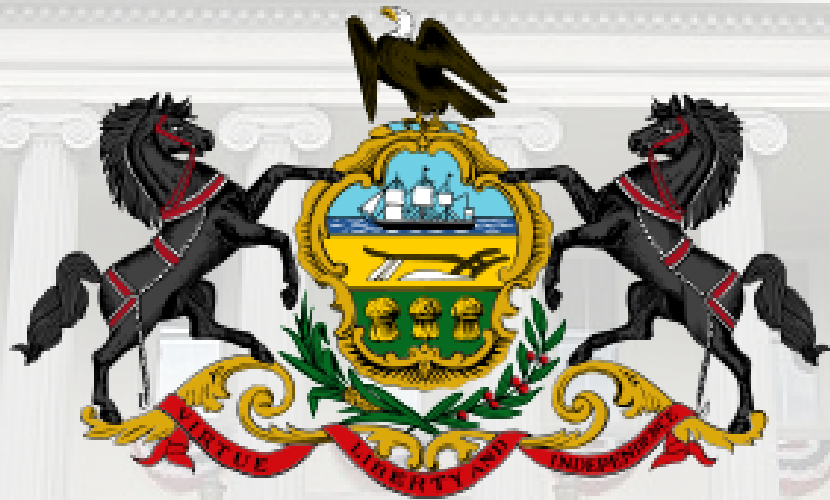


LAWRENCE COUNTY TREATMENT COURT



PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

This handbook belongs to:

WELCOME LETTER

Hello and welcome to the Lawrence County Treatment Court Program.

Congratulations on making the decision to enter our program and move towards obtaining and maintaining long-term recovery. We realize that you have had a difficult time lately, which led you to where you are now, and that this may seem overwhelming, but we are here to support and guide you.

Before we dive into the handbook and program itself, we wanted to make sure you are aware of a few important things:

- You may already be able to tell, but treatment court is very different from other court experiences.
- Our goal and the reason that we exist is to help you – what that looks like is different for each person.
- We truly want to keep you out of jail and clear your record of the case that brought you here.
- If you need help finding and keeping a stable place to live, we can help you with that.
- When the time is right, we will help you find gainful employment.
- We, as a team, are here to be with you every step of the way.
- We won't give up on you!

You may be thinking this sounds too good to be true, but that's how this program works. We only ask three things of you:

- You have to **SHOW UP!**
- You have to **TRY!**
- You have to be **HONEST!**

We have sat across from many people who were in your exact situation – feeling overwhelmed and not sure if you are ready to change. That's okay! If you show up to court and your other appointments, together we will deal with the rest and eventually it'll fall into place. Our team is ready to help you, even if you don't think you are ready.

If you are struggling, if you resume use, or you feel like you can't do it anymore, be honest and tell us about it. As long as you show up, try, and are honest, we will do everything we can to overcome the challenges you face.

We look forward to working with you & seeing your success!

The Lawrence County Treatment Court Team

YOUR HANDBOOK

This *Handbook* is designed to answer any questions and provide overall information about the Lawrence County Treatment Court Program ["The Program"]. You will be expected to follow the terms of the Program given by the Treatment Court Judge and comply with the case plans developed with the probation officer and treatment team. This *Handbook* will detail what is expected from each participant and will provide additional general program information.

PLEASE NOTE: The information contained in this *Handbook* may be subject to change. You will be kept informed of any changes as they occur and will be expected to comply with all changes.

WHAT IS TREATMENT COURT?

The Lawrence County Treatment Court Program is a five phase, intensive supervision program for non-violent adults who have been charged and plead guilty to all charges and/or stipulate to alleged revocation violations filed against them. Each phase is designed to help participants gain the skills they will need to be successful. The Treatment Court program is a collaborative effort between the Treatment Court Team, who work together and seek to provide a variety of programs and consistent supervision geared toward support and helping participants maintain a stable and sober life.

