

Guadalupe County CSCD Achieve Drug/Alcohol Court Program



Participant Handbook Guidelines and Program Information

The Mission of the Guadalupe County CSCD Achieve Drug/Alcohol Court Program is to enhance public safety by providing a judicially supervised regimen of treatment and innovative case management to Drug/Alcohol related offenders with the goal of returning sober, law-abiding citizens to society.

Welcome to the Achieve Drug/Alcohol Court Program

This handbook is designed to:

- Answer questions
- Address concerns
- Provide information about Drug/Alcohol Court

As a participant in Drug/Alcohol Court, you will be required to follow the instructions given in court by the Judge and comply with the treatment plan developed for you by your counselor and probation officer. This handbook will explain what is expected of you. It will also provide general program information.

Ask your probation officer or defense attorney to explain anything in this handbook that you do not understand!



What is Drug/Alcohol Court?

Drug/Alcohol Court is a special program within the Guadalupe County Criminal Justice System and is operated by the Guadalupe County CSCD (Adult Probation Department). This program is designed as a team approach to address a serious problem. It is a court-supervised program for those arrested on a drug and/or alcohol related offense. It is also for those with an addiction to alcohol and/or a controlled substance(s).

Drug/Alcohol Court involves frequent court appearances, random drug/alcohol testing, as well as group and individual counseling. Drug/Alcohol Court will award you for good and compliant behavior and impose sanctions and punishment for bad/negative behavior. All of the staff working in the Drug/Alcohol Court will assist you to be sure you understand what is expected of you.

Drug/Alcohol Court has been developed to help you achieve total abstinence from alcohol and illegal drugs. The program is designed to promote self-sufficiency and to return you to the community as a productive and responsible member.

The program is voluntary and is your personal choice.

The Drug/Alcohol Court Team

Drug/Alcohol Court is a unique program that involves working with a team of individuals who are dedicated to your recovery. The Drug/Alcohol Court team consists of:

- Judge
- County Attorney
- Treatment Providers
- Probation Officers
- Administrative Staff
- Assessment Specialist
- Local Law Enforcement

The program is voluntary and is your personal choice. The Team will be present to guide and assist you, but the final responsibility is yours. You must be motivated to make this change and commit to a drug/alcohol free life.

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I do?

DRUG/ALCOHOL COURT participants are required to sign a contract in court. This contract is an agreement between you, the Judge, and the drug court team. It explains what is expected of you and what will happen if you do not follow the rules. The Judge, your attorney and a probation officer will also sign the contract. Before you sign the contract, you will have an opportunity to review it with a defense attorney and have your questions answered. Drug/Alcohol Court participants are required to attend treatment, as directed by your probation officer and Judge, and to remain drug and alcohol free.

How long will I be in Drug/Alcohol Court?

Drug/Alcohol Court is a four-phase program that requires your participation for a minimum of fifteen-months. However, if you continuously progress and do well in the program, you could possibly be granted early termination at twelve months.

What's in it for me?

Fifteen-Month Probation Term

Drug/Alcohol Court gives you the opportunity to:

- Live an alcohol, drug and crime free life
- Rebuild family and community ties
- Participate in auxiliary programming such as support groups, job readiness, GED classes, etc.

A NEW BEGINNING

Drug/Alcohol Court offers you the chance to move forward in your life. Remember, there are many people who make up the Drug/Alcohol Court Team and they all want to see you succeed. If you take advantage of the assistance offered, you will discover many ways to make a better life for yourself and your family.

While we recognize that addiction is a treatable disease, it is important for you to remember that you are in Drug/Alcohol Court because of criminal behavior.

Steps to Success

“There's no elevator, you have to take the steps.”

You *WILL* be successful in this program if you follow these three simple rules:

BE HONEST: We can work through almost any problem together if you are truthful with us. You will *not* succeed in this program if you are dishonest with *yourself, your family or us.*

SHOW UP ON TIME: Respect the time of those who are trying to help you. If you are late to appointments, treatment and/or Court hearings, it is a signal that you are not serious about this program.

ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY: You are in this program due to your own actions. Take responsibility for what you have done and what you need to do. We will help you, however, sobriety is hard to achieve, especially when you don't want it for yourself.

Please know that you have a lot of support in your effort to get sober. The Drug/Alcohol Court Team is here to help, as well as other participants in our program. We hope that by working together we can help you live a safe, clean and sober life.

THE TREATMENT PLAN

Your treatment plan begins with an Orientation followed by 4 phases. Each phase consists of treatment goals, activities and requirements that you must meet in order to successfully complete your probation.

In all phases you must:

- Meet with your Probation Officer as directed
- Attend court sessions as directed
- Follow your treatment plan as directed

The Drug/Alcohol Team must recommend to the Judge that you are ready to move to the next phase.

Phase I (5 Weeks)

Phase I begins after you sign your Drug/Alcohol Court contract. Phase I is focused on helping you:

- Work towards an alcohol and drug free life
- Establish a foundation for abstinence

The objectives include:

- Detoxification and abstinence
- Referral and admission to treatment
- Early recovery work

To advance to Phase II, you must meet all the Phase I requirements, which include:

- Attend 2 court sessions
- Report to your probation officer weekly
- Participate in required treatment sessions
- Attend support group meetings as directed
- Remain abstinent from alcohol and illegal drugs for at least 30 consecutive days

Phase II

(4 Months)

Phase II will concentrate on:

- Stabilizing you in treatment
- Helping you confront underlying issues surrounding your addiction
- Motivating you to change behavior

Before advancement to Phase III, you must:

- Attend court as required (1 visit per month, unless compliance issues arise)
- Report to your probation officer twice a month
- Participate in required treatment sessions
- Be abstinent from drugs and alcohol for at least 90 consecutive days

**All Phase II participants are expected to meet higher expectations.
Relapses will be treated in a stricter manner.**

An example of a relapse could be someone who had problems with alcohol that was to give up alcohol and then later started drinking again, this drinking might be considered a *relapse*.

Phase III

(8 Months)

The focus of this phase is to:

- Help you rise to the challenge of recovery as a way of life
- Promote continued challenges towards self-sufficiency while you reconnect with the community
- Take responsibility for your actions

Before advancement to Phase IV, you must:

- Attend court as required (Every other month, unless compliance issues arise)
- Report to your Probation Officer based on risk/needs assessment
- Participate in required treatment sessions
- Be employed or attending school full-time
- Be abstinent from drugs and alcohol for at least 180 consecutive days

**All Phase III participants are expected to meet higher expectations.
Relapses will be treated in a stricter manner.**

Phase IV

(Optional – 2 Months)

The focus of this phase is to:

- Help ensure stability and sobriety

Graduation requirements include:

- Attending court every other month or as required
- Reporting to your Probation Officer as required
- Fulfillment of treatment plan goals
- Being employed or attending school full-time
- Completion of GED, if appropriate

Graduation – A time to celebrate your accomplishments

Once you have completed all the necessary requirements in Phase IV, you may be eligible for graduation from Drug/Alcohol Court and completion of your probation.

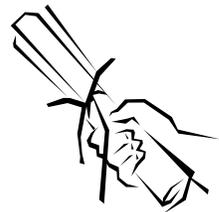
Recovery Requirements:

- Assuming responsibility for oneself
- Ability to make good choices

You will be able to invite your family and friends to join you at your Drug/Alcohol Court graduation Ceremony.

Life Change Requirements:

- Complete all Drug/Alcohol Court phases
- Progress toward vocational, educational and employment goals



WHAT ARE THE RULES OF DRUG/ALCOHOL COURT?

As a Drug/Alcohol Court participant, you will be required to abide by the following rules:

➤ **Cease all alcohol and drug related activity.**

You will not possess, sell, or use alcohol or illegal drugs. Any relapse by you involving alcohol or illegal drugs, must be reported to your Probation officer immediately.

