

20TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
CHARLOTTE COUNTY
ADULT MENTAL HEALTH

PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Charlotte County Mental Health Court to increase the safety of the public as well as improve the quality of life for individuals that reside in Charlotte County with a serious and persistent mental illness or co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorder that have involvement with the criminal justice system by providing accessible and quality treatment and support services at an affordable cost to the individual.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Charlotte County Mental Health Court program is a court-supervised mental health treatment program for individuals over 18 years old, who have a pending felony or misdemeanor case and a mental health disorder. (See full eligibility criteria on the next page.) It is a post-adjudication program, meaning all defendants who enter the program must enter a plea and be sentenced into the program as a special condition of probation. Entry into the program is voluntary. However, once an individual has been sentenced, they may not voluntarily withdraw from the program without facing a violation of probation. Those individuals, who are determined to be both legally and clinically appropriate for the program, and wish to participate, will sign a contract with the terms of their plea and agree to follow all program rules and requirements. This handbook contains information about the rules, requirements, and expectations.

A treatment plan will be developed to meet your individual needs and will be reviewed with you and updated frequently. Additionally, the program includes self-help recovery support group meetings, case management, regular court appearances, random drug testing, and reporting to probation. These requirements are based on program assessments, case planning, treatment recommendations, and the individual needs and abilities of each participant.

THE TEAM

The Mental Health Court Team combines court supervision with mental health treatment and is made up of members from the criminal justice system and a treatment provider. The Charlotte Behavioral Health Center is the contracted treatment provider for Charlotte County's Mental Health Court Program. The team meets every week to discuss participant progress. The team decides incentives and sanctions, when a participant is eligible to phase-up and move-on, or if a participant should be terminated from the program. The team includes:

- Judge
- Administrative Office of the Courts Coordinator
- Clinicians
- Case Managers
- Peer Support Specialists
- State Attorney's Office Prosecutor
- Public Defender's Office Defense Attorney
- Public Defender's Office Disposition Specialist
- Probation

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The following criteria are intended to be a guide for those considering making a referral to Mental Health Court. If there are any criteria that you might not meet, you are still encouraged to speak to your attorney about making a referral. Each case will be considered on an individual basis, and your case may include circumstances that would permit your entry to the program.

- 18 years of age or older
- Resident of Charlotte County, or willing to reside in Charlotte County for the duration of the Mental Health Court program (minimum of 12 months)
 - Transfers to or from another Florida county may be possible, and are determined on a case-by-case basis
- Legally appropriate as determined by the State Attorney and Florida Statutes Charge(s) must not be a sexual or sexually-motivated offense
 - Must score to 60 points or fewer on scoresheet
- Clinically appropriate as determined by the treatment provider
 - Must undergo a clinical evaluation to verify a mental health disorder
- Regarding any medical conditions, a participant must be willing to consent to sign all necessary medical releases to allow team members to coordinate care with prescribing physician(s) for physical health, mental health, and substance use disorder needs
- Participant must be able to comply with all rules set forth in this handbook, including attendance at all treatment session, self-help meetings, frequent drug testing, and payment of restitution to any victims.

EXCLUSIONARY CRITERIA

- Immigration hold
- Hold or detainer for any other jurisdiction
 - You are encouraged to speak with your attorney to see if this can be addressed to return you to eligibility
- Registered sex offender or sexual predator
- Victim(s) reasonably withhold consent to allow entry to Mental Health Court
- Charge(s) carries a statutory minimum mandatory prison sentence

PHASE REQUIREMENTS

Phase 1:

- Minimum of 30 Days
- Random Drug and Alcohol Testing
- Random Home Checks
- Follow all Probation Instructions
- Follow all Treatment & Case Management Instructions
- Participate in Treatment as Determined by Your Needs
- Weekly Court Appearances
- Possible curfew 10:00pm-6:00am
- Minimum of 14 Days without a sanction to advance

Phase 2:

