

**CITY OF ST. LOUIS**  
**JUVENILE DRUG COURT**  
**PARTICIPANT'S HANDBOOK**



**MISSION STATEMENT**  
**CITY OF ST. LOUIS**  
**JUVENILE DRUG COURT**

**To provide an environment for court-supervised juveniles  
to become clean and sober  
and successful  
in their families, schools and community.**

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## **I. INTRODUCTION**

**Welcome to the City of St. Louis Juvenile Drug Court, a program of court-supervised drug treatment for non-violent juvenile offenders.** Juvenile Drug Court was created to help juveniles, who use drugs, to stop using drugs. It is designed to teach you better ways of coping with your worries, struggles and fears. This handbook is intended to answer your questions and concerns about Juvenile Drug Court and to provide information about the program and what is expected of you as a participant. We encourage you to share this handbook with your family and friends.

### **A. HOW DOES JUVENILE DRUG COURT WORK?**

**Candidates** for Juvenile Drug Court are specially chosen by their Deputy Juvenile Officer or defense attorney, based on certain guidelines, and then approved by the Juvenile Drug Court Team. The **Juvenile Drug Court Team** is under the direction of the **Drug Court Commissioner**. The team consists of a group of professional people, who will work with you while you are in the program by counseling, supervising and supporting you. Members of the team include the Commissioner, your defense attorney, the deputy juvenile officer, the lawyer for the deputy juvenile officer, treatment specialist, the drug court coordinator, and other professionals.

The Juvenile Drug Court Team will discuss your progress before every court appearance in a meeting called a "**staffing**". At staffing, the team will talk about your drug treatment, school participation, home situation, curfew and other things as needed. After staffing, you will come before the Commissioner. Every time you come to court, the Commissioner will tell you what the team has decided and what you are to do next.

Your **privacy and confidentiality** will be respected in Juvenile Drug Court as long as your safety and the safety of others are not in jeopardy. Intimate details of your counseling sessions at treatment will not be discussed at staffing.

## **B. WHAT IS EXPECTED OF YOU?**

**Participation** in Juvenile Drug Court is voluntary. Upon your signing a **contract** with Juvenile Drug Court, you agree to comply with program requirements. As a participant, you will follow the rules of the program, the instructions given to you by the Commissioner, and the treatment plan developed for you. You must respect all members of the team, treatment personnel, and other drug court participants. Participation includes regular court appearances, drug testing, counseling (both individual and group), and possible attendance at self-help meetings (Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous or Marijuana Anonymous). You are also expected to attend school on a regular basis and participate appropriately. As appropriate, you may be ordered by the Commissioner to attend and/or participate in education and skills assessments, vocational training, educational services, job placement, mental health assessments, medical treatments, multi-systemic therapy, mentoring program, etc.

### **C. HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?**

The **program length** is determined by your own progress, but is **at least eight (8) months**. You must complete both the terms of your court order and your treatment plan in order to graduate

### **D. WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF IT?**

The St. Louis Drug Court Team hopes to see positive changes in your life because of this program. We believe that if you trust our process, you will become clean and sober, and have opportunities for success in school, home, and your community. Upon graduation from Juvenile Drug Court, you will also be discharged from official court supervision.

## **II. PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

### **A. DRUG TESTING**

You will be drug tested throughout the entire program at least once per week and often more. Testing will be done either at treatment or at court on a **random basis any day of the week or as required by the court**. If you fail to attend treatment on a "drop" day, you must go to **Global Drug Testing, 1720 Olive Street (231-8029)** in downtown St. Louis on that day to provide a urine specimen and breath sample.

## **B. COURT APPEARANCES**

As a City of St. Louis Juvenile Drug Court participant, you, and at the court's discretion, your parent(s), will be required to appear in court on a regular basis (about once per week). Before each appearance, the Commissioner will be given a **report prepared by your deputy juvenile officer about your progress**. The report will include drug test results, attendance and participation at school and treatment, any violations of curfew or your parent(s)' rules, successes and/or problems you are having, your health, your attitude and so forth. The team will discuss your report in staffing. At the end of staffing, the Sheriff will bring you to court. Even if your parents have not been court ordered to appear in court, your parents are always encouraged to attend.

