

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FORSYTH COUNTY
STATE OF GEORGIA

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 22-02 *nunc pro tunc* to November 19, 2020

FORSYTH COUNTY, GEORGIA

FILED IN THIS OFFICE

JANUARY 4, 2022

GREG G. ALLEN

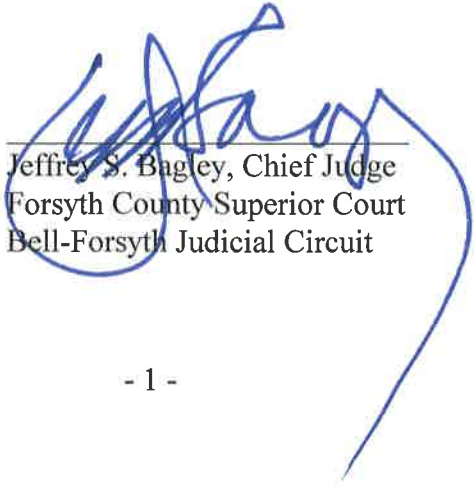
CLERK OF SUPERIOR, STATE & JUVENILE COURT

IN RE: DRUG COURT

ORDER AMENDING
ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER 19-15

The Drug Court Policies and Procedures were amended by agreement of the members of the Drug Court Planning Group on the 19th of November, 2020 and again on the 12th of November 2021, and accepted and approved by the Court on said date. The changes reflected in the amended Drug Court Policies and Procedures were orally announced to the Drug Court participants on the 4th of January, 2022 and written copies of the updated Participant Handbook, which contained the changes to the Drug Court Policies and Procedures, were made available to all Drug Court participants. Nevertheless, pursuant to the terms of the Drug Court contract, all Drug Court participants are on notice that they are required to comply with all past and future Drug Court policies and procedures in effect. The most current Drug Court Policies and Procedures are on file with the Clerk of the Forsyth County Superior Court, which are available for review during normal business hours. This order shall be considered as an addendum to Administrative Order 07-01.

SO ORDERED, this 4th day of January, 2022, *nunc pro tunc* to November 12, 2020.



Jeffrey S. Bagley, Chief Judge
Forsyth County Superior Court
Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit

**Forsyth County
Drug Court**



Participant Handbook

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Participants entering the Drug Court Program are expected to follow all the guidelines in this handbook.

I. Introduction

The late Chief Judge Richard S. Gault first envisioned the Forsyth County Drug Court. He began research and preparations for the program well before his untimely death in 2003. As a way to honor and carry on the works of Judge Gault, newly appointed Chief Judge Jeffrey S. Bagley followed through in making the dream a reality by beginning the Drug Court in January 2004.

The Court is a partnership between the Judge, District Attorney, Probation, Law Enforcement, Accountability Court Office, Treatment Provider, Drug Court Defense Attorneys, and Pretrial Services.

The program is a minimum of twenty-four months (not to exceed 3 yrs. without written explanation) and consists of five phases. It encompasses vocational, educational, and spiritual components in conjunction with providing substance abuse treatment. **Phase 1** provides an orientation to treatment along with urine drug screens, breathalyzers, and weekly Drug Court appearances. **Phase 2** provides alternatives to criminal and addictive thinking and basic drug education with continued urine drug screens, breathalyzers, and weekly Drug Court appearances. **Phase 3** provides socialization skills, relapse prevention, and group therapy, urine drug screens, breathalyzers, and Drug Court appearances every other week. **Phase 4 and Phase 5** are transition phases back to the community and allow the client to act as a facilitator/mentor for newer participants. Urine drug screens and breathalyzers continue, as do Drug Court appearances once a month. The participant attends group, urine drug screens and breathalyzers as scheduled, and is a role model to the other participants.

This program provides early intervention and serves as a meaningful alternative to incarceration for the participant who can function in the community with support. It is our goal to improve the quality of life and reduce recidivism for participants in this program. Those who graduate will have a solid foundation to build upon in order to become productive members of our community.

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II. Important Numbers

Accountability Court Office 678-455-4780

Emergency Phone (afterhours and weekends) 678-215-7672

Defense Attorney, Melissa Banker 678-455-4780 ext. 5

Drug Screen Line 800-494-1250 or web check-in at
drugtestcheck.com

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III. Court

A. COURTHOUSE BEHAVIOR

Your attendance in court is a critical condition of your participation in the Forsyth County Drug Court. Your behavior from the time you leave your automobile until you arrive in the courtroom should reflect positively on your Drug Court Program. This means **NO** standing on the front steps of the courthouse before or after drug court. Your attire should **not** include short shorts, tank tops, halter-tops, hats, sunglasses, flip-flops, open toed shoes, sandals, sleeveless shirts, clothes with holes, nor revealing, tight, or excessively baggy clothing. Additionally, you should **not** wear clothes displaying offensive language or advertising alcohol or other drugs. Loud and boisterous behavior is unacceptable. This behavior and attire is required for ANY time you are in the courthouse. **You must be punctual. Court is called to order on Tuesday afternoons at 3:00 p.m.** Once in the courtroom, conversations should be minimal. If you come into the courtroom visibly high, you will be held in contempt and could be sent to jail. You are to remain seated unless directed otherwise. You should not read or sleep in the courtroom. No food, drink, cell phones, or other distracting items are allowed. Any distracting cell phones in the courtroom will be confiscated. You are responsible for your guests and/or children regarding their dress and behavior.

When addressed by the Judge, you should stand and respond respectfully. **KEEP YOUR HANDS OUT OF YOUR POCKETS AT ALL TIMES!!** “Yes, sir” and “No, ma’am” are appropriate. Speak clearly and directly to the Bench and remain in front of the Judge until dismissed. **Violations of courthouse and courtroom behavior will result in sanctions.**

B. JUDGE’S ROLE

The Drug Court Judge has knowledge of the impact of substance abuse on the court system, the lives of participants, and the entire community and is, therefore, committed to the program mission and goals, and works as a lead partner to ensure its success. One way the Drug Court Judge leads is through assisting the treatment team in developing protocols and procedures for the program. In the courtroom, the Judge develops a personal, working relationship with each participant while monitoring participant progress.

Your Drug Court Judge has many responsibilities beyond Drug Court, and thus his time is limited. **Direct contact with the Judge and his office should be avoided beyond the courtroom setting. The Judge is not your case manager, personal attorney, or legal advisor. Information from you and your family must go through the Accountability Court Office or your attorney.** The Judge attends non-court meetings, such as staffing, to discuss possible candidates for the program and to determine appropriate, effective sanctions for program violations, as well as incentives for continued compliance. Such determinations are made using knowledge of addiction, relapse, and other factors (i.e., criminal history, gender, age, and culture) that may impact a participant’s success. Further roles of the Drug Court Judge are to advocate for Drug Court by creating community

interest and support for the program and to develop community resources to assist participants in their treatment.