- Minimum of 60 Days
- Random Drug and Alcohol Testing
- Random Home Checks
- Follow all Probation Instructions
- Follow all Treatment & Case Management Instructions
- Participate in Treatment as Determined by Your Needs
- Weekly Court Appearances
- Drug Offender Probation
- Possible curfew 10:00pm-6:00am
- Consistent Restitution Payments (if applicable)
- Minimum of 30 Days of Sobriety to advance
- Minimum of 14 Days without a sanction to advance

Phase 3:

- Minimum of 90 Days
- Random Drug and Alcohol Testing
- Random Home Checks
- Follow all Probation Instructions
- Follow all Treatment & Case Management Instructions
- Participate in Treatment as Determined by Your Needs
- Bi-Weekly Court Appearances
- Drug Offender Probation
- Possible curfew 10:00pm – 6:00am
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- Consistent Restitution Payments (if applicable)
- Minimum of 30 Days of Sobriety to advance
- Minimum of 14 Days without a sanction advance

Phase 4:

- Minimum of 90 Days
- Random Drug and Alcohol Testing
- Random Home Checks
- Follow all Probation Instructions
- Possible curfew 10:00pm–6am
- Follow all Treatment & Case Management Instructions
- Participate in Treatment Determined by Your Needs
- Tri-Weekly Court Appearances
- Consistent Restitution Payments (if applicable)
- Minimum of 30 Days of Sobriety to advance
- Minimum of 14 Days without a sanction to advance

Phase 5:

- Minimum of 90 Days
- Random Drug and Alcohol Testing
- Random Home Checks
- Follow all Probation Instructions
- Follow all Treatment & Case Management Instructions
- Participate in Treatment as Determined by Your Needs
- Monthly Court Appearances
- Consistent Restitution Payments (if applicable)
- Minimum of 30 Days of Sobriety to advance
- Minimum of 14 Days without a sanction to advance

Sustained Recovery if applicable:

- Minimum of 6 months
- Random Drug and Alcohol Testing
- Follow all Probation Instructions
- Follow all Treatment & Case Management Instructions
- Participate in Treatment as Determined by Your Needs
- Consistent Restitution Payments (if applicable)

The entire Mental Health Court team determines phase advancement. You will fill out a phase advancement application that will be turned in 1 week before you are eligible to phase. **DO NOT ASK TREATMENT WHEN YOU WILL PHASE OR YOUR PHASE ADVANCEMENT MAY BE DELAYED.**



TREATMENT

No two people are the same. As such, everyone facing addiction experiences it differently. Therefore, your treatment plan will be designed to meet your unique needs. You will complete an in-depth mental health evaluation with a member of the treatment team to determine the level of care you need and develop a treatment plan that focuses on treatment options that best suit you. Your treatment plan will be updated as you progress through the program.

A number of services may be included in your plan to address both substance use disorders and mental health concerns including group therapy, individual therapy, self-help recovery support group meetings, educational classes, case management, community linkage, intensive outpatient treatment, residential treatment, and medication. You must fully participate and comply with all treatment requirements in your treatment plan.

RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

While in Mental Health Court, your treatment provider may recommend you attend self-help recovery support group meetings. Examples may include Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), SMART Recovery, or other self-help recovery support groups based on your individual needs. Support is important to your recovery. Your required number of meetings a week will be determined by your treatment provider and may be adjusted in your treatment plan. The treatment team will provide you with information regarding meeting schedules and locations.

You will be required to submit weekly reaction sheets as proof of attendance. Be sure you are filling out your reaction sheets immediately following the meeting, and be sure to include the accurate date, location, and topic of the meeting. Falsifying reaction sheets will result in a sanction or possible termination from the program. Non-compliance with any treatment requirements will be reported to the team and addressed by the Judge.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Upon your entry into Mental Health Court, you will be assigned a case manager from the Charlotte Behavioral Health Care team. They are your guides throughout the duration of the program and are there to provide social service support and monitor your progress. They can assist you with your housing, transportation, family, and general living needs.

