

Yakima County Superior Court

Drug Court

Referral & Admission Process

Operating Standards:

1. Our Drug Court Team and Program is guided by the Adult Treatment Court Best Practice Standards.
2. Our operating capacity depends on the availability of case managers and treatment options. In general, we operate with around 50-75 participants.
3. The Drug Court Program is no less than 18 months. Participants will go through five phases of the program; most participants complete the program between 18-24 months.
4. Restitution maximums are considered on an individual basis. A significant weight is placed on the petitioning person's ability to pay the restitution. (higher restitutions may be considered if the petitioner is able to demonstrate the ability to pay the restitution within the time frame of the 18-month program)

Referral and Admission Process:

1. Early referral and entry into the Drug Court Program is preferred, including referral before arraignment. However, it is not required.
2. The Defense counsel assigned to the case must complete the Referral Screening Worksheet and submit it to the Drug Court Prosecutor and Drug Court Defense Counsel.
 - a. Susie Silverthorn, Drug Court Prosecutor (Susie.silverthorn@co.yakima.wa.us)
 - b. Barry Morrison, Drug Court Defense Counsel (Office of Assigned Counsel) (barry.morrison@co.yakima.wa.us)

A copy can be found on our website, or can be submitted electronically at

<https://www.yakimacounty.us/FormCenter/Superior-Court-32/Drug-Court-Referral-Screening-Worksheet-147>

3. If deemed appropriate and the Prosecuting Attorney assigned to the case has agreed to the referral, the referral will be submitted to the Drug Court Team for screening.
 - a. Petitioners must undergo a screening process which includes a Drug Court Screening Interview, full SUD Assessment, and an ORAS Risk Assessment. Petitioners must be found to have a diagnosis for a Substance Use Disorder and meet the ORAS criteria for High Risk. Petitioners that do not meet these criteria will not be considered eligible for this program.
 - b. If the client is incarcerated at the County Jail, MERIT will schedule with Professional Visiting to complete these steps. If the client is no longer in custody,

they need to contact the Drug Court Case Manager at MERIT to schedule and complete the screening and assessment. Contact Information:

Shauna Archer, Drug Court Case Manager

Merit Resource Services

315 N. 2nd Street

Yakima, WA 98901

Ph: 509-469-9366

- c. If at any time during the referral process, the Drug Court Team decides that the petitioner is not appropriate or eligible for the program, the case will not be further considered, and the assigned defense counsel and prosecuting attorney will be notified.
4. To be formally accepted into the program, the petitioner will need to complete two full weeks of perfect compliance with the Phase I requirements of the drug court program. Phase requirements can be found in the Drug Court Handbook, also found on our website. The Drug Court Handbook will be provided to the petitioner at the first meeting with the Case Manager. The petitioner may be required to complete Residential Inpatient Treatment prior to starting the two weeks of compliance.
5. Once the Drug Court Team intends to accept the petitioner into the program, the assigned defense counsel will be notified and required to attend the drug court hearing on the acceptance day. The Defense Counsel will need to prepare and bring to the court hearing the following documents:
 - a. Drug Court Contract
 - b. Drug Court Stipulation and Waiver
 - c. Informed Consent for Disclosure
6. Once accepted into the program, the Drug Court Participant will have two weeks to opt out of the program and have their full rights reinstated. Past the two weeks, they are still allowed to opt out of the program, however, the Drug Court Contract and Stipulation and Waiver will remain binding.