



Faribault, Martin & Jackson County Problem Solving Courts

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What is an Adult Drug Court?

A specially designed criminal court calendar or docket, the purposes of which are to achieve a reduction in recidivism and substance abuse among nonviolent substance abusing offenders and increase the offenders' likelihood of successful habilitation. Interventions include early, continuous and intensive judicially supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug testing, community supervision, and the use of appropriate sanctions, incentives and habilitation services (Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2005).

Who is eligible? Non-violent felons with a crime related to their drug or alcohol use that are diagnosed as chemically dependent who are at risk of going to prison due to their chemical use.

What is Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC)?

Family Dependency Treatment Court is a juvenile or family court docket for cases of child abuse or neglect in which parental substance abuse is a contributing factor. Judges, attorneys, child protection services, and treatment personnel unite with the goal of providing safe, nurturing, and permanent homes for children while simultaneously providing parents with the necessary support and services they need to become drug and alcohol abstinent. Family Dependency Treatment Courts aid parents or guardians in regaining control of their lives and promote long term stabilized recovery to enhance the possibility of family reunification within mandatory legal timeframes (Huddleston, et al., 2005).

Who is eligible? Parents with drug abuse or dependency issues whose children are in out-of-home placement, or at risk of placement, due to their chemical use.

What is a Veterans Court?

Veterans Treatment Courts use a hybrid integration of Drug Court and Mental Health Court principles to serve military veterans, and sometimes active-duty personnel. They promote sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response that involves collaboration with the traditional partners found in Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare networks, Veterans Benefits Administration, State Departments of Veterans Affairs, volunteer veteran mentors, and organizations that support veterans and veterans' families (Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2010).

Who is eligible? Veterans with substance abuse and mental health issues on probation for a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony charge in need of added support and accountability.

What's different about a problem solving court?

- Participants are in treatment longer and more likely to complete treatment
- Participants see a judge on a regular basis, as often as weekly in some courts, so that the judge can hold them accountable and monitor their progress
- Regularly and randomly tested for drug and alcohol use
- Rewards for doing well and swift sanctions for failing to meet obligations
- ***Drug Courts save money, reduce crime and save lives!*** For every dollar spent on drug court, the criminal justice system saves at least \$2.21. The community saves as much as \$12 per dollar spent on drug court (NADCP).

FMJ Adult Drug Court Data

Current participants accepted into the adult drug court: 24

- 3 with Jackson County criminal files
- 2 with Faribault County criminal files
- 20 with Martin County criminal files
- 1 with a criminal file outside of FMJ

FMJ Adult Drug Court Graduates: 45

- 10 Jackson County
- 20 Martin County
- 15 Faribault County

FMJ Adult Drug Court Terminates: 24

- 5 Jackson County
- 17 Martin County
- 2 Faribault County

24% of drug court graduates have committed a new crime since graduation

58% of drug court terminations released from prison since termination have committed a new crime

Nationally 60-80% of criminal drug abusers re-offend within 3 years of release from prison (National Institute of Justice)

FMJ FDTC Data

Current participants accepted into the program: 5

- 1 Faribault County
- 4 Martin County

FMJ FDTC Graduates: 9

- 5 Jackson County
- 1 Martin County
- 3 Faribault County

FDTC Terminates: 14

- 5 Jackson County
- 5 Martin County
- 4 Faribault County

There have been two new CHIPS filings, affecting three graduates in Faribault County. Two of these parents appear to be able to retain custody of their children. One will not.

Adult Drug Court - Mentor Court

FMJ's Adult Drug Court has been selected to serve as a mentor court, one of ten nationally. The mentor court program is a collaboration between the National Drug Court Institute and the Bureau of Justice Assistance within the Office of Justice Programs at the Department of Justice and the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Mentor courts serve as models for individuals and court teams interested in starting an adult drug court or for established courts interested in learning innovative practices. FMJ is proud to serve in this capacity for the next three years.

In return for providing mentoring, the National Drug Court Institute provides FMJ with two all expenses paid trips to the National Drug Court Conference for the next three years as well as a stipend to cover costs associated with serving as a mentor court. FMJ looks forward to meeting drug court professionals from around the country as they visit and learn from our program.