The Treatment Court Program is not a get out of jail free card or an easy program to get through. Participation in the program requires a serious commitment to sobriety and living a stable life. The program can be completed in a minimum of 15 months, but most participants will complete the program in about 18 to 24 months. The Team and treatment providers will equip participants with the tools necessary for success, but it is up to the individual participant to put those tools to use to benefit themselves in the short and long-term. The road will not be easy, but with the support of the Treatment Court Team, participants can and will be successful.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lawrence County Treatment Court is to advance public safety, reduce recidivism, lower costs to our community, and improve individual and community health by providing intensive, integrated, evidence-based court supervision and comprehensive treatment services for drug addicted individuals and/or individuals suffering from mental health issues.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Lawrence County Treatment Court is intended to utilize comprehensive and individualized treatment services on a cost-effective basis for a higher success rate of recovery and maintained focus of wellness. The Treatment Court goals are:

- Improve treatment outcomes for addicted individuals and individuals with mental health issues.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive treatment plan that is specific to the treatment needs of each program participant.
- Reduce recidivism among Treatment Court participants and promote public safety through intensive court supervision.
- Reduce costs to the community by providing an alternative to long-term incarceration for offenders who successfully graduate from the Treatment Court program.
- Engage the community in the recovery and stabilization process through education and awareness of the cycle of drug dependence and mental health instability and the role of the Treatment Court in providing a public safety solution.
- Provide ancillary and collateral services to equip the participant with the necessary resources to recovery, maintain wellness, and become a productive member of their community.

TREATMENT COURT TEAM

CORE TEAM MEMBERS

Honorable Dominick Motto

President Judge

Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas

Marc Zingaro

Supervisor & Treatment Court Coordinator

Lawrence County Adult Probation

Sarah McCowin

Treatment Court Probation Officer

Lawrence County Adult Probation

Attorney Luanne Parkonen

Assistant District Attorney

Lawrence County District Attorney's Office

Attorney Darrell Haeberle

Assistant Public Defender

Lawrence County Public Defender's Office

Vickie Thompson

Case Management Specialist

Lawrence County Drug & Alcohol Commission

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Cathy Clover, M.A.

Independent Licensed Psychologist

Guiding Changes Counseling, LLC

Rebecca Antonelli

Complex Care Coordinator

Lawrence County Mental Health &
Developmental Services

VETERANS SERVICES

Christina Lucas

Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator

United States Department of Veteran's Affairs

Jesse Putnam

Veterans Mentor Coordinator

Lawrence County Department of Veteran's Affairs

TEAM MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

TEAM MEETINGS

The Treatment Court Team meets on a weekly basis, as permitted by the Court schedule, just prior to Treatment Court Status Hearings. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss each participant's progress. The discussion includes, but is not limited to: drug test results, attendance with scheduled appointments, participation and cooperation with treatment and ancillary services, employment, and/or any other requirements that may have been imposed. In addition, any violations or compliance issues will be noted, and sanction/incentives will be determined.

STATUS HEARINGS

| | |
|--|---|
| VETERAN'S TRACK EVERY THURSDAY AT 8:45 AM | DRUG TREATMENT & MENTAL HEALTH TRACKS EVERY THURSDAY AT 10:30 AM |
|--|---|

All status hearings are held before the Honorable President Judge Dominick Motto, in courtroom #1.

Status Hearings are held on a weekly basis, as permitted by the Court schedule, following the Treatment Court Team Meetings. During these hearings, the Treatment Court Judge speaks with each individual participant about any changes, updates, issues, or concerns since their last court meeting with the Judge. During these court proceedings, sanctions & incentives may be imposed, as deemed appropriate. Status Hearings are held in open court, and all participants are present in the courtroom during the Judge's discussion.

REVIEW HEARINGS

If at any time a participant is in non-compliance with the Treatment Court Program rules, the Treatment Court Judge may schedule a Treatment Court Review Hearing. At this hearing, the prosecutor, defense counsel, and Treatment Court Probation Officer will meet with the Treatment Court Judge to discuss appropriate action to take regarding the case. These hearings are held before the Treatment Court Judge and will be scheduled as the court calendar permits. If a participant is incarcerated, a hearing will be held in a timely manner to ensure that the due process rights of the participant are observed.

PARTICIPANT CONTRACT

Participants will be provided with a copy of the Participant Contract that was signed upon entry into the Treatment Court Program. This Participant Contract has the rules & conditions that govern the Treatment Court Program. By signing this Contract upon entry, the participant indicates that they understand and agree to abide by them. Failure to agree and abide by these rules & conditions may result in appropriate action being taken, up to and including termination from the Treatment Court Program.

