
Drug Courts Ensure Compliance

FACT: Unless substance abusing/addicted offenders are regularly supervised by a judge and held accountable, 70% drop out of treatment prematurely.

FACT: Drug Courts provide more comprehensive and closer supervision than other community-based supervision programs.

FACT: Drug Courts are six times more likely to keep offenders in treatment long enough for them to get better.

Are Drug Court Programs Soft on Crime?

Drug courts across the county control participants' drug usage actively through frequent drug testing, intensive supervision and judicial monitoring, and immediate sanctions that may include terms of incarceration to respond to program violations. The adult substance-abusing offender population has been historically unmoved by the threat of incarceration alone. In fact, drug court participants find drug courts more challenging than jail or prison.

Information for this brochure was taken with permission from the National Association of Drug Court Professionals brochure, "Facts on Drug Courts", available on their website:

www.nadcp.org

STEELE-WASECA DRUG COURT

Mission: – The Steele-Waseca Drug Court (SWDC) collaboratively reduces crime, increases public safety, lowers recidivism, rehabilitates offenders, and re-integrates them into the community with the means to become contributing members of society.



STEELE-WASECA DRUG COURT

Waseca County Court Services
307 North State Street
Waseca, Minnesota 56093

Nicole Grams, Drug Court Coordinator

Phone: 507-461-7315

Fax: 507-835-0556

E-mail: nicole.grams@co.waseca.mn.us

Contact:

Nicole Grams, Drug Court Coordinator

Tel: 507.461.7315 FAX: 507.835.0556

What is Drug Court?

Drug Court is a voluntary program created by the District Court that allows eligible defendants to reduce their prison or jail sentence in exchange for completing substance abuse treatment and other conditions. The duration of Drug Court is a minimum of eighteen months.

Drug Court is a proven model for addressing substance abuse in a judicial environment with clear and specific expectations and goals. The Drug Court uses a team approach to deliver evidence-based practices including rigorous treatment, intensive supervision, random and frequent drug and alcohol testing, frequent court appearances, licensed mental-health service providers, and educational programming to participants.

Drug Court is NOT an easy way out of jail or prison.

Who is eligible for Drug Court?

Adult offenders who have entered a guilty plea to a felony or gross misdemeanor and/or violated the terms of their probation and meet the following criteria:

- Residents of Steele or Waseca County
- Deemed high risk/high need on a Risk and Need Triage screen
- History of substance abuse and in need of alcohol or drug treatment
- Complete screening process to determine suitability

Who is Not Eligible for Drug Court

- Violent offenders per 28 C.F.R. § 93.3(d)
- Prior criminal history of sexual assault

What are Drug Court Requirements?

Each individual's requirements and conditions for Drug Court will be different depending on their individual circumstances; however, the general requirements for everyone include:

- Complete a substance abuse evaluation and ongoing comprehensive assessments with Drug Court staff
- Complete substance abuse treatment
- Attend Drug Court hearings regularly in front of the Drug Court Judge (weekly, bi-weekly, and monthly as program progresses)
- Submit to frequent observed drug testing
- Reside in Steele or Waseca County
- Secure or maintain employment, complete GED or other educational goals, and other conditions as directed by the Court or the Drug Court staff
- Pay restitution, child support and other Court costs
- Meet with Drug Court staff
- Obey all laws

Do Drug Courts Work?

In 20 years since the first Drug Court was founded, there has been more research published on the effects of Drug Courts than on virtually all other criminal justice programs combined.

The scientific community has put Drug Courts under a microscope and concluded that Drug Courts work. Better than jail or prison. Better than probation and treatment alone. Drug Courts significantly reduce drug use and crime and are

more cost-effective than any other proven criminal justice strategy.

Drug Courts Reduce Crime

FACT: Nationwide, 75% of Drug Court graduates remain arrest-free at least two years after leaving the program.

FACT: Rigorous studies examining long-term outcomes of individual Drug Courts have found that reductions in crime last at least 3 years and can endure for over 14 years.

FACT: The most rigorous and conservative scientific "meta-analyses" have all concluded that Drug Courts significantly reduce crime as much as 45 percent more than other sentencing options.

Drug Courts Save Money

FACT: Nationwide, for every \$1.00 invested in Drug Court, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36 in avoided criminal justice costs alone.

FACT: When considering other cost offsets such as savings from reduced victimization and healthcare service utilization, studies have shown benefits range up to \$27 for every \$1 invested.

FACT: Drug Courts produce cost savings ranging from \$3,000 to \$13,000 per client. These cost savings reflect reduced prison costs, reduced revolving-door arrests and trials, and reduced victimization.

FACT: In 2007, for every Federal dollar invested in Drug Court, \$9.00 was leveraged in state funding.