**In court**, the Commissioner may ask you questions about your progress and discuss any problems you have been experiencing. Your case may be heard in front of everyone else participating in Juvenile Drug Court. The point of this is to foster accountability for actions, praise for accomplishments and opportunities for participants to learn from and teach each other. It is not meant to cause fear or embarrassment. In the event you wish to discuss a sensitive matter outside the hearing of other participants, please advise any team member prior to appearing before the Commissioner.

**If you are doing well**, you will receive **praise and rewards**. You will be called first on the docket and encouraged to continue working with your treatment team towards graduation from Juvenile Drug Court. You may also be rewarded with gift coupons, movie tickets, decreased court appearances, etc.

**If you are not doing well**, the Commissioner will discuss this with you and determine any further action that needs to be taken. There are many responses to your program violations and problems that the Commissioner may make ranging from community service to termination from the program. Remember that any "**sanction**" you receive is designed to help you learn from mistakes and make better choices.

**If you cannot appear in court as scheduled**, you must notify your Deputy Juvenile Officer as soon as possible in order to get permission from the Commissioner. Unexcused **failure to appear** in court on the date and time you are scheduled will result in the Commissioner's issuing an order for you to be taken into custody.

### **C. DEFENSE ATTORNEY**

An attorney from the Public Defender's office will defend you in Juvenile Drug Court. If you are having a problem at school, home or with your treatment center, you may call your attorney at 340-7525 to discuss it. Your attorney may argue your case for you at the staffing and in court, advise you on legal matters, and even call you weekly to see how you are doing.

### **D. DEPUTY JUVENILE OFFICER**

Your Deputy Juvenile Officer is in charge of helping you to stay out of any more trouble while you have a case in court. This person will check your school attendance and progress, call your parents about whether or not you are following their rules and watch your curfew. Your DJO will also note your drug test results, check regularly with your drug treatment provider and any other persons involved in working with you while you are in Juvenile Drug Court, and help you with other matters as needed. The DJO may make home and school visits. Your DJO will give continuous updates to the Commissioner and Team about your progress. You are to meet with your DJO as directed by your DJO (usually weekly).

## E. TREATMENT

Every Juvenile Drug Court participant's drug problem will be **assessed**. Then your drug treatment provider will develop a treatment plan. This plan will also be based on a team approach using the resources of a network of service providers in the City of St. Louis, including **New Beginnings Adolescent and Comtre**. The plan will act as a guide for you through treatment and will be up-dated as you progress.

The treatment team will assess what level and intensity of treatment you need, and recommend to the Commissioner that you receive either detoxification, residential treatment or outpatient services. If you are admitted to a **residential treatment** program, your treatment plan will include the requirements of that program as well as remaining current with educational requirements.

If you are not admitted into residential treatment, an **outpatient** program will be set up for you. This will include both **individual and group substance abuse counseling**. You must participate fully in both. Together they are designed to help you develop self-awareness and self-discipline. They include problem identification and alternative solutions.

A representative of treatment will attend the staffings at court to tell the Commissioner how you are doing in drug treatment. This includes your attendance, participation and behavior toward staff, peers and yourself.

#### **F. SHERIFF**

A Deputy Sheriff will be in court every week to maintain order and to take urine and/or breath samples when there is concern that you have relapsed since your last court date. The deputy sheriff will maintain order in the court.

### **III. GENERAL JUVENILE DRUG COURT RULES.**

As a Juvenile Drug Court participant, you will be required to abide by some basic rules:

**1. Always tell the truth.** Overcoming alcohol or drug dependence is not easy, yet thousands of individuals do it every year with the help of others. Your success will take your best effort, including constant truthfulness on your part. Lies keep you alone, speaking only to yourself. The Juvenile Drug Court Team will tell you the truth and will expect your truth in return, especially as follows:

- a. **Do not ask your parents to lie for you to the court about anything.**
- b. **Do not miss drug drops or attempt to tamper with any drug test.** Missed drops are considered dirty drops. Tampering with urine specimens will not be tolerated. Both are dishonest.