C. CASE MANAGER'S ROLE

The Drug Court Case Manager assists the Drug Court Coordinator with all duties. The Drug Court Case Manager advises the participants of their requirements and conditions. The Drug Court Case Manager maintains records of the participant program fee payments, residence, employment and other information. The Drug Court Case Manager manages all participant files and maintains updates. The Drug Court Case Manager can administer drug screens to test for drugs/alcohol.

D. PROSECUTOR'S ROLE

Without the District Attorney's cooperation, those who have new charges pending would not be offered the opportunity to participate in the Drug Court Program and eventually have those charges dismissed. The Drug Court Prosecutor has many responsibilities to the Drug Court. While in the courtroom, the Prosecutor ensures each eligible offender is offered the option of Drug Court. Further, the Prosecutor presents each case to the Judge and facilitates entry into the Drug Court Program if appropriate. The Prosecutor attends staffing to discuss possible candidates for the program and to determine appropriate sanctions and incentives for current participants. Such determinations are made using knowledge of addiction, relapse, and other factors (i.e., criminal history, gender, age, and culture) that may impact a participant's success. In the event that you are terminated from the Drug Court, the Prosecutor will make recommendations to the Court regarding your sentencing. Another role of the Prosecutor is to contribute to efforts in community education and acquisition of community resources to aid the program. The Prosecutor educates peers, colleagues, and judiciary on the effectiveness of Drug Courts. **It is not appropriate to seek legal counsel from the staff of the District Attorney's Office.**

E. DEFENSE ATTORNEY'S ROLE

The Drug Court Defense Attorney represents each participant in Drug Court who is not otherwise represented by counsel. The Defense Attorney's role is to evaluate the offender's legal situation and ensure their legal rights are protected. Additionally, the Defense Attorney effectively advises offenders of their legal rights, legal options, treatment options, program conditions, and possible sentencing outcomes while developing a relationship that promotes the offender's long term best interests. The Drug Court Defense Attorney also monitors participant progress and ensures the appropriate provision of treatment and other rehabilitative services. The Defense Attorney attends staffing to discuss possible candidates for the program and to determine appropriate sanctions and incentives for current participants. Like the Prosecutor, the Defense Attorney also contributes to educating the community and assists in educating peers, colleagues, and judiciary in the effectiveness of Drug Courts. In the event you are facing termination from Drug Court, the Defense Attorney will represent you at subsequent hearings and, if necessary, advocate for you at sentencing. **It is not appropriate to seek legal counsel from the Drug Court Defense Attorney regarding matters unrelated to Drug Court.**

F. LAW ENFORCEMENT'S ROLE

Law enforcement plays a major role in your opportunity to participate in the Drug Court Program. They have recommended you receive treatment, not jail. Law enforcement provides accountability for your participation in this program through weekly staffing and recommendations. They will also provide Fourth Amendment searches as needed. Your total honesty and cooperation with all law enforcement is essential to compliance with this program.

G. PROBATION OFFICER'S ROLE

Some participants come into the program as a result of having a drug related violation while on probation. It is the responsibility of the Probation Officer to conduct the initial evaluation of these cases. If the probationer is determined to be a candidate for Drug Court, the Probation Officer refers the case through the Drug Court Coordinator. If the probationer is admitted into Drug Court, their progress is monitored by the Probation Officer who also reports back to the Probation Department. The Probation Officer keeps the Drug Court staff informed of the person's progress on probation, by attendance at weekly staffing and court sessions. In the role of community supervision of offenders, the probation officer contributes to community education and acquisition of community resources to aid the program. In the event a probationer is terminated from the Drug Court, the Probation Officer will make recommendations related to their sentencing.

H. SANCTIONS

The Judge will impose sanctions on you for violating program rules. **If you have violated any program rule which would result in a sanction, you MUST be in court regardless of whether your phase is required to attend. If you fail to admit a violation that was not addressed by staff or the Court, when the violation is discovered, your sanction will be increased.** Failure to appear in court to receive a sanction will result in additional sanctions. If jail time is required for your program violations, you must make sure that all personal matters are attended to prior to court. This means you must make arrangements for childcare, vehicles, etc., if jail time sanctions are a possibility. Further, medications are to be in your possession when you come to court. Vehicles are not to be left unattended while you are incarcerated. You should expect to go to jail on Tuesday when the Judge imposes the sanction. In the event you are allowed to choose your report day for entering the jail, you must report on the date and time which you stated in Court. Failure to do so can lead to increased sanctions. Likewise, if you are ordered to complete community service work, you must complete it before Monday at noon and the forms must be turned in by that deadline.

Personal Contact Information

Curfew

While in Phases 1 and 2, you have a curfew of 11:00 pm. While in Phases 3, 4, and 5, you will have a curfew of 12:00 midnight. This means you must be home at the address on file for you. If you have verifiable work or other issues with being home for curfew, you must contact the Accountability Court Office, in advance of violating curfew, and another curfew time may be set for you.

Housing

Sanctions, including jail time, will result if the Accountability Court Office does not have your current address. This residence is where you must be every day. You are not permitted to stay anywhere other than this residence apart from emergency situations, which must be approved by Accountability Courts staff.

Notification of a change of address must be made to the Accountability Courts Office prior to the first date you wish to reside at the new address. Participants who are on probation must get permission from the probation office (Department of Community Supervision – DCS) **prior** to moving. If a probationer wants to move out of Forsyth County, they must get permission from DCS **and** the Judge in advance.

Vehicles

You must provide the Accountability Courts Office with information regarding the vehicle(s) you use for transportation. If you do not drive, you must provide information about the vehicle(s) you are transported in most often. This information must be provided within 2 business days of possessing or changing vehicles and must include the make, model, year, color, and tag number for the vehicle. Failure to notify the Accountability Courts Office of your vehicle information within 2 business days will result in sanctions that may include jail time.

Telephones/Cell Phones

It is necessary for the Accountability Courts Office to be able to reach you at any time to notify you of program announcements, etc., and for the Defense Attorney to notify you of jail sanctions. You must provide and keep current a phone number where a message can be left on a voicemail, answering machine, or with a designated person (people). It is your responsibility to resolve any conflict that may prevent this situation. Failure to provide such a phone number may result in a sanction.

