

## **Supervision and Services Provided**

- Residential treatment and transitional housing services;
- PSA Support, Treatment and Addiction Recovery Services (PSA STARS) intensive outpatient program;
- In-depth assessment and testing;
- Assertive case management;
- Support in complying with pretrial release conditions;
- Referrals to education, employment, and other social services; and
- Twelve-step, cognitive behavioral and other support group services.

## **Contingency-Based Treatment**

- Recovery-focused incentives for phase progression and success;
- Random 8-panel drug testing;
- Monthly ceremony recognizing program progress and completion;
- Biweekly or monthly status hearings with opportunities to dialogue with Drug Court Judge;
- Opportunities for enhanced treatment for those unable to achieve or maintain sobriety; and
- Favorable case dispositions as a reward for program completion.

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**Pretrial Services Agency for the  
District of Columbia**



# **Superior Court Drug Intervention Program— Drug Court**

**Providing Quality  
Treatment and  
Effective Supervision  
in the District of  
Columbia for Over  
20 Years**

# Superior Court Drug Intervention Program— Drug Court

The Superior Court Drug Intervention Program, better known as Drug Court, is operated by PSA's Treatment Program. Drug Court is available for D.C. Superior Court only.

PSA's mission is to promote pretrial justice and enhance community safety.

## How Drug Court Works

Recognizing that criminal justice and treatment communities can be mutually reinforcing, Drug Court brings the two worlds together in the courtroom. The judge plays an integral role in the oversight of treatment to substance abusing or addicted defendants. Drug Court utilizes assertive case management, regular court appearances, frequent drug testing, recovery-focused incentives, reasonable sanctions and instant access to treatment and social service resources.

## Benefits of Drug Court

- Immediate access to substance addiction treatment;
- Misdemeanor diversion track resulting in case dismissal;
- Felony track resulting in probation for nearly all those who successfully complete the program;
- Amended sentencing agreement that permits eligible defendant with a felony charge to be convicted of a misdemeanor upon successful program completion;
- Gender specific treatment groups;
- Individual and group therapy for trauma-impacted clients; and
- Employment, education, and social service referrals.

## Who Is Eligible

Drug Court is designed to provide appropriate treatment for eligible defendants assessed to need substance addiction treatment. Most defendants charged with misdemeanors and many charged with non-violent felonies are eligible for Drug Court.

The following exclusion criteria generally apply unless specifically allowed by the USAO and Drug Court judge. A defendant must:

- Not be currently charged with a violent misdemeanor or violent felony (simple assaults may be allowed);
- Have no more than one additional pending, non-violent criminal case;
- Have no prior convictions for a violent or weapons offense for which the defendant was serving a sentence or on probation, parole or supervised release within the last 10 years;
- Not be charged with or have a pending charge that involves a victim;
- Have no prior convictions for a victim-involved crime for which the defendant was serving a sentence or on probation, parole, or supervised release within the last 10 years.

In addition, the following eligibility criteria apply only to felony amended sentencing agreements. A defendant must:

- Have no prior violent convictions in any court;
- Within the last 10 years, have no more than two misdemeanor convictions;

- Have no prior misdemeanor convictions for PWID or Distribution of Marijuana;
- Have a current charge that is not PCP-related; and
- Have no other pending felony cases and no more than one pending misdemeanor case.

Certain other criteria may apply to defendants being considered for the misdemeanor diversion or felony amended sentencing agreements. Contact Drug Court for details.

## Placement Steps

- PSA screening for Drug Court eligibility;
- Substance abuse assessment must indicate need for intensive outpatient or residential treatment;
- Certification to Drug Court from another criminal calendar;
- USAO approval required for misdemeanor or diversion and felony amended sentencing agreements; and to place defendants with criminal charges or histories who would normally be excluded.

## Program Completion

- With full compliance, Drug Court can be completed in as little as 24 weeks;
- *Nolle prosequi* for those who graduate from the misdemeanor diversion track;
- A defendant who successfully completes the program and has an amended sentencing agreement will have his/her felony reduced to a misdemeanor; and
- Likely probation instead of incarceration for all other graduates.