GROUPS & PEER SUPPORT MEETINGS

Treatment Court Participants are expected to comply with supervision requirements, engage in treatment recommendations, report for random drug testing, and participate in the following programming:

PARTICIPANT GROUP

**FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH @ 12 PM
@ KAUFFMAN'S KORNER (LCDAC)**

**This may be changed for participants to participate in various community events.*

Participant Group is a group for Treatment Court participants and alumni that is run by the case manager from Lawrence County Drug & Alcohol. Content for the group varies from month-to-month and may include various activities in the community or practical lessons for life skills.

Participants should be advised:

- It is the sole responsibility of the participant to be aware of the date of the group each month.
- If there is a change to the meeting, participants will be notified as soon as possible via text message and/or phone call.
- If a participant fails to attend this group, appropriate sanctions will be imposed at the court session.

MORAL RECONATION THERAPY (MRT)

**EVERY FRIDAY AT 9:00 AM*
ADULT PROBATION OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM**

**Veterans Track participants will engage in MRT group through the VA.*

Moral Reconciliation Therapy is a criminal thinking program established for individuals involved in the criminal justice system. The term "moral" refers to moral reasoning based on Kohlberg's levels of cognitive reasoning. The word "reconciliation" comes from the psychological terms "conative" and "conation," both of which refer to the process of making conscious decisions. MRT is a cognitive-behavioral treatment system that leads to enhanced moral reasoning, better decision making, and more appropriate behavior.

Participants should be advised:

- Participants will not start MRT group until the end of Phase 1, once stabilization has been established and will be informed by their probation officer when they will be starting.
- If there is a change to MRT group, or there is a need to cancel, participants will be notified as soon as possible via text message and/or phone call.
- Participants are expected to attend all sessions and engage accordingly.
- MRT typically takes 6-9 months to complete and must be completed prior to graduation from the Treatment Court Program.

PEER SUPPORT MEETINGS

Community-based peer support meetings have been proven to be a key component in the recovery process. Participants in the Lawrence County Treatment Court program are expected to attend meetings when deemed appropriate. Participants may choose whichever meeting and structure is appropriate for them, including but not limited to: Alcoholic Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Celebrate Recovery, Smart Recovery etc. Specific frequency of attendance will be determined by the D&A Case Manager, who will notify the Team of the requirement established for each individual. No more than ½ of the required meetings may be attended online without prior permission. Participants are required to track meeting attendance using MeetingMaker App and are bound by the conditions of use for said app. Failure to track and/or attend meetings will result in sanctions.

COURTROOM ETIQUETTE

While weekly Treatment Court proceedings are a more laid back & relaxed setting than a traditional court proceedings, the following rules will be in effect with regards to courtroom behavior and rules. Failure to comply with these rules for courtroom etiquette will result in the participant being sent home and it will be counted as an unexcused court absence. Appropriate sanctions will subsequently be imposed.

- ***Participants must show respect, stay alert, pay attention, and not talk during court proceedings.***
- Participants must arrive at the courthouse ***NO LATER than 15 minutes before court start time*** and be seated in the courtroom when court begins. Chronic tardiness will not be tolerated for any reason.
- Participants are strongly encouraged to bring family or peer support to status hearings. If bringing young children to court, please ensure that another adult is available to remove them from the courtroom, if necessary.
- Participants are required to dress appropriately for court & adhere to the following:
 - **NO** spaghetti straps or tank tops, muscle shirts, or shirts that expose the midriff
 - **NO** shirts with obscene words or pictures (including drug or alcohol related themes)
 - **NO** pants sagging below the waistline
 - Coats & outwear must be hung up or removed before entering the court room
 - **NO** unbuttoned shirts
 - **NO** hats, caps, or bandannas
 - **NO** shorts or tight-fitting pants
 - Leggings are **not** permitted unless worn with an appropriate length shirt
 - Work uniforms are acceptable attire for court, **only** if coming from or going to work
- Phone or electronic devices **must** be turned completely **OFF** and are not to be used in the courtroom.
- There is to be **NO** food or drink brought into the courtroom.
- There is to be **NO** chewing gum or chewing tobacco in the courtroom.
- Do **NOT** lean against the Judge's Bench when speaking with him.
- Refrain from using any profanity when speaking with the Judge.
- Speak clearly and directly when addressing the Judge.
- When addressing the Judge, refer to the Judge as Your Honor or Judge.
- The participants will remain in the courtroom until court is called to recess. If extenuating circumstances exist for which someone must be excused early, they must notify the Treatment Court Probation Officer or Coordinator prior to court being called to order. Transportation problems or scheduling conflicts are *not* cause to be dismissed early.
- All public health notices in effect must be observed (i.e. social distancing and mask wearing).