**2. Possess NO alcohol or other drugs.** Sobriety is the primary focus of this program. Maintaining a drug-free lifestyle is very important to your recovery process.

**3. Do not gamble, enter a gambling casino, shoot dice, play cards for money, or play the numbers.** Gambling may become an addiction and is illegal for minors; therefore, it is not approved behavior for Juvenile Drug Court participants.

**4. Follow the treatment plan made for you by your counselor and attend all assigned treatment sessions (including individual and group counseling), educational sessions, and assigned 12-step meetings.** If you are unable to attend a scheduled treatment session, you must contact your counselor in advance.

5. **Report to your deputy juvenile officer as directed.**
6. **Attend school on a regular basis.**
7. **Be on time.**
  - a. **Be on time to school.** Being late may result in many school problems including expulsion.
  - b. **Be on time to treatment.** Being late may mean that you miss counseling sessions and are considered "non-compliant".
  - c. **Be on time to court.** The Commissioner may sanction you for being late.
8. **Behave appropriately in court and at treatment.**
  - a. **Inappropriate physical and /or verbal behavior** will not be tolerated and could result in your termination from the Juvenile Drug Court program. Make NO threats toward other participants, counselors or Juvenile Drug Court Team members or behave in a violent or aggressive manner.
  - b. **Allow others to express their feelings and opinions** and accept differences with tolerance and respect.
  - c. **Bring NO beepers or cell phones to court.**
  - d. **Bring NO gum, sodas, or food into court.**

- e. **Dress appropriately for court and treatment.** The sheriffs will require that you dress appropriately in the court building. This means wearing shirts, pants, dresses, etc. of reasonable length and fit. No tank tops or clothing with drug or alcohol themes are acceptable. Gang attire is unacceptable. Sunglasses should not be worn inside without medical approval. Speak with your treatment team if you need assistance with clothing.
- f. **Address the Court with respect.** You should always say "Ma'am"/"Sir" or "Your Honor" or "Commissioner" or "Judge" when talking with any Commissioner or Judge.

**9. Obey all laws and pay any traffic fines.**

- a. **Do NOT drive a vehicle without a valid driver's license and insurance.**
- b. **Obey court-ordered curfew.**
- c. **Being arrested** may result in your termination from the Juvenile Drug Court. Remember that drug use or sale is illegal as is riding in stolen cars, destroying the property of others and getting into fights or assaulting others.

**10. Pay any court-ordered restitution as soon as possible.** Talk with the Commissioner if you are having any problem paying this.

**11. Do not smoke cigarettes.** If you cannot stop smoking on your own, ask for help.

**12. Do not travel away from St. Louis without permission from the Commissioner.**

#### **IV. CONSEQUENCES OF BEHAVIOR:**

It is important for you to know what will happen when you do well and when you are non-compliant in Juvenile Drug Court. This section is designed to let you know clearly what the consequences of both your good and bad behaviors will be so that you know that **the choice is yours.**

##### **A. INCENTIVES:**

When you consistently cooperate and participate in the Juvenile Drug Court program, you may expect the Court to recognize you, at the Commissioner's discretion, in one or more of the following ways:

1. Call you early on the docket.
2. Give you decreased court appearances.
3. Allow you privileges like travel out of town or later curfew.
4. Reward you with movie tickets, gift coupons, etc.
5. Give you applause and praise in the courtroom.

**B. SANCTIONS:**

When you fail to comply with the Juvenile Drug Court program rules, the Court may, at the Commissioner's discretion, order one or more of the sanctions listed below, in addition to any other sanctions as determined appropriate by the team.

**NOTE:** If you are **terminated** from Juvenile Drug Court, a probation violation will be filed against you or you will have to appear for further disposition.