COURT APPEARANCES

As a Mental Health Court participant, you will be required to appear in court on a regular basis to discuss your progress with the Judge and any problems you might be having. The Judge receives a weekly progress report from both the treatment provider and probation, so be sure to be honest. During court appearances the judge will award incentives, impose sanctions, and participants may have graduation ceremonies. The number of court appearances required is determined by your phase. Court appearances are mandatory, and failure to appear will result in a bench warrant for your arrest.

COURTROOM & TREATMENT ETIQUETTE

The following guidelines apply to both the **courtroom and all treatment settings**:

- ✓ DO arrive 15 minutes early
- ✓ DO use the restroom beforehand, except for when arriving for a urine drug screen
- ✓ DO address the Judge, Bailiffs, Attorneys, Court Staff & Treatment Staff with respect
- ✓ DO wear appropriate attire
- ✓ DO be respectful and quiet

- ⊗ DO NOT leave your cell phones or any electronic devices powered on
- ⊗ DO NOT leave until you are dismissed
- ⊗ DO NOT talk while treatment or court is in session
- ⊗ DO NOT bring food, drinks, chew gum, smoke, or vape
- ⊗ DO NOT use profane language
- ⊗ DO NOT sleep
- ⊗ DO NOT wear inappropriate attire

PROPER COURTROOM & TREATMENT ATTIRE

- Men and women are expected to dress appropriately for court and treatment sessions. You should dress for each as if attending regular court.
- NO midribs or revealing clothing
- NO see-through tops
- NO hats, bandanas, sunglasses
- NO clothing with an emblem, logo, or wording that promotes illegal or inappropriate activity
- NO clothing that depicts or promotes gang affiliation, violence, sex acts, drug/alcohol use, or profanity

INCENTIVES & SANCTIONS

An **incentive** is a reward for meeting or exceeding all program requirements and following the rules. Incentives may include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal Praise from the Judge
- Applause
- Phase Promotion
- Community service hours accredited
- Treasure Chest
- Curfew Exemptions
- Fast Pass (Early Dismissal)
- The Wheel or Fishbowl

A **sanction** is a response for not meeting program requirements or not following the rules. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal Warnings
- Community Service Hours
- Curfew enhancements
- Increased drug testing
- Phase/Graduation delays
- Essay writing
- Increased court attendance
- Jail
- Termination

Common Violations include, but are not limited to:

- Late for a program requirement
- Failure to complete an assignment
- Incomplete/Incorrect meeting sheets and/or paperwork
- Missed Drug Test
- Curfew violation
- Failure to comply with Treatment's or Probation's Instructions
- Unexcused absence
- Dilute Drug Test
- Disrespectful to Staff
- Drug/Alcohol use without prompt honesty
- Failure to complete previously imposed sanction
- Association with people who are engaged in criminal activities
- New arrest
- Tampering with a UA
- Criminal behavior
- Absconding
- Falsifying document of any kind
- Lying to the judge, treatment, probation, or any member of the team

Your honesty is the most important factor in the determination of sanctions. Other factors the team will consider include, but are not limited to length of time in Mental Health Court, number of prior violations and sanctions, especially of the same or similar nature, attitude, efforts to correct the problem promptly, and overall progress in treatment and in court.

DRUG & ALCOHOL TESTING

The Charlotte County Mental Health Court Program is an abstinence-based program. You will be tested for the presence of drugs, alcohol and any banned or mood altering substances throughout your entire time in the program and while on probation. You are responsible for contacting both treatment and probation as instructed to find out if you are required to test that day. Failure to make contact as instructed may result in a sanction. If you make a mistake or forget to make contact as instructed, you should immediately contact your case manager and/or probation officer, and they will instruct you on how to proceed.

Testing by urinalysis is our primary form of testing. It is random and is always observed, and all positive tests are laboratory confirmed, unless the participant signs an "admit to use form". When either individual or emergency circumstances make it appropriate, we may also employ other forms of testing, such as remote alcohol monitors, oral swabs, sweat patches and other approved means to detect unlawful substances.