ATTENDANCE & ABSENCE POLICY

Participants are **required** to attend all court sessions, appointments, and treatment sessions as scheduled and show up on time. Failure to appear or being chronically late for scheduled court sessions, treatment sessions, or other appointments will result in appropriate sanctions being imposed. If you need to reschedule an appointment, you must notify the person with whom you have the appointment at least 24 hours in advance.

Work, schedule conflicts, and transportation issues **are not** an excuse for missing or re-scheduling appointments. In the event of a medical or other true emergency, participants must submit documentation in writing to the Treatment Court Probation Officer no later than 48 hours after the missed appointment or court appearance. Failure to do so may also result in a sanction.

PHASES

Treatment Court participants are required to engage in a five-phase treatment model designed to transition the offender to living a stable life. Each phase of the program has specific elements and program criteria that must be completed prior to advancing phases. The probation officer will discuss these requirements in more detail at the start of each phase. The following requirements are not exhaustive and additional requirements may be imposed on an as-needed basis. The timeframes/frequencies in the below charts are to be used as guidelines only. Discretion to change the frequency of appointments remains with the Treatment Court Team.

| | | | | |
|--|------------------|--|---------------------------------|---|
| Phase 1 – Acute Stabilization | | | Minimum Length: 60 days | Sobriety Time: 14 consecutive days |
| Court Frequency: | Weekly | Case Management: | As scheduled | <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a case plan |
| Probation Reports: | 1x/week | Recovery Support: | As scheduled | <input type="checkbox"/> Obtain mental health assessment |
| Home Visits: | Monthly | Participant Group: | Monthly | <input type="checkbox"/> Obtain medical assessment/physical |
| Random drug testing | | Adhere to treatment recommendations | | <input type="checkbox"/> Address housing needs |
| Comply with supervision | | Start to change people, places, & things | | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Hours Community Service |
| Phase 2 – Clinical Stabilization | | | Minimum Length: 90 days | Sobriety Time: 30 consecutive days |
| Court Frequency: | Weekly | Case Management: | As scheduled | <input type="checkbox"/> Update case plan |
| Probation Reports: | 1x/week | Recovery Support: | As scheduled | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Hours Community Service |
| Home Visits: | Monthly | Participant Group: | Monthly | <input type="checkbox"/> Begin criminal thinking program |
| Random drug testing | | Engage with treatment programming | | <input type="checkbox"/> Address medical needs |
| Comply with supervision | | Start building a recovery support system | | <input type="checkbox"/> Focus on peer support groups |
| Phase 3 – Prosocial Habilitation | | | Minimum Length: 90 days | Sobriety Time: 45 consecutive days |
| Court Frequency: | Bi-weekly | Case Management: | As scheduled | <input type="checkbox"/> Update case plan |
| Probation Reports: | Every other week | Recovery Support: | As scheduled | <input type="checkbox"/> Gain employment/schooling |
| Home Visits: | Monthly | Participant Group: | Monthly | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Hours Community Service |
| Random drug testing | | Engage with treatment | | <input type="checkbox"/> Establish a prosocial activity |
| Comply with supervision | | Continue building a support system | | <input type="checkbox"/> Continue criminal thinking program |
| Demonstrate continued changing of people, places, and things | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Sign a payment plan with APO |
| Phase 4 – Adaptive Habilitation | | | Minimum Length: 90 days | Sobriety Time: 60 consecutive days |
| Court Frequency: | Monthly | Case Management: | As scheduled | <input type="checkbox"/> Update case plan |
| Probation Reports: | Every 3 weeks | Recovery Support: | As scheduled | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain employment/schooling |
| Home Visits: | Monthly | Participant Group: | Monthly | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Hours Community Service |
| Random drug testing | | Engage with treatment | | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain prosocial activity |
| Comply with supervision | | Utilize recovery support system | | <input type="checkbox"/> Continue criminal thinking program |
| Demonstrate continued changing of people, places, and things | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Remain compliant w/ payment plan |
| Phase 5 – Continuing Care | | | Minimum Length: 6 months | Sobriety Time: 90 consecutive days |
| Court Frequency: | Monthly | Case management: | As needed | <input type="checkbox"/> Establish continuing care plan |
| Probation Reports: | 1x/month | Recovery Support: | As needed | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain employment/schooling |
| Home Visits: | Monthly | Participant Group: | Every other month | <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain prosocial activities |
| Random drug testing | | Complete treatment requirements | | <input type="checkbox"/> Complete criminal thinking program |
| Comply with supervision | | Maintain recovery support network | | <input type="checkbox"/> Remain compliant w/ payment plan |
| Demonstrate continued changing of people, places, and things | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> Submit graduation application |