Behavior and Contact Limitations

If you purchase and/or use and/or possess alcohol, energy drinks, e-cigs, vapes, vape juices, synthetic drugs, CDB products, THC products, or designer drugs. (regardless of legality) while in this program, you will receive sanctions. All use of illegal drugs will be sanctioned.

You must avoid people or places of disreputable or harmful character. This includes, but is not limited to, people currently on felony or misdemeanor probation or on parole (other than those who are also participating in the Forsyth County Accountability Courts Programs), people in accountability courts in other circuits, people who are incarcerated in any jail or prison, people with felony convictions, drug users, drug dealers, as well as anyone under supervision of any judicial entity, or felony or misdemeanor release or bond.

Participants are never allowed to enter into a romantic/physical relationship with another participant in the drug court program. Participants are never allowed to be in the home of

another participant in the program, without specific permission from the Accountability Courts Office. In Phases 1 and 2, participants may not “pair off” with any other participant of the program including communication and association between or among two or more participants. Any such communication is limited to official drug court business, drug court requirements, and drug court approved events. Beginning in Phase 3, participants may hang out with others in any Forsyth County Accountability Court who are in Phases 3 and above. Additionally, participants may not hang out together where alcohol is served unless it is a drug court permitted activity.

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You are not allowed to be in an establishment where the primary purpose is alcohol or drug related or where food is no longer served. This is not intended as punishment but rather to encourage sobriety. Thus, the ultimate goal of drug testing is to provide accountability and confirmation of an individual’s progress towards recovery. If you have questions about where you cannot go, contact the Accountability Court Office.

You must report any and all contact with law enforcement to the Accountability Court Office by the close of business the next business day. For example, if your law enforcement contact occurs on Tuesday, you must notify the Accountability Court Office by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday. If contact occurs on the weekend, you must report it to the Accountability Court Office by 5:00 p.m. on Monday. Arrests should be reported immediately. This does not apply to contact with the law enforcement officer assigned to Accountability Courts.

Jail Sanction Requirements

If you are sanctioned for a drug screen violation or jailed for three days or more, you are required to report to the Accountability Court Office no later than the first business day following your release from custody. If you are released after 5:00 pm on Friday or over the weekend you must report on Monday morning at 9:00 am unless otherwise directed in court. Failure to report to the Accountability Court Office will result in a sanction.

Community Service Work Information

If you receive a community service work sanction, you must actually work the total number of hours assigned to you. **You will not be allowed credit for bringing your own equipment, driving your personal vehicle, time taking a “lunch break”, etc.** If Drug Court discovers you did not work the total hours ordered, increased sanctions may be ordered. Community service is due by Monday at noon. It is no longer necessary to schedule the community service work prior to completion and/or report to the probation office prior to starting your community service work.

Work Detail can be given by any Drug Court staff member for minor program violations. It is the participant’s responsibility to arrange a time to render this service by 12:00 p.m. the following Monday. Failure to complete Work Detail will result in a community service sanction.

Probationers

For those also on **PROBATION**, you must complete all conditions of probation in addition to your Drug Court requirements, unless modified by Consent Order upon your entry into the program. If you have any questions, contact your probation officer.

Anything you want counted for court must be turned in to the Accountability Courts Office by 12:00 noon on Monday for the week prior!!

I. PROGRESSIVE SANCTIONS

Failure to Phase Up

Progressive Sanctions will be imposed when you do not move from one phase to another in a timely manner. Each phase has been assigned a minimum amount of time necessary for completion of the phase. However, it is possible for you to need extra time to complete requirements. Therefore, a 4-week grace period is allotted to complete any remaining requirements. After that time frame, progressive sanctions will be imposed to encourage you to finish the requirements and move on to the next phase. These sanctions will be as follows: week 5 you must create and explain to the Drug Court Team a monthly budget showing income/expenses and include proper documentation if you are behind on your fees; week 6 will result in 8 hours of community service; week 7 will result in a weekend in jail. If requirements are still not met by week 8, you could be terminated from the program.

Failure to Pay

Progressive sanctions will also be imposed for being behind in your finances. If you are over \$400 behind, you will receive 4 hours of community service the first week, the second week you will receive 8 hours of community service, the third week you will be required to complete a budget, and the fourth week you will be placed on a payment plan, if you qualify. If a payment plan payment is missed or insufficient, it will result in jail time. Failure to complete the budget will result in jail time. Minimums for each phase must be met before moving to the next phase. If placed on a payment plan by the Court and you need to deviate from that plan, you must make the request in advance, on a leave request form, and turn it in the Monday before you want consideration in Court.

J. INCENTIVES

Program compliance and good behavior will be recognized by the Judge as an incentive to continue your recovery. Other tangible incentives may be awarded for outstanding

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progress. Examples of incentives are praise from the Judge, clapping from your peers, a trip to the Accountability Courts closet, candy bars, and/or other program perks.

Participants who do not receive any sanctions in the previous month will receive a “sanction free freebie,” which can be used to satisfy a sanction for limited, minor violations. If a participant accrues six freebies, they are required to be traded in for a gift card, extra leave, or \$25 fee credit.

The Judge has very limited ability to grant a temporary limited driving permit. You may request a limited permit through the Accountability Court office once you reach Phase 2. There is a form in the lobby you must fill out and turn into the attorney before court. The Judge approves these on a case by case basis.

K. TERMINATION

The Forsyth County Drug Court is committed to giving participants the opportunity to learn to live their lives drug free. However, your continued participation in the Drug Court Program is contingent on compliance with **ALL** program guidelines and regulations. Non-compliance can result in termination. Reasons for termination may include, but are not limited to:

1. Inability to remain clean and sober
2. Failure to attend and participate in groups
3. Threats or violence against peers or staff
4. Altering or tampering with drug screens
5. Committing a new offense (**all arrests must be reported to the Accountability Court Office immediately**)
6. An accumulation of program violations
7. Chronic failure to pay program fees
8. Continued non-compliance to program guidelines
9. Repeated failure to treat staff and/or other participants with respect
10. Falsification of any documents (including but not limited to AA/NA sheets, medical information, etc.)
11. Failure to comply with Medical Leave
12. Arrest for a new felony offense
13. Early discharge, leaving, or being terminated from residential treatment

We want every participant to succeed, and we consider termination the last resort. However, our treatment resources are limited, and the Court may determine termination from the program is necessary. Be assured this option will be imposed only after all other possible avenues have been explored such as increased jail time, increased intensity and attendance in ongoing treatment, residential treatment, etc.