Missing any form of a drug test or failing to submit a sample will be treated as a positive drug test and may result in a sanction. Diluting or tampering with your sample is dishonest. A diluted drug test may be treated as a positive and may result in a sanction. Tampering with a drug test may result in termination from the program. *Honesty is always the best policy.*

DILUTES/ADULTERATIONS

What is a dilute? A dilute is one form of an adulteration to a urine drug test. It is a common method used to conceal the fact that a substance is in one's system. A diluted sample can occur as the result of large quantity intake of fluids in a short period of time prior to testing.

What is an adulteration? It is any interference done to a test or test sample pre-collection OR post-collection. It may include blocking or damaging a detection mechanism, or adding substances to a drug test or taking over the counter supplements.

How is a dilute or adulteration determined? The lab determines whether a sample is diluted/adulterated. The urine drug test measures various indicators such as creatinine, pH, and specific gravity, in order to ensure that a sample is valid and has not been adulterated. The sample is then sent to the lab for confirmation if a dilute or adulteration is suspected based on the urine drug screen results.

What is the consequence of a dilute or adulteration? As stated above, a diluted or adulterated sample may be considered a positive test and a sanction may be imposed. It will restart your sobriety date, and delay your phasing. This information is provided so that you do not unintentionally or intentionally provide a diluted or adulterated sample. You are encouraged to ensure that you are not drinking an excessive amount of water, coffee, energy drinks or any other fluids prior to a drug test. For tests other than urinalysis, you are likewise encouraged to ensure that you follow all instructions and take all reasonable steps to submit a valid test. If you have any questions, please ask your case manager or probation officer.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

From time to time, circumstances may arise that require us to adjust the procedures set forth in this Handbook. Such circumstances may include a personal emergency for you, such as a need to undergo a medical procedure, or a need to travel to attend a funeral. Such circumstances may also include a more general public emergency, such as a hurricane or other natural disaster, or a pandemic or other public health emergency.

When such circumstances arise, the Team may need to adjust drug-testing procedures, and may also need to adjust the manner in which you attend treatment, communicate with your case manager and report to court and/or probation. These adjustments will be limited in time and scope to the extent possible, and will be intended to balance the safety of all Participants and Team members with the requirements of providing structure and accountability within the boundaries of the law.

MEDICATION & MEDICAL DISCLOSURE POLICY

All medication must be coordinated between your prescribing physician and your Case Manager and must be FDA approved. This includes over-the-counter medications and prescriptions. Psychotropic medications must be prescribed by a psychiatric specialist (ARNP, PsyD, MD). This will ensure compliance with all medical and substance use disorder treatment protocols.

Cold and cough medication that contain alcohol, and allergy medications or sleep aids that contain Pseudoephedrine, Diphenhydramine HCL, or Ephedrine can cause a positive drug test result. For this reason, you must immediately inform your Case Manager of any over-the-counter or prescribed medications that you are currently taking. You will be provided a list of over-the-counter remedies for common ailments such as colds, the flu or minor injuries and soreness; these remedies will not cause a positive drug test result.

Anyone on the team may request to examine your medication at any time. If it is determined that your medication is being diverted or abused, or that you are not taking the medication as prescribed, it may result in a sanction.

If you still have extra or “leftover” medications from a prior prescription that you stopped taking, you should speak to your Case Manager about proper disposal, and you should not consume these medications unless you are once again directed to do so by the prescribing physician.

It is against the law to take prescription drugs that were not prescribed for you. If you take someone else’s medication, or if you share or sell your own medication to anyone, you may be charged with a new crime and it may result in your termination from the program.









You must immediately inform your Case Manager of all doctor visits, dental visits, emergency room visits, scheduled surgeries, post-operative care, and all other medical appointments. You will be required to promptly provide any releases or documentation that is requested of you.

You should ALWAYS tell your doctor or medical professional that you are in recovery, that you have a history of substance use disorder, and that you are participating in the Mental Health Court program.

BANNED SUBSTANCES & AVOIDING “FALSE” POSITIVE DRUG TEST RESULTS

There are certain substances and foods that can cause a "false" positive drug test result. It is your responsibility to avoid these substances and foods. If you ingest or expose yourself to these substances or foods, a positive drug test will result in a sanction. You must inform your therapist, probation officer, and professional conducting your urine drug screen (suggested change) of any vitamins or dietary supplements you are taking.