PHASE ADVANCEMENT

In order to advance phases, participants must complete an *Application for Phase Advancement*, which is given to them by the Treatment Court Probation Officer when appropriate. The *Application for Phase Advancement* is then presented to the Treatment Court Team for review and final decision. If the application is approved, the Participant will be phased up at the next court session, barring any significant infractions in that period of time. Participants must be compliant with Phase requirements and payment plan (if required) in order to advance.

GRADUATION CRITERIA

Participants must meet the following minimum criteria in order to successfully complete the Treatment Court program:

- Successful completion of all program requirements;
- Compliance with payment plan established with the Adult Probation Office;
- Continued sobriety during the final phase of the Treatment Court program;
- No missed court dates, treatment sessions, case management appointments, or Participant Groups within the last Phase of the program;
- A positive recommendation by the Treatment Court Team members;
- Completion of an aftercare plan with case manager; and,
- Completion of a graduation application.

When an individual is considered eligible for graduation, the Treatment Court Officer will provide the participant with an *Application for Graduation*. This application, similar to those required for Phase Advancements, will consist of a series of questions regarding the participation within the program and the progress the individual has made. The application also consists of a writing prompt, for which the participant will use to write a speech for their graduation ceremony to present to the other participants and guests.

EXIT INTERVIEWS

Upon completion of the Treatment Court program, whether successful or unsuccessful, the Treatment Court Coordinator will conduct an exit interview with the participant. The interview will be documented; however, the participant's identity will remain anonymous. The interview will consist of questions that will help the team review the Program's effectiveness. Participants are urged to provide honest feedback during this interview, and their answers will not have any bearing on their case.

EMPLOYMENT

The schedule of participants in the beginning stages of the Program is extremely busy and rigorous, and during this time, employment is ***strongly discouraged for phases 1 & 2***. If a participant must work in order to support themselves and/or their household, they must discuss it with their probation officer before accepting work. The Probation Officer will discuss this with the remainder of the Treatment Court Team. Hours may be limited.

Due to the inability to work, participants are not required to make payments on outstanding court costs, fines, and restitution in the ***Lawrence County Court of Common Pleas*** until they are entered into Phase II of the Treatment Court Program and are encouraged to gain employment. This moratorium on payments ***does not apply*** to court costs & fines owed to any Magisterial District Justices, court costs owed in other counties, and/or child support owed.

Participants may be required to complete a *Work Release Application* at any point during the program when they gain employment.

INCENTIVES, SANCTIONS, & SERVICE ADJUSTMENTS

At each status hearing, participants may be subject to incentives, sanctions, supervision responses, or therapeutic responses based on their performance and program compliance for the reporting period. The Treatment Court Team uses these tools to treat the whole person and motivate participants to change.

INCENTIVES & SANCTIONS

Incentives are used as a means to increase engagement, reinforce prosocial behavior, and development of new skills. Incentives are meant to help participants understand what positive behaviors look like and promote engagement in the program and in treatment. Some target behaviors that are reinforced through incentives can include: showing up, timeliness, honesty, negative drug screens, phase promotion, treatment progress, sobriety milestones, helping others, recovery support achievements, and prosocial achievements. Incentives may include, but are not limited to: fishbowl drawing, gift cards, certificates, weekly All-Star list, entries into a quarterly drawing, Decision Dollars, and judicial accolades.