➤ **Comply with drug and alcohol screening.**

You will be required to comply with regular drug testing. One of the primary goals of the **Achieve Drug/Alcohol Court Program** is to help you remain abstinent from alcohol and drugs. A positive test or admission of substance use may result in a sanction or change in treatment. Repeated substance use may result in you being terminated from the Drug/Alcohol Court Program.

You are responsible for any medication consumed without a doctor's prescription. There are some over the counter medications that might alter urine results due to ingredients.

You are responsible for reading all labels or consulting with your pharmacist or doctor before taking any medication.



Any medication – regardless whether it comes from a doctor or bought over-the-counter – must be cleared with your Probation officer in advance.

Although not every consumption of poppy seeds will test positive for opiates, clients are advised that they are responsible for ensuring that no poppy seeds are ingested. All positive results where a claim is made regarding poppy seeds will remain positive for opiates.

Drug tests will be conducted at the Guadalupe County CSCD and/or at your treatment facility. You will be tested throughout all 4 phases of Drug/Alcohol Court. **Failure to submit or appear when called for a drug test is the same as failing the test!**

➤ **Follow Your Treatment Plan.**

You must attend all probation, treatment and support services appointments. This includes counseling, educational sessions, and support group meetings.

➤ **Appear in Court As Scheduled.**

You will be required to appear in front of the Judge on a regular basis. The Judge will be given progress reports regarding your drug tests, attendance and participation in your treatment program. The Judge will ask you about your progress, and discuss any problems you are having. Drug/Alcohol Court is held on two Tuesday afternoons a month at the Guadalupe County Courthouse.

➤ **Be On Time.**

If you are late, you may not be allowed to attend and will be considered non-compliant.

Your treatment schedule will vary according to your progress. It is your responsibility to keep all scheduled appointments and arrive on time. You must review your treatment plan with your probation officer and follow it carefully.

➤ **Treat others with respect.**

You should respect the opinions and feelings of other people in Drug/Alcohol Court. Verbal or physical threats to anyone will not be tolerated. Any inappropriate behavior will immediately be reported to the Court and may result in a severe sanction or your termination from the program.

➤ **Dress appropriately for Court and Treatment sessions.**

- Shoes must be worn at all times.
- Belt must be worn with pants.
- Clothing bearing drug or alcohol related themes or promoting or advertising alcohol or drug use is considered inappropriate.
- Sexually suggestive clothing is inappropriate.
- Shirrtails must be tucked in.
- Sunglasses may not be worn inside the Court or at a treatment facility unless medically approved.

➤ **Be law abiding.**

You are required to refrain from any further violation of the law. New arrests, whether or not they lead to formal charges, may result in being terminated from the Drug/Alcohol Court Program. Any re-arrest must be reported to your probation officer immediately.

VIOLATIONS AND SANCTIONS

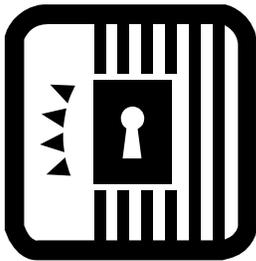
This program has been established to help you make a positive change in your life. Attendance at court and treatment, as well as meetings with your probation officer or support group is critical to your success. Therefore, failure to comply with Drug/Alcohol Court rules may result in Sanctions.

Possible Violations

- Missed drug test
- Positive drug test
- Watered down (“diluted”) drug test
- Non-participation in treatment program
- Missed meetings or other treatment requirements
- Termination from treatment program
- Missed court appearances

Possible Sanctions

Sanctions for Drug/Alcohol Court violations may include, but are not limited to:



- Additional recovery-related homework
- Increased drug testing
- Increased frequency of court appearances
- Community service
- Jail time
- House arrest, curfew or electronic monitoring
- Termination from Drug/Alcohol Court

Therapeutic interventions may be used, as appropriate, in conjunction with sanctions, including:

- Increased participation in counseling sessions
- Commitment to residential treatment
- Increased self-help meetings