IV. Program Guidelines

A. TREATMENT FACILITY

All Drug Court activities and locations are an extension of the Bell-Forsyth Judicial Circuit's Superior Court. Your behavior should reflect that understanding at all times. This includes the treatment facility and parking lot, community service sites, special events, and any other function associated with Drug Court activity. Violations of program rules can result in sanctions and/or new criminal charges. All staff members of the Forsyth County Drug Court and the Treatment Facility are extensions of the Court, and you are expected to follow their instructions.

1. No alcohol, drugs, vapes, e-cigs, energy drinks, weapons, or pocket knives will be brought to the facility.
2. Groups will begin on time! You must be punctual, as tardiness will result in sanctions. You must attend and participate in the full session to receive credit.
3. Confidentiality is a must. What is said here, stays here! There will be **severe consequences** for any violation to this rule.
4. Free expression of your thoughts and feelings is encouraged; however, violence, threats or intimidation will not be tolerated. Extreme use of profanity is not acceptable.
5. **No sexual harassment will be tolerated!**
6. No comments about the physical appearance of other participants.
7. Participants are to treat each other with respect at all times.
8. Leave group only in an emergency after notifying a Treatment Staff member.
9. Dress code: no tank tops, short shorts, or dark glasses. Clothing must cover all undergarments. No clothing advertising alcohol or drugs is permitted. All hats must be removed while indoors.
10. Electronic devices and cell phones must be left outside in a locked vehicle. They will be confiscated if they are a distraction during group.
11. **No visitors allowed.** You will be notified of scheduled exceptions to this rule. This includes children and pets. Likewise, those dropping you off or picking you up from group must not remain in the parking lot throughout the group.
12. Pairing up with another Drug/DUI/CARE/FTC Court participant for an intimate or close relationship is prohibited and can result in sanctions and/or termination from the program.
13. Smoking is permitted outside in designated areas only. **After smoking, ensure all cigarettes are extinguished and placed in the ash can provided.**
14. No littering in the parking lot or building. You are responsible for assisting in maintaining the cleanliness of the building.
15. Be respectful of all Accountability Court and treatment staff. If you wouldn't say or do it in front of the Judge, don't say or do it in front of staff.
16. No food or beverages are allowed in the treatment facility.

B. ATTENDANCE

Treatment

As a participant in the Forsyth County Drug Court, you are required to attend all treatment groups and meetings as assigned. **You must be on time.** Being late to or missing treatment groups will result in sanctions from the Court. If you report to a treatment group late and are not allowed to enter the group, it is your responsibility to remain at the treatment center until group concludes. Do not continue to interrupt the group by asking questions, arguing, etc. At the conclusion of group, the facilitator will inform you if you need to provide a drug screen or if you are free to leave. **Failure to show up at all or leaving before the facilitator excuses you will result in greater sanctions.**

If your group is working from a workbook, you **MUST** bring your workbook to group. Failure to bring your workbook to group or losing your workbook will result in sanctions.

If you enter into residential as a part of your Drug Court treatment requirements, you will be required to attend court quarterly. These dates will be provided to you as well as the residential facility. Upon return from residential, the participant shall return to the phase they were in when they left. After 30 days in that phase, the participant shall be evaluated by treatment to determine which phase is appropriate for treatment. This can result in moving to a higher or lower phase. If residential is successfully completed, upon meeting the measures required, they may still graduate in 24 months. If residential is not successfully completed, upon reentry into the program, the earliest available graduation date shall be determined.

Community Support

If you miss an AA/NA/community support group meeting or do not fill out your required attendance documentation correctly or completely, you will receive a sanction from the Court. Turning in documentation of attendance at a meeting you were late to or left early from will be grounds for termination. Additionally, you may only receive credit for **ONE** AA/NA/community support meeting per day. If you are required to attend 2 or more meetings per week, they must be on different days. These meetings must be attended after the deadline for turning them in from the previous week and before the current week's deadline (unless otherwise instructed or approved). This level of accountability ensures your commitment to recovery, the program, and our ability to identify program compliance.

Individual Counseling

If you are ordered by the Court to attend individual counseling sessions, you must provide 24 hour advance notice to change/miss a scheduled appointment. Failure to do so will result in sanctions from the Court. Additionally, such mandated counseling sessions are ordered to continue until the Judge tells you otherwise. If you are attending voluntary individual counseling sessions and are more than 15 minutes late, your individual counseling becomes mandated until the Judge tells you otherwise. All participants must complete at least three (3) individual counseling sessions prior to moving into Phase 4.

Leave Requests

Special requests to be excused from drug screens must be approved, in advance, by the Drug Court Judge. Leave requests are available as follows: Phase 1: no leaves available; Phase 2: two (2) leave requests available; Phase 3: two (2) requests available; Phase 4: two (2) requests available; Phase 5: two (2) requests available. If you miss a group while on leave, you must make it up within 2 weeks of the leave being granted. In Phases 2 and 3 only one group may be missed per leave request. Phases 4 and 5 may not miss a scheduled group session while on leave. After any approved leave from Drug Court, you must report to screen the following day. If your return day is a Saturday and there are no called screens that day, report the next day also. If there are no called screens by Monday, report to the Accountability Court Office by 9 am. It is your responsibility to tell the screener you are returning from leave. If your return day is a weekday and there is no called screen, report to the Accountability Court Office by 9 am.

The following procedure must be followed to miss a drug screen:

1. All requests must be submitted by **12:00 pm on the Monday** before you plan to take the leave. The requests must be submitted in writing using forms which can be obtained from the Accountability Court Office or treatment staff and can be turned in to the Accountability Court Office or placed in the box located at the treatment facility. Probationers leaving the state must also obtain permission from their probation officer.
2. All requests must have verified documentation attached. (For example: doctor, school, work, or court letterhead explaining the situation and signed by a person in authority, including a contact phone number.)
3. The Drug Court staff will screen requests, and only if they are recommended will they be presented to the Drug Court Team and Judge for consideration.
4. The Drug Court Judge will inform you in court (the week of your leave) of the Team's decision regarding your request. (If your phase is not required to be in court on that date or you have any questions regarding your request, consult with the Drug Court Office.)

Medical Leave

Medical leave must be approved in advance, if possible, and appropriate forms must be completed so you are aware of what is expected of you during such a leave. The participant is responsible for complying with all directions of the Accountability Court Office while on medical leave, including, but not limited to, pill counts, weekly status reports, and updates from any doctor visits. Medical leave does not count as a leave request; however, your time in the Drug Court Program could be tolled while you are away. You may be required to attend court at the direction of the Drug Court staff during your leave. Additionally, your medical leave situation will be reviewed by the Drug Court Team at the six week point to determine if continued leave will be granted. Maternity leave is considered a medical leave, so you must follow the same guidelines. For medical leave questions/approval, contact the Accountability Court Office.