Sanctions are utilized to decrease or stop undesired behaviors. Participants are educated upon admission to the program of the consequences for noncompliant behavior. Non-compliance is addressed in court with the appropriate graduated sanctions. Sanctions increase in severity or failure to abstain from drug use, attend required treatment, absconding, or by failure to comply with supervision and/or program rules. Sanctions are distributed according to proximal and distal behaviors. Failure to engage in proximal behaviors received more intensive sanction than failure to engage in distal behaviors. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to: community services hours, curfew, and house arrest. Incarceration can be used as a sanction in response to serious infractions, illegal activity, or continued non-compliance that has not been corrected with other mechanisms available to the Team.

SERVICE ADJUSTMENTS

Formerly known as therapeutic responses and supervision responses, service adjustments address the underlying case for a certain behavior, treat the behavior, and aim to teach new skills. They are designed to help participants understand the need to change, how to change, and how to learn new behaviors. It is important to note that therapeutic responses are NOT therapy/counseling. Therapeutic responses can be utilized as a response to both positive and negative behaviors, and may include, but are not limited to: Clinical re-assessment, level of care change based on clinical assessment, essays, oral presentations, thinking report, behavior chain, homework, volunteer hours. Supervision (also known as monitoring) provides crucial information about client behavior and progress and includes supervision by probation and case management as a means to hold participants accountable. These responses can be implemented in response to positive and negative behaviors. Supervision responses can include but are not limited to: increase or decrease in court appearances, home or office visits with probation, and/or drug testing. It can also include GPS monitoring/house arrest and implementation of curfew in response to negative behavior.

SUPERVISION PROTOCOL

Supervision is a shared responsibility among all members of the Treatment Court Team, which is achieved through effective collaboration, decision-making, and rapid response to conditions that may lead to relapse or further criminal activity by program participants. Unique to the Treatment Court model is the active, personal involvement of the Treatment Court Judge on a weekly basis with each of the program participants.

The primary responsibility for day-to-day supervision of program participants rests upon the Treatment Court Probation Officer. The Probation Officer will develop and individualized supervision plan with each participant enrolled in the program. Working in collaboration with the Treatment Court Team, the probation officer will meet with each participant on a regularly scheduled basis and report his/her status at the weekly Treatment Court Team meeting. The Probation Officer will be responsible for random drug testing, monitoring compliance with phase requirements, as well as submitting weekly reports for review at team meetings.

All members of the Treatment Court Team will keep the Probation Officer informed of any conditions that might negatively impact the capacity or ability of the Treatment Court Program to successfully monitor and supervise participants.

DRUG TESTING PROTOCOL

Frequent, random drug screening is a critical component to the Treatment Court Program. Participants may be tested on scheduled appointment dates, prior to Treatment Court status hearings, or they may be called in randomly through phone call, text message, or the color-coded drug testing system.

Non-compliance with testing such as failure to report, failure to produce a urine sample, or adulterated samples are counted a positive screen, and reported to the Treatment Court Judge. Refusal to submit to drug testing is considered a positive result. Confirmed adulterated drug screens result in a Treatment Court Review Hearing and possible termination from the program. Adulterated drug screens may also result in charges being filed with the Lawrence County Sheriff's Department and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

To promote the validity of the sample, all urine collection will be observed by a staff member of the same biological gender. The observer will give specific instructions to the participant on how to give the urine sample.

The participant will be screened for several drugs of abuse, including alcohol and prescription medication. Results of all drug screens are recorded at the time of testing. Denied positive results are confirmed through laboratory testing. All costs of laboratory confirmed drug screens are the responsibility of the participant.

Participants taking prescription medications must provide proof from the prescribing doctor that the medication is necessary for treatment. If the participant fails to provide this information, positive tests, regardless of legal prescription, will be sanctioned in the same manner as all positive tests. The participant must provide complete medical information with the name of the medication, how administered, milligrams, amounts, and times of administration, and a copy of the prescriber information upon admission or at any time during participation the Treatment Court Program.

