. Six continuous months of full-time employment, full-time school attendance, full-time parenting with care of children, or a combination of these activities, as approved by the court.
5. Successful completion of the Drug Court requirements including your GED or High School Diploma, valid driver's license and any other goals that were set on your plan.
6. Successful completion of exit interview with the Drug Court Team.

Each graduation in Drug Court is a significant event. In recognition of the importance of your success, Drug Court will take the time to make graduation ceremonies reflect the significance of your accomplishment. For graduation, there is a certificate, key chain, party and public recognition. At the graduation, the Drug Court Judge will dismiss the pending charge(s). All Drug Court participants are required to attend all graduations, regardless of whether or not they are on the court docket for that day.

## Conclusion

Drug Court is based upon the understanding that Substance Use Disorders are a chronic, progressive disorder that can be fatal if left untreated, but it can be successfully treated. The success of this program is built on the fact that the period after arrest can provide a good opportunity for treatment and recovery from addiction. Recovery from your addiction will break the endless cycle using drugs and committing crimes. We understand the desperation that comes with going to jail and getting out just to do it all over again. That does not have to continue to be your story.

The Drug Court Team is here to help if you want it. During your time in the program, if you have questions or problems, we are always willing to do everything we can to support you. After your graduation, the Drug Court Team hopes that you will remain in contact with the program in the years ahead.

There is a Drug Court Alumni Group that we hope you engage with. Perhaps you could support or sponsor another person coming into Drug Court some day!

The Drug Court Team will support you in finding your path to recovery. We will stand by you while you figure out this new version of who you are in recovery. Becoming a productive and responsible person in the lives of your family, your children if you have them, and in the community is not always easy. You must be motivated to make this change and committed to a drug-free life. This will be hard work on your part. ***You are worth the effort.***

## Resource List

Drug Court Coordinator  
Yakima County Superior Court  
Yakima County Courthouse  
128 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Yakima, WA 98901  
509-574-2670

Yakima County Department of Assigned Counsel  
102 North 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Yakima, WA 98901  
509-574-1160

Yakima County Prosecuting Attorney Office  
Yakima County Courthouse  
128 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Rm 329  
Yakima, WA 98901  
509-574-1210

Merit Resources Services  
315 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Yakima, WA 98901  
509-469-9366

Comprehensive Healthcare  
402 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Yakima, WA 98902  
509-575-4084

Drug Testing Notification System  
PH: 509-402-4595  
URL: [meritresources.reliatrax.net/pub/testingtimes](https://meritresources.reliatrax.net/pub/testingtimes)

## Verification Receipt of Handbook

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this document, I am verifying that I have received a copy of the Yakima County Drug Court Participant Handbook. I agree to read the entire handbook. If I have difficulty with reading, I agree to have a family member or friend help me. I understand that I can also ask a member of the Drug Court Team for help.

I understand that this does not mean that I am a Drug Court Client. In no way is this a contract between the Yakima County Drug Court Program and me.

I also understand that, should I enter the Drug Court Program, I will be responsible for knowing the information that is in this handbook.

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Drug Court Team Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Team Member's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

*(This document must be placed in the petitioning client's court record. Please provide this to the Court Coordinator.)*