Emergencies

In the event of a sudden illness and/or death of immediate family, contact the Assistant Director on the emergency phone @ 678-215-7672. If the Assistant Director does not respond within 2 hours, proceed as necessary. It is your responsibility to contact the Accountability Court Office the next working day and provide proof of relationship, medical records, or an obituary upon your return to treatment.

C. FINANCES

Throughout your attendance in the Drug Court Program, you are required to contribute financially through program fees. You will be charged a monthly fee for treatment while in the program. This fee is charged and due on the first Monday of each month. However, you will be billed at a pro-rated amount for the time between your entry date and the 1st of the following month.

Fees

While you are in the program, you will be charged a monthly fee of \$200. This fee covers your treatment services (\$150) and program fees (\$50). Your payment is due on the 1st Monday of each month. If you enter the program between the 1st and the 15th, your first payment is due immediately. If you enter the program after the 15th of the month, your fees will be reduced to \$100 for the first month only. **Payments must be made in the form of a money order or cashier's check payable to Forsyth County Drug Court. Payments can be made at the Accountability Court Office Monday-Friday between 8:30am and 5:00pm or placed in the designated boxes at the treatment facility.** Receipts will be available upon request. We encourage you to keep your receipts in the event an error occurs regarding your account. This is your responsibility.

All payments must be made by 12:00 pm on Monday to be considered for Tuesday court. A minimum payment is required before you can move to the next phase. For example, Phase 1 is a minimum of 3 months, so 3 months of fees must be paid before you can move to Phase 2. Failure to keep your fees paid will result in community service until your account is no more than two months in arrears. Progressive sanctions may be imposed if you do not pay your fees to move into the next phase. It is expected that your account will be paid in full monthly. If placed on a payment plan by the Court and you need to deviate from that plan, you must make the request in advance, on a leave request form, and turn it in the Monday before you want consideration in Court.

A minimum \$10 confirmation fee may be billed to your account if a contested drug test confirms positive by the laboratory. This fee can be up to and over \$250 depending on the drug tested for and the lab test necessary. You will be responsible for the entire cost of the test if the results are confirmed by the laboratory.

If you have been in a residential facility as part of your Drug Court requirements, program fees continue to accrue even while you are in residential treatment. Treatment fees discontinue until you return to groups. You can request to return to community after you have been in a residential program a minimum of 12 months. This request must be in writing and must explain the circumstances around your

request and a plan for success should your request be approved. (i.e. place to live and transportation) After successful completion of a residential facility, you must be current with your treatment fees and must be back in Drug Court treatment groups full time for 30 days before a phase move will be considered. While a participant is in residential treatment, they will undergo assessments as directed by the Accountability Courts Office.

If your time in the program ends due to termination, discharge, graduation, or any other means, any credit toward your fees will not be reimbursed. You can request the credit to be put toward the fee arrearage of another participant. If you cannot meet your financial obligations, it is your responsibility to discuss your situation with the Drug Court Coordinator and develop a solution. Financial responsibility is considered an integral part of the recovery process.

Employment

Employment is mandatory in this program unless you are a full-time student. Job verification is required to show the total of all hours worked per pay period. Sanctions will be imposed for failure to work and/or turn in job verification.

You may not work in a bar or restaurant where alcohol is served, nor may you work in any establishment where the primary sales are alcohol, such as a package store. Additionally, you may not work where narcotics, dangerous drugs, or other mood altering substances are available unless otherwise approved by the staff in advance. You are also not permitted to start your own business once you have entered the program. If you have any question about your place of employment, consult with the Accountability Court Office.

Check stubs, invoices, etc., are due on the 1st Monday of each month to show proof of employment of the previous month. You must submit all check stubs/timesheets received to show continued proof of work. If you are unemployed, you must submit copies of applications to show your effort in obtaining a job. If you are paid by 1099, we require a letter from your employer stating their intent to file the 1099 on your behalf, as well as documentation of continued work. If you are self-employed, you must provide a copy of your business license/business setup documentation initially and then copies of checks, invoices, receipts, purchase of supplies, documentation of hours worked, etc., monthly to show continued work. This business must have been set up and active at the time of your entry into Drug Court. If you are in school, you must provide proof of continued enrollment through credit hours, class descriptions, schedule, grades, etc. All questions regarding employment verification should be directed to the Accountability Court Office.

D. MEDICATION

There are many reasons you may feel the need to use a variety of substances. *Pain* is the most common. Use of analgesics (pain-killers) or other narcotics are likely to cause relapse as these substances may lower your inhibitions and your ability to control impulsive action. You must be very cautious when you become physically ill, even with respiratory diseases

(colds, flu, or pneumonia), as many drugs used to treat these conditions can also trigger relapse. There are many compounds that may cause you to crave a drink/drug. It is difficult to remember which drugs to avoid; therefore, **all medications/substances you request to use must be provided to the Accountability Court Office for inspection and approval prior to use. You must obtain approval for each subsequent event requiring the medication again. This includes all prescription medications, over-the-counter substances, including cough syrups and cold remedies, as well as any supplements/meal replacements. No prescription written by a physician who does not have a physical office or place of practice will be approved. Internet prescriptions will not be approved.**

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It is your responsibility to alert your physicians of your addiction and involvement in the program and, when necessary, work with them to locate a safer, less addictive alternative. Participants must present the Physician Notification Form to doctors when prescribed medication and provide signed form to Drug Court or sanctions will be imposed. If you have a particular problem that requires certain medications, you should discuss it with the Accountability Court Office. It may be that you are placed on medical leave and your time in the program is stopped until you are again drug-free. If you must visit the emergency room/quick care doctor (for an event that has occurred after 5 pm or on the weekend) with prescription medication approval necessary, you must utilize the emergency contact. All other medication approvals must be during regular business hours either in person or by office phone. You must provide documentation and proof of any medications administered or prescribed to you in any doctor's/dentist's office, emergency room, or quick care within 72 hours. You must also provide the Physician Notification Form and original prescriptions that you do not fill to the Accountability Court Office for disposal within the 72 hours. All approvals will be noted on the appropriate form which must be signed by the participant the day of the approval or the next business day following approval by phone. Upon completion of taking approved prescription medications, the remaining medication and containers must be turned in to the Accountability Court Office. Failure to turn in remaining medication and/or containers will be counted as unauthorized use.

No substance of any kind is to be taken without prior permission of the Accountability Court Office. Sanctions will be imposed for taking over-the-counter substances without permission. Do not use any substances containing alcohol, dextromethorphan or poppy seeds. You may not possess or consume any energy drinks.