RANDOM DRUG TESTING

Lawrence County Treatment Court uses a color-coded system for random drug testing, which is assigned based off the current phase in the program.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- You must call **(724) 901-1077** between **7:30 AM-9:00 AM - DAILY (M-F)**
- The message will indicate what COLOR is to report for that particular day.
- If you call late, you will receive a message indicating that you are late and it will be considered a missed/positive test.
- DO NOT CALL the probation office and asking what color was called if you did not call in a timely manner.
- If your color is called to report for a random drug test, you must be in the probation office **no later than** 11 AM and ready to produce a urine sample.
- If there is no testing, but you have a scheduled office visit, you must still report for your scheduled appointment, unless otherwise instructed by the Probation Office.
- Working or transportation issues **do not** excuse reporting for a random drug test.

RANDOM DRUG TESTING COLORS ARE BASED OFF OF CURRENT PHASE:

- **PHASE 1/2** RED
- **PHASE 2/3** BLUE
- **PHASE 4** GREEN

MEDICATION & MEDICATED ASSISTED TREATMENT

The Lawrence County Treatment Court **prohibits** the use of addictive medications or substances by participants during their involvement with the program. This includes, but is not limited to the use of the following:

- Narcotic pain medications (i.e. Vicodin, Percocet, OxyContin, etc.)
- Muscle relaxers & sleep aids (i.e. Flexeril, Soma, Ambien, etc.)
- Narcotic anxiolytic/benzodiazepine medications (i.e. Xanax, Neurontin, Klonopin, etc.)
- Stimulants (i.e. caffeine pills, Adderall, Dexedrine, etc.)
- Any over-the-counter medication that contains alcohol (i.e. cough medicine)

The use of any prescription or physician-authorized substances will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis within the Treatment Court Program, and may require additional assessments, reviews, or screenings by medical and/or mental health professionals to determine suitability for the interested individual. You are advised to disclose all prescriptions and authorized substances in advance to your Treatment Court Probation Officer or Case Management Specialist in order to avoid any disruption or delays to your treatment program. You are required to sign proper releases at the medical provider and prescriptions may have to be obtained from an approved physician supervised program.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT

The Community Service Project is a program that requires Treatment Court participants to provide unpaid work that is aimed at giving something back to the local communities and repay the community for the wrongs they have done, in a positive way. The project is not merely the completion of community service hours, but rather a project that is chosen by one or more Treatment Court participants to contribute their skills and/or labor to help improve the community.

Community service projects must be directed to assisting the non-profit community in Lawrence County, PA. Some examples of agencies are provided as a reference point. Participants must contact the agency of their choosing to confirm if their services are needed prior to submission of their proposal. All project locations must be approved by the Treatment Court Team prior to starting.

The Community Giveback Project must include a **minimum** of 60 hours over the course of phases 1-4 of Treatment Court (15 hours per phase). If a participant is unemployed, and they are in Phase 3 or later, they will be required to complete a minimum of 15 additional hours towards their project per week until they gain employment or enroll in an educational program. Participants may have community service hours waived via fishbowl drawing, buy “purchasing” them with Decision Dollars, or via team agreement. The number of hours that may be waived is 30 (5 per phase in Phases 1 & 2 and 10 per phase in Phases 3 & 4). Designated community service hours must be completed before Participants are able to advance phases.

Community service hours imposed as the result of a sanction may NOT be completed as part of the Community Service Project.

FEES & FISCAL MANAGEMENT

There is a one-time Treatment Court Program fee of \$600 to participate in the program. In addition to this, standard court costs, fines, and restitution are assessed, as well as a \$25/month administrative fee. When directed by the Treatment Court Officer, participants will enter into a payment plan to pay these costs, fines, & restitution. Compliance with a payment plan is a requirement for graduation.

Participants are further responsible for payment of any positive drug tests and fees associated with laboratory confirmation that is returned positive. Should house arrest with electronic monitoring be required, the participant shall be responsible for all fees associated with the program, including the current per diem fee and a one-time administration fee.

In the event of termination from the Lawrence County Adult Treatment Court Program, regardless of the reason, all costs and fees paid to the date of the participant’s termination are non-refundable. In the event of termination or withdrawal, all unpaid costs and fees outstanding at the date of termination or withdrawal are due and payable; these will be added to any outstanding costs, fees, and/or restitution at the time of sentencing.