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR EVERYTHING THAT IS USED ON YOUR BODY AND ENTERS YOUR BODY. WHEN IN DOUBT, LEAVE IT OUT!!!

	<p>No alcohol, period. This includes foods cooked with alcohol, and beverages labeled “Non-Alcoholic.” No consuming vanilla extract.</p>		<p>No solvents, lacquers, insecticides, etc. If you work with chemicals, you must speak with your probation officer and case manager.</p>
	<p>No mouthwash and no breath strips that contain alcohol.</p>		<p>No foods containing poppy seeds.</p>
	<p>No hand sanitizer that contains alcohol.</p>		<p>No mind- or mood-altering substances, or hallucinogenic substances, even if they are legal and/or “naturally occurring.” Examples include, but are not limited to Kratom, Kava, Spice, Bath Salts.</p>
	<p>No perfumes, colognes, body sprays, aftershave, astringents, or any other hygiene products that contain alcohol.</p>		<p>No diet or performance supplements, weight loss aids, work out aids, weight gaining aids, creatine, etc.</p>

MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT)

MAT is the use of medication, in combination with therapy, to treat substance use disorders. You are encouraged to explore MAT with the treatment team to determine if it might be a useful tool for your treatment and recovery. Any medication that is FDA approved for the treatment of substance use disorders is permitted in Mental Health Court. However, you must strictly follow all instructions given to you in order to ensure that your use of that medication is proper and lawful. The use of MAT will be closely coordinated and monitored by the Mental Health Court team and the prescribing medical professionals.

PROBATION

The probation officer assigned to Mental Health Court has been specially trained and is a critical member of the Mental Health Court team. You are expected to comply fully with all of your probation officer's instructions. You will be required to check-in with your probation officer and call the probation drug testing line as instructed. Probation will also supervise your curfew, make random home visits, perform random drug testing, oversee restitution payments (if applicable), and monitor your employment and any community service that might be imposed.

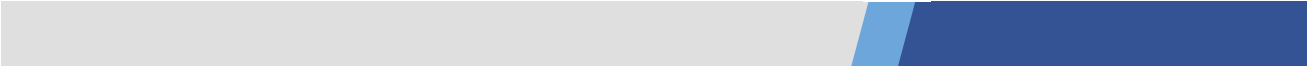
You may have a curfew for the first three phases of Mental Health Court. You must be at your registered residence during curfew hours. If you need a curfew extension for employment purposes, you must follow probation's instructions and obtain permission from probation in advance. Curfew extensions and exemptions are considered an incentive for participants who are doing well and are considered on a case-by-case basis.

Requests to travel out of county are considered an incentive for participants who are doing well and are considered on a case-by-case basis as well. You must follow all of probation's instructions for requests to travel. Participants under a sanction or violation of probation status are not eligible to travel out of the county.

Probation may also make random home visits both with and without law enforcement escorts. Your residence must be alcohol and drug free. Your house, vehicle, and person may be searched by probation- without a warrant- for alcohol and other illegal substances.

An important part of recovery includes taking responsibility for your actions and making amends. If you owe restitution, you will be required to make consistent minimum monthly payments as set forth in your Mental Health Court contract. Failure to comply with restitution payments may delay your phase advancement or moving-on and could result in a formal Violation of Probation. If you find yourself struggling to keep up with these payments, you should speak with your probation officer and your attorney.

EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, & VOCATION



Recovery includes developing life skills to become a self-sufficient and productive member of the community. During your time in Mental Health Court, you will be encouraged to be gainfully employed by a legally recognized business or enrolled full-time in educational or vocational training. If you need help finding employment, speak with your case manager.

Mental Health Court is an opportunity for you to better yourself. If you have not graduated from high school, now is the time to consider obtaining your GED (General Equivalency Diploma). Your case manager can assist you with getting started.