You may not possess any mood-altering substance, whether purchased legally or illegally. Mood-altering medications/substances suggested or prescribed by a physician must be approved by the Accountability Court Office. Failure to comply will likely result in jail sanctions. Regardless of the chemical compound, all use of designer drugs, synthetic marijuana, bath salts, kratom, vape juice, etc., will be sanctioned as a use.

E. DRUG TESTING

All participants are given instructions about the drug screen phone line upon entry into the program. For the duration of your participation in the Forsyth County Drug Court Program, it is your responsibility to check daily to see if you are required to drug test that day. Drug testing is performed on a random basis; therefore, a breath or urine specimen may be required at any time regardless of whether screens were called. **The phone number for drug testing information is 800-494-1250. The web check-in is drugtestcheck.com. In the event that, for any reason, you cannot access this information by phone or internet, it is your responsibility to report to the treatment facility during scheduled drug testing hours.**

All regular drug testing will be conducted at the Accountability Courts Office.

Normal/regular testing times are daily, Sunday through Saturday, 6am-9am. These times are subject to change. In such an event, the message on the phone will advise you when to report. We reserve the right to screen you at any time for any reason.

You must be punctual and prepared to submit a specimen during the specified hours. **Late arrivals will not be allowed to test and failure to submit a specimen during testing hours will be considered a positive screen. If a screen is announced at group and not on the phone system, your 2 hour window begins at the start time for group. If you are late to group and not allowed in, it is your responsibility to determine if a screen was announced and, if so, utilize the 30 minutes following group to provide a specimen. Do not further disrupt group or more sanctions could apply!**

Tampering with or diluting a drug screen can be grounds for termination from the Forsyth County Drug Court Program. To limit the possibility of dilution, do not drink excessive fluids, do eat protein throughout the day, do restrict caffeine consumption, do slow fluid intake for a couple of hours before providing a specimen. Make these suggestions part of your normal day as you are subject to screening at any time. To limit the possibility of high creatinine levels, do not ingest any substance (which are not allowed) containing creatine. A high creatinine level can result in sanctions and/or termination from the program.

Upon reporting for a drug screen:

1. You must indicate an admission or denial of use on the sign-in sheet prior to submitting the screen and grant permission for confirmation of results, if appropriate. **This is a one shot deal. You must clarify admission at sign in including what substance(s) you used and when your last date of use was in order for this to count as an admission. Once you indicate denial, you cannot change your decision as far as sanctions are concerned. It is your responsibility to ensure staff is aware of any admission prior to providing the specimen. Honesty is a crucial component for recovery and participation in the Forsyth County Drug Court Program. Self-disclosure of use will be considered by the Court when sanctions are imposed.**

2. Only one participant is allowed in the testing area at a time. A staff member must accompany you at all times during drug testing.
3. You must make sure you hand your specimen vial/bottle to the staff member and watch them put your label on the bottle/screen.
4. You will not be allowed to leave the testing area or drink excessive fluids until a specimen is received. It is suggested you not drink excessive fluids two hours prior to screening.
5. A staff member of the same gender must always witness the sample being given.
6. You may not carry purses, coats, bags, etc. into the testing area.
7. Shirt sleeves should be rolled up to the elbow and pants should be below the knee. You may be asked to remove additional clothing to ensure the validity of a specimen.
8. You must wash your hands BEFORE providing the specimen.
9. The test cup must contain a minimum 1/3 level to be adequate for testing.
10. Follow the directions given to you by the screener as this list is not all inclusive.

Community service is not an excuse for being late to or missing a drug screen; nor is a drug screen an excuse for being late to community service.

Upon each admission or lab confirmation of drug use, your name/information will be forwarded to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) as required by federal law. This report will initiate a 1 year prohibition on the purchase or possession of firearms and ammunition. Each subsequent report will restart the 1 year prohibition. Completion of Drug Court will not end the prohibition if the year has not passed.

F. FOURTH AMENDMENT WAIVER SEARCHES

All participants are subject to a search of their person, place, residence, phones, vehicle or belongings, at any time, whether present or not, for any reason, having given such permission in the Drug Court Contract. Your failure or the failure of anyone with whom you reside to welcome entry for a search will result in sanctions. Therefore, it is imperative the Accountability Court Office have your current address and contact information. Your rooms/home must be clean/neat enough to be searchable.

While in the Drug Court Program, you may not have ammunition or guns of any type (BB, paintball, etc.) in your home, car, or possession. There may not be alcohol of any kind in the residence where you reside or vehicle you occupy. **If you are in possession of any mood or mind-altering substance at the time of the search, you can be taken into custody immediately.** Additionally, you cannot reside or be present in a vehicle where e-cigs, vapes or vape juice is present. Sanctions will be imposed for violations. You may not attempt to or alert another participant of actual or perceived investigative activity by Drug Court Personnel or their agents (including, but not limited to law enforcement). If you do, jail sanctions are likely. You also may not clear any social media or electronic devices after they have been taken as part of a search. When a search is conducted, you may be asked to provide a urine or breath sample for drug/alcohol testing, the same rules apply to these tests as those performed at the treatment center. So, if you choose to admit to use, make sure to tell the officer before the screen is conducted. Admission after the

specimen is collected will be treated as a denial for sanctioning purposes. If you have questions regarding Fourth Amendment waiver searches, contact the Accountability Court Office.

V. Treatment

A. GROUP

**** Participation is crucial to recovery. Be aware that you influence other members and can have either a positive or negative impact on their recovery process. Due to the importance of each person's recovery, being consistently disrespectful and distracting from the group leading to dismissal will result in sanctions.** Each group facilitator has the authority to kick you out of group.**

B. SERVICES

Upon entry into Drug Court, a treatment plan will be developed to address your needs utilizing information from your clinical assessment. This plan will be reviewed with you as necessary and at each phase move meeting. The goals/recommendations of the plan will be adjusted as goals are achieved and/or your needs change. Treatment and Drug Court staff will ensure you are provided access to services identified in your treatment plan. Such services could include individual counseling, marital/family counseling, mental health/co-occurring treatment, cognitive skills, anger management, in-patient/residential treatment, etc. Access or referral to ancillary services is also available. Ancillary services include but are not limited to employment counseling/assistance, medical/dental care, educational improvement, financial planning/budgeting, housing, etc. You may request such services at any time through your treatment counselor or Drug Court staff.

C. PHASE REQUIREMENTS

Certain conditions must be met prior to your move from one phase to the next. These conditions are listed below for each phase. Any questions regarding these conditions should be addressed to the Accountability Court Office. **Requests to move to the next phase must be submitted to the Accountability Court Office or placed in the box located at the treatment facility by 12:00 pm on the Monday prior to your anticipated move date.** These forms can be obtained from the box at the treatment facility or Accountability Court Office.