BEHAVIOR	RECOMMENDED SANCTION
Missed drug drop: - 1st - 2nd - 3rd	-2 hrs. community service -4 hrs. community service -detention
Tampering with urine sample	Detention (1 - 3 days)
Testing positive for drugs	- journaling - workbook assignments - increased drops - increased self-help meetings - increased treatment
<u>Problems at treatment:</u>  a. Missed session   b. Inappropriate behavior at treatment   c. Leaving treatment without permission.	- conference w/parents - make up session - increased treatment - increased self-help meetings - early curfew <hr/> - apology - community service - detention - termination from drug court - conference w/parents - early curfew <hr/> - journaling - conference with parents - apprehension and detention - return to residential - electronic monitoring - termination from drug court

Missing court appearance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- electronic monitoring</li> <li>- detention</li> <li>- termination</li> </ul>
Forging sheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- community service</li> <li>- writing a paper</li> <li>- detention</li> </ul>
New arrest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- electronic monitoring</li> <li>- possible termination</li> </ul>
Truancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- school verification sheets</li> <li>- DJO/client/parent/school conference</li> <li>- writing/reading/video assignment</li> <li>- community service</li> <li>- early curfew</li> <li>- residential treatment</li> <li>- electronic monitoring</li> <li>- detention</li> <li>- termination</li> <li>- prosecution of your parents in adult truancy court</li> </ul>
Curfew violation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- journaling</li> <li>- community service</li> <li>- parent conference</li> <li>- electronic monitoring</li> <li>- detention</li> </ul>

## **V. COMPLETION OF DRUG COURT PATHS**

In order to complete the Juvenile Drug Court, graduate from the program, and be released from the St. Louis Juvenile Court, you must complete the three Paths below:

### **Path 1 (minimum 4 weeks)**

In Path 1, you will be assigned to a deputy juvenile officer and a treatment counselor. They will comprise your treatment team and will provide you with an orientation/overview of the Drug Court Program. Your problems and needs will be assessed and a treatment plan will be developed. Path 1 requirements include:

1. Contact your deputy juvenile officer once per week or as directed.
2. Submit to drug testing as directed.
3. Attend treatment groups and individual counseling as directed
4. Come to Court as directed by the Commissioner.
5. Attend school, GED classes or a court approved alternative education program.
6. Maintain court-ordered curfew.
7. Remain clean for a minimum of one week.
8. Comply with court orders.

When you have done the above and the team agrees that you have begun to accept personal responsibility for your recovery and the need for help in that process, you may move to Path II.

## **Path 2 (a minimum of 5 months)**

In Path 2, your treatment plan will be updated by you and your counselor to identify your treatment goals and objectives. Counseling and meetings will focus on your problem areas and help you to identify ways of coping with stressful situations. Path 2 requirements include:

1. Contact your DJO as directed by your DJO.
2. Submit to drug testing as directed.
3. Attend group and individual counseling as directed by your treatment team.
4. Come to court as directed by the Commissioner.
5. Attend school, GED classes or a court approved alternative education program.
6. Obtain sobriety and establish a stable, drug-free lifestyle.
7. Remain clean and sober and free of major sanctions for a minimum of 8 weeks.
8. Submit to the Drug Court Commissioner a written relapse prevention plan, prepared by you and your treatment counselor.
9. Comply with court orders.

When you have completed the above and the team agrees that you have sufficient information and the proper attitude to support recover, you may move to Path III.

### **Path 3 (minimum of 2 months)**

Path 3 will address your ongoing recovery needs including maintaining total abstinence from all drugs through relapse prevention. The focus will be on daily living skills. This path is designed to support you in your return to the community as a productive and responsible person. Path 3 requirements include:

1. Contact your DJO as directed by your DJO.
2. Submit to drug testing as directed.
3. Attend weekly aftercare group sessions
4. Come to Court as directed by the Commissioner.
5. Attend school, GED classes or a court approved alternative education program.
6. Maintain sobriety and a stable drug-free lifestyle.
7. Comply with court orders.

Remain clean and sober and free of major sanctions for a minimum of 8 weeks in order to be eligible to graduate from drug court. When the team agrees that you have sufficiently accomplished the above and have integrated the necessary information to support recovery for the long term, you will graduate from drug court.

# My Information

Deputy Juvenile Officer \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone No.

Treatment Center \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone No.

Treatment Counselor \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone No.

Public Defender \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone No.

Drug Court Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone No.

Drug Court Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone No.

# My Accomplishments

Path I      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Date Completed      Awards Received

Path II      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Date Completed      Awards Received

Path III      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_  
                    Date Completed      Awards Received

Other Awards Received

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