ATTENDANCE & TARDINESS

You are required to attend all scheduled treatment sessions, meetings, court appearances, and scheduled events. Failure to attend any such event will be counted as an unexcused absence and may be sanctioned. If you are unable to attend an event, you must contact treatment and/or probation immediately. Excused absences are rarely given and are usually reserved for emergencies only. In order to be excused from an obligation you must appropriately and timely contact treatment and/or probation upon becoming aware of your inability to attend an event. When applicable, you will be required to provide documentation.

You must be on time to all events. Arriving late is disruptive and disrespectful of everyone else's time. You are expected to arrive 10 minutes early before all treatment sessions, meetings, court appearances, and scheduled events. You should plan ahead, and allow plenty of time to travel. If you are late, you might not be allowed to attend the event, and this could be counted as an unexcused absence. If you are going to be late, you must contact treatment and/or your probation officer immediately.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

There are several different costs for which you may be responsible while you are participating in the Charlotte County Mental Health Court program.

- Restitution- you are responsible for paying back all restitution as set forth in your contract (if applicable).
- Court Costs- will be determined at the time of your sentencing and can include but are not limited to costs of investigation, cost of prosecution, public defender fees, and standard court fees.
- Cost of Supervision (Probation) - during your time in Mental Health Court your probation costs will be set at \$0.
- Treatment Costs- you will be responsible for paying for your treatment. Costs may be reduced based on financial evaluation. Treatment costs are paid directly to the treatment provider.
- Drug Testing Costs- you will be responsible for drug testing fees, depending on available funding. If you wish to challenge the results of a dilute or positive test, you may be responsible for all costs associated with the test including laboratory confirmation.

MOVING ON TO SUSTAINED RECOVERY (NEED TO REVIEW THIS SECTION AS A TEAM)

Moving On is a special court event that celebrates your continuing recovery and completion of the In-Court portion of the Mental Health Court program. Once you have completed all requirements for each phase, you will be eligible to apply for Moving On. Upon approval of the application from the Mental Health Court team, an exit interview and a tentative Moving On date will be scheduled. You are required to keep complying with all the terms of your treatment plan and the rules of probation and Mental Health Court during this time. Failure to comply will result in a delay of your Moving On. Once you have Moved On you will continue into Sustained Recovery. The Sustained Recovery portion of Mental Health Court is a minimum of 6 months. You will still be on probation and required to comply with all treatment recommendations according to your needs.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION

Successful completion refers to the completion of both the In-Court and Sustained Recovery (if required) portions of Mental Health Court. If you are required to do the Sustained Recovery, you will be eligible to petition the court for early termination after a minimum of 6 months of Sustained Recovery. Upon successful termination of your probation, your individual contract may entitle you to additional incentives.

TERMINATION

Termination occurs at the discretion of the Mental Health Court team. Reasons for termination include, but are not limited to: new charges, absconding, repeated sanction for behavioral issues, tampering with a UA, falsifying documents of any kind, and lying to the judge, treatment or probation. Always be honest. If you are struggling, ask for help; that is what Mental Health Court is here to do.

TRANSFER CASES & RELOCATION

Defendants wishing to transfer into the Charlotte County Mental Health Court Program or wishing to transfer their Charlotte case to another jurisdiction will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Defendants seeking any type of transfer will need to speak with their defense attorney as early as possible and the defense attorney should reach out the Charlotte State Attorney's Office right away.

Defendants currently in the Charlotte County Mental Health Court Program, whether in the In-Court or Sustained Recovery portion, who find they might need to relocate, need to speak with their defense attorney and with their case manager right away. The issue will be reviewed at staffing by the entire Mental Health Court Team. Relocations within the State of Florida are considered on a case-by-case basis.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Participants are instructed in writing prior to being screened for Mental Health Court that any information that they share in the course of screening, assessment or treatment is subject to limited confidentiality protections. Further, Mental Health Court team members should encourage participants throughout the program to speak to their attorney prior to discussing any criminal activity in which they may be involved. While Mental Health Court encourages candor, team members should also recognize the need for heightened protection regarding this population when discussing criminal acts.