PARTICIPANTS RIGHTS & GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

When a participant has a complaint, or feels their rights are being violated as a result of their participation in the Lawrence County Treatment Court Program, they may initiate the following grievance procedure: submit a complaint, in writing, to the Treatment Court Coordinator, Lawrence County Adult Probation & Parole Department, 430 Court Street, New Castle, PA 16101.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: How long will I be in this program?

A: The program is, on average, 18-24 months in length, but it may take longer depending on individual needs and progress. Time may also vary depending on the graduation schedule for the time you are scheduled to graduate.

Q: I don't want to be in Treatment Court anymore. Can I get out of the program?

A: We do not want to see anyone leave the program, but sometimes the program is not best suited for everyone. Participation in the Treatment Court program is entirely **voluntary**, and you may voluntarily withdraw at any time by completing a "Voluntary Withdraw Colloquy". You must consult with your defense counsel prior to submitting this form. When voluntarily withdrawing from the program, the guilty plea entered at the time of admission into the program will stand, and a sentencing recommendation or probation/parole violation recommendation will be submitted to the Judge by the Assistant District Attorney.

Q: I missed my random drug test, now what?

A: It is NOT the end of the world! Call the Treatment Court Probation Officer **IMMEDIATELY**. The missed drug test will still be counted as a positive, but reaching out and being honest is the first step in getting back on track.

Q: My employer doesn't want me to leave for appointments, court, or drug testing. What should I do?

A: Court appearances, appointments with probation & case management, treatment sessions, and random drug testing are required for participation in the program. When you indicate to your supervising officer that you have possible employment, you will be given a Work Release application that must be turned in. This packet includes information for your employer about the program and the Probation Officer or Coordinator will contact your employer and explain the program requirements to them. If you are employed, there is flexibility to decrease your court appearances so that you are not required to attend weekly (unless otherwise instructed). Your probation Officer is also able to provide a work excuse for court appearances and appointments. Prospective employers that are not willing to be flexible with the demands of the program should be taken into consideration by the participant as repeatedly missing appointments, court, or drug testing could lead to incarceration and/or removal from the program.

Q: I am struggling with a return to use, but I am afraid of going to jail. What should I do?

A: Show up & be honest! Go back and read the "welcome letter" contained on page 1 in this Handbook. Honesty will always be the best policy when it comes to the Treatment Court Program & the biggest component to achieving success. If you are struggling with use, call your D&A case manager **immediately** to discuss if a higher level of treatment is necessary. After you speak with the case manager, call your probation officer and discuss your situation with them (or better yet, call while you are with your case manager). The Treatment Court Team is here to help you so that instances of use and relapse decrease in frequency, and to teach you the skills needed on how to avoid them. In the event that use happens, our goal is to help you learn how to deal with it. The Treatment Court Team understands that use is going to happen, but it how you react to it that makes all the difference. While we cannot promise you will not be incarcerated due to use, it is highly dependent on how you handle the situation, what phase you are in, and how many occurrences of use there have been, but we do what we can to avoid incarceration in these situations.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



LAWRENCE COUNTY
DRUG & ALCOHOL

20 E. Washington Street
2nd Floor
New Castle, PA 16101
(724) 658-5580

<https://www.lawsca.org/>



130 West North Street
New Castle, PA 16101
(724) 652-9000

<https://humanservicescenter.net/>



241 West Grant Street
New Castle, PA 16101
(724) 658-7258

<https://lccap.org/>



VA Butler Health Care
353 North Duffy Road
Butler, PA 16001
(724) 287-4781

Lawrence County
Department of Veteran's Affairs
430 Court Street
New Castle, PA 16101
(724) 656-2180



AARON MICHAEL CANGEY
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

<https://www.aaronmichaelcangeymemorialfoundation.org/>

HANDBOOK ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the *Lawrence County Treatment Court Participant Handbook*. I understand that it is my responsibility to read the contents and understand the rules of the program set forth in this *Handbook* and in the *Participant Contract* which I previously signed. I agree to the requirements of the program and possible consequences of not complying with the rules & regulations, directives of the Treatment Court Team, and/or orders of the Court.

Participant Signature

Witness Signature

Printed Name

Position

Date

Date