

WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH COURT (MHC)?

HOW DOES IT WORK?

GETTING REFERRED

A judge or lawyer can suggest you join the program. If you think you may be eligible, talk to your attorney or provider about getting referred.

REVIEW & SCREENING

The Mental Health Court Team will assess to see if the program is a good fit for you. They will review your diagnosis, charges, risk level, treatment needs, and schedule a forensic evaluation.

MAKING A PLAN

If accepted, the team will help you create a treatment plan. This might include talking to counselors, taking medication, finding housing or a job, or other supports to help you succeed.

CHECK-INS WITH THE JUDGE

You'll attend court hearings in front of the MHC Judge. Your progress will be reviewed by the MHC Team on how well you stick to your treatment plan. They'll support you, make changes to your plan if needed, and help you stay on track.

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM

If you follow your plan and meet your treatment goals, you'll complete the program. Successful completion can lead to reduced or dismissed charges, a stabilized life, and a fresh start.

Mental Health Court is a special docket for justice-involved individuals who are experiencing serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

You may be eligible for MHC if:

- You're 18 or older.
- You're charged with a crime
- You have a mental health condition or dual-diagnosed mental health and substance use disorder.
- Your mental health condition is part of the reason you got into trouble.
- Your mental health condition can be treated with medication or counseling

You are not eligible if you've been charged with very serious crimes like murder or sexual offenses.

Eligibility is determined by the MHC Judge and is based on clinical needs, legal status, and program capacity.

WHO'S ON THE TEAM?

The MHC Team includes people who work together to help you succeed:

- **MHC Judge** - Leads court hearings, monitors your progress, and holds you accountable.
- **MHC Coordinator** - Oversees program operations and coordinates services with treatment providers.
- **MHC Case Manager** - Provides direct support, monitors progress and compliance of MHC Participants with treatment and court conditions.
- **Prosecutor** - Files legal documents and enforces clear consequences for violations.
- **Defense Lawyer** - Represents you in court and guides you through court processes.
- **Probation Officer** - Checks in and helps you stay safe and responsible.
- **Treatment Providers** - Offers clinical care, coordinates services, and assists you with medication and therapy appointments.