Information regarding past or present drug use as well as past drug sales, will not be used by the State Attorney's Office to prosecute the instant case, or to initiate a new prosecution. However, the participant must be advised that any information that he or she shares in the course of screening, assessment, or treatment, which implicates the safety of another person, may be used in an investigation and/or prosecution against the participant. The confidentiality protections do not extend to past or present forcible felonies, firearm offenses, or crimes involving children. All health care information will be protected pursuant to federal law.

MENTAL HEALTH COURT RULES & EXPECTATIONS

1. Always Tell the Truth

Your success will take your best effort. Your best effort includes being truthful to everyone involved in your recovery.

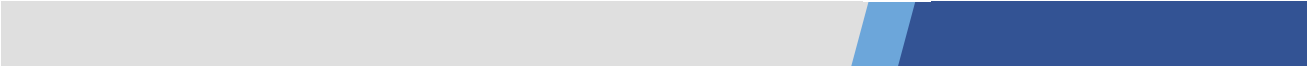
2. Do Not Use or Possess Any Drugs, Alcohol, or Mind-Altering Substances

Abstinence a primary focus of the Mental Health Court program. Maintaining a substance free lifestyle is crucial to your recovery process. This includes avoiding all alcohol and any other substance that is mind and/or mood altering unless specifically approved by the treatment team. Stay away from establishments whose main business is the sale of alcohol, unless specifically permitted by your probation officer.

3. Be Respectful

You are expected to treat everyone with respect. This includes everyone on the Mental Health Court team: the judge, everyone at treatment, all court staff, probation, law enforcement, and your fellow participants. You are expected to be quiet and attentive during all treatment sessions, court appearances, and any other Mental Health Court related event. Cell phones are not permitted in treatment sessions nor in court. Smoking or vaping of any kind is strictly prohibited on CBHC's campus and in the courthouse.

4. No Threats or Violence



Threats or violence of any kind will not be tolerated and are grounds for termination.

5. Follow Your Treatment Plan

Your treatment plan is unique and tailored to fit you. Do not compare your treatment plan to another participant's. You are here to focus on your own recovery. If you have questions about your treatment plan contact a member of treatment. Be mindful that treatment will be adjusted to reflect your current needs, and therefore may, at times, increase or decrease intensity.

6. Follow All Probation Instructions

Your probation officer will instruct you on all the rules and expectations of probation. You must follow and fully comply with all instructions from your probation officer. Non-compliance will result in a violation of probation. You are expected to keep all appointments, be on time, and respectful to all probation staff.

7. Attend All Scheduled Treatment, Meetings, Court Appearances, and Events & Be on Time

You are required to attend all treatment sessions, meetings, court appearances, and scheduled events. Unexcused absences will result in a sanction. If you are unable to attend anything, you must contact treatment and/or your probation officer immediately. If you are going to be late, you must contact treatment and/or your probation officer immediately. Arriving late is disruptive and disrespectful of everyone else's time. You are expected to arrive 10 minutes early before all treatment sessions, meetings, court appearances, and scheduled events.

8. Obey All Laws

This includes, but is not limited to, obeying all traffic laws. For example, you must not drive unless you are properly licensed, registered, and insured, and you must obey speed limits, stop signs, and all rules for safe operation of a vehicle.

9. Do Not Associate With Anyone Engaged in Criminal Activity

You may not communicate or interact in any way with someone whom you know to be engaged in criminal behavior. You must be protective of your recovery. Anyone who is involved in illegal activity is not supportive of your recovery and should not be around you. If you need help, you should contact a member of the team right away and follow their advice for separating from the bad situation.

10. Ask for help

The entire Mental Health Court team wants you to succeed. If you are struggling, or have questions or concerns about anything, ask for help. You are not in this alone.



TWENTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
STATE OF FLORIDA
CHARLOTTE COUNTY

I hereby acknowledge receipt of the Charlotte County Mental Health Court Handbook. I have read this handbook and agree to its terms and conditions.

Signature

Date

Witness Signature

Date