Phase 1: minimum 3 months

1. Attend 3 group meetings weekly as required
2. Attend meeting with Case Manager as required
3. Complete life story
4. Provide at least 2 random drug screens weekly as directed
5. Obtain full-time employment or receive Judge's exemption
6. Pay a minimum of 3 months in fees
7. Begin process to obtain GED
8. Complete a minimum of 1 month without a missed, positive, or diluted screen

9. Complete a minimum of 4 weeks without a jail time sanction or from release from last jail sanction
10. Meet with Drug Court and/or treatment staff to review your treatment plan

Phase 2: minimum 6 months

1. Attend 2 group meetings weekly as required
2. Provide for at least 2 random drug screens weekly as required
3. Continue full-time employment, school, other activity approved by Judge
4. Attend and document one recovery support meeting per week
5. Obtain a sponsor, mentor, or peer recovery coach
6. Pay a minimum of 9 months in fees
7. Provide a copy of diploma/GED or results of GED pre-test take after program entry
8. Must get physical or provide proof of physical within the last 12 months
9. Complete a minimum of 1 month without a missed, positive, or diluted screen
10. Complete a minimum of 4 weeks without a jail time sanction or from release from last jail sanction
11. Meet with Drug Court and/or treatment staff to review your treatment plan

Phase 3: minimum 6 months

1. Attend 2 group meetings weekly as required
2. Provide at least 2 random drug screens weekly as required
3. Continue full-time employment, school, other activity approved by Judge
4. Attend and document two recovery support meetings per week
5. Continue to work with your sponsor, mentor, or peer recovery coach
6. Pay a minimum of 15 months in fees
7. Take GED classes or other educational classes for educational advancement, as directed by Accountability Courts Office staff
8. Complete a minimum of 8 weeks without a missed, positive, or diluted screen
9. Complete a minimum of 4 weeks without a jail time sanction or from release from last jail sanction
10. Complete a minimum of 3 individual counseling sessions, if not completed prior to this phase
11. Meet with Drug Court and/or treatment staff to review your treatment plan

Phase 4: minimum 5 months

1. Attend 1 group meeting weekly as required
2. Provide random drug screens as required
3. Continue full-time employment, school, or other activity approved by Judge
4. Attend and document 3 recovery support meetings per week or voluntary individual sessions
5. Continue to work with your sponsor, mentor, or peer recovery
6. Pay a minimum of 20 months in fees
7. Take and provide copy of GED results; if not passed, provide documented proof of studying
8. Complete a minimum of 3 months without a missed, positive, or diluted screen

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9. Complete a minimum of 4 weeks without a jail time sanction or from release from last jail sanction
10. Meet with Drug Court and/or treatment staff to review your treatment plan

Phase 5: minimum 4 months

1. Attend 2 group meetings monthly as required
2. Provide random drug screens as required
3. Continue full-time employment, school, or other activity approved by Judge
4. Attend and document 3 recovery support meetings per week or voluntary individual sessions
5. Continue to work with your sponsor, mentor, or peer recovery
6. Pay all fees in full (24 months)
7. Meet with treatment counselor for assessment and recommendations regarding further counseling
8. Pass GED or meet other educational advancement requirements
9. Complete a minimum of 120 days without a missed, positive, or diluted screen or use of unapproved substance
10. Complete a minimum of 3 months without a jail time sanction or from release from last jail sanction
11. Complete all graduation requirements 1 month prior to anticipated graduation date
12. Must not be placed on daily meetings within 4 weeks of technical end date
13. Meet with Drug Court staff and/or treatment provider to ensure all requirements have been met

D. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Upon completion of Phase 5, you will be eligible for graduation. However, several requirements must be met prior to your graduation recommendation.

1. Write a letter to the Judge regarding your progress in the Drug Court Program, letter must be submitted to and approved by Accountability Court Office, and must include the following:
 - Background: Life before Drug Court
 - Arrest situation
 - Reflections on Drug Court success
 - Reflections on Drug Court struggles
 - Plans/Goals for future: personal and recovery
2. Complete Giving Back Project
 - Project/Site to be approved by Accountability Court Office
 - Minimum of 24 volunteer hours
 - Documentation must be verified by Accountability Court Office
 - Submit to Coordinator a written summary of how/why project was chosen, feelings while completing project, personal reactions after project completion

3. All Drug Court/treatment fees must be paid in full or substituted community service work must be completed
4. Complete recovery plan with assistance of treatment staff and submit to Coordinator
5. Attend and document at least one Phase 1 group
6. Provide certification of having GED, high school diploma, or other educational improvement records
7. Complete a minimum of 120 days without a missed, positive, or diluted screen or use of unapproved substance; Complete a minimum of 3 months without a jail time sanction or from release from last jail sanction; Must not be placed on daily support meetings within 4 weeks of anticipated graduation date
8. Must meet with Drug Court Case Manager or designated staff to review completed requirement.

After you have completed the above requirements, the Drug Court staff will recommend your graduation from the program to the Treatment Team. Successfully completing the Forsyth County Drug Court Program will result in your original charges being dismissed or your sentence being satisfied; or, if you are on probation, it will reflect satisfactory completion of that condition of your probation and possible early termination from probation or maximum benefits. This process will be facilitated by the District Attorney's Office or Probation Department and will be granted by the Drug Court Judge.

Commented [JJR11]: This is 120 days also, right?

FORSYTH COUNTY DRUG COURT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL

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PLANNING GROUP

PURPOSE:

This group is comprised of executive level personnel from each agency to facilitate the process, expeditiously resolve issues, and provide buy-in at the upper echelon, so that later groups with non-executive level personnel will be comprised of people who are confident that the Head of each agency has made drug court a priority mission. The group has a clear purpose, roles of members are defined, and the group meets on a regular basis. The group utilizes formal and informal evaluations of the program to guide policy review and improvement. Formal refers to evaluations conducted by contracted agencies for such a purpose. Informal includes participant surveys, feedback from staff or ancillary agencies, etc.

MEMBERS:

- Honorable Jeffrey S. Bagley, Chief Superior Court/Drug Court Judge, attended Operational Tune-Up March 2021, attended local conference in 2020
- Accountability Courts Office, case manager, attended Operational Tune-Up March 2021, attended local conference in 2021
- Accountability Courts Director, attended Operational Tune-Up March 2021, attended local and national conference in 2021
- Accountability Courts Assistant Director, attended Operational Tune-Up March 2021, attended local and national conference in 2021
- District Attorney, attended Operational Tune-Up March 2021, attended local conference in 2021
- Criminal defense attorney representative, attended Operational Tune-Up March 2021, attended local conference in 2021
- Department of Community Supervision representative, attended Operational Tune-Up March 2021, attended local conference in 2021
- Forsyth County Sheriff's Office representative, attended Operational Tune-Up March 2021, attended local conference in 2020
- Treatment representative, attended Operational Tune-Up March 2021, attended local and national conference in 2021
- Pre-Trial Services representative

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS:

All group members are required to adhere to their discipline-specific requirements for certification or licensure (listed below). Additionally, all group members must attend one Accountability Court training/conference every 2 years. New group members are required to attend the next state or national Accountability Court training/conference.

Attorneys: 12 hours of CLEs/year

Counselors: 35 hours of CEUs/biennially

Probation Officers: 20 hours of POST credit/year

Law enforcement: 20 hours of POST credit/year

STEERING COMMITTEE

A committee comprised of court officials, community organizations, healthcare providers, social service agencies, education providers, and business leaders meets quarterly to review the progress of all Accountability Courts in Forsyth County. Additionally, this committee is tasked with connecting Accountability Courts with appropriate services available in the community, assisting in educating the community on Accountability Courts, aiding Accountability Courts in securing additional funding for ancillary services for indigent participants, etc.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Forsyth County Drug Court Program is to enhance public safety by providing a judicially supervised regimen of treatment and innovative case management to substance abuse offenders with the goal of returning sober, law-abiding citizens to the community and thereby closing the “revolving door” to the criminal justice system.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1: To provide early screening, assessment and court intervention.

Objective 1:

Eligible offenders, who express interest and are referred to the program, will receive substance abuse evaluation/assessment of risk/needs within 14 days of arrest, subject to the policies of other circuits.

Objective 2:

Selected participants will receive court intervention within 14 days of arrest.

OUTCOME MEASURES:

1. Percentage of eligible offenders receiving substance abuse evaluations and assessments of risk/needs within 14 days of arrest.
2. Percentage of eligible offenders receiving court intervention within 14 days of arrest.

GOAL 2: To provide effective court supervision.

Objective 1:

100% of the participants will receive intensive court supervision including regular hearings, tracking of progress, and progressive sanctions and incentives.

Objective 2:

At least 85% of participants receiving program services will reduce the frequency of alcohol and other drug use as measured by urinalysis testing results.

Objective 3:

65% of eligible participants will complete the program successfully.

OUTCOME MEASURES:

1. Percentage of program participants who demonstrate reductions in alcohol and other drug use as measured by clean urinalysis test results.
2. Percentage of eligible participants completing the program.

GOAL 3: To provide an integrated program of drug treatment, substance abuse education, and rehabilitation services.

Objective 1:

100% of the participants referred will receive inpatient or outpatient substance abuse treatment at any given time as measured by treatment provider verification reports.

Objective 2:

90% of the participants who complete the program will be employed upon graduation as measured by employment verification reports.

Objective 3:

100% of the graduates with less than a high school degree will improve literacy skills or earn a GED prior to program completion as measured by educational verification reports.

OUTCOME MEASURES:

1. Percentage of program participants receiving outpatient and/or inpatient substance abuse treatment.
2. Percentage of program graduates who are employed
3. Percentage of program participants who have increased literacy skills and/or completed a GED.

STRUCTURE/MODEL

The Forsyth County Drug Court is a hybrid model of pre-adjudication and post-adjudication offered to eligible participants charged with felony drug offenses or other offenses deemed appropriate by the District Attorney's Office. Entry into the program is completely voluntary and is indicative of only one option available to defendants. Typically, those found guilty of first-time drug possession are sentenced to 3-5 years to be served on probation, fines, fees, community service, drug screens, a drug and alcohol assessment and follow-up to the recommendations made in that assessment, etc.

Drug Court is also offered as an alternative to revocation for eligible offenders who are on probation and subsequently test positive for drugs or obtain substance-related charges.

Drug Court offers a more forgiving program for those offenders who have a drug addiction and want help fighting it. For example, the first time a Drug Court participant tests positive for drugs or alcohol, the sanction does not result in jail time. The sanctions will be progressive in severity if violations continue. However, if offenders test positive for drugs while on probation and are revoked, it is likely they will be sent to a Probation Detention Center for 60 to 120 days.

The Drug Court Case Manager advises the participants of their requirements and conditions. The Drug Court Case Manager maintains records of the participant program fee payments, residence, employment, case status and other information. The Drug Court Case Manager manages all participant files and maintains updates. The Drug Court Case Manager can administer drug screens to test for drugs/alcohol.

TARGET POPULATION

The target population for the Forsyth County Drug Court includes those charged with felony drug offenses, and those on probation who test positive for drugs or obtain substance-related charges. Additionally, participants must meet clinical criteria for having substance abuse or dependence with a focus on moderate to high risk/need offenders.

The Forsyth County Drug Court will not knowingly accept those known or thought to be involved with the sale or distribution of drugs, validated gang members, or those previously convicted of violent felonies.

**We will provide a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment for all people and promote an area of growth for each person who enters our programs. We will create a therapeutic environment that broadens our understanding and appreciation of multiculturalism and diversity. We will be respectful of all people regardless of race, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, political views, etc.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible participants will meet the following criteria:

- Current felony drug charge and other charges as identified by DA³
- Meet clinical criteria for substance abuse or dependence, with a focus on moderate to high risk/need offenders
- Will consider felony convictions
- At least 17 years old
- Presence in United States is legally documented
- Must be a resident of the State of Georgia

Probation Eligibility

- Must test positive for alcohol/drugs, obtain new alcohol/drug-related offenses, or refuse to provide specimen to be tested for alcohol/drugs
- Must have at least 36 months left on probation sentence to complete Drug Court program
- Must have at least 30 months left on probation sentence to receive Maximum Benefits Certificate
- Probation entries will have their community service suspended, as long as they are in Drug Court. Upon successful completion of Drug Court, their community service will be deemed satisfied. They will receive dollar for dollar credit on their fines from any monies they pay to Drug Court. Probation entries who owe restitution must still pay restitution.
- Individuals who previously declined Drug Court will serve 60 days in the county jail, from the date of arrest, prior to starting the program. Individuals who previously declined Drug Court and get a new felony while on felony probation for the case on which they declined will go to the State Probation Detention Center for 90-120 days. Individuals who are on probation and get a new felony, having never declined drug court, will go to the State Probation Detention Center for 60-90 days. Individuals on probation who are offered Drug Court after getting a new misdemeanor DUI or drug charge will serve 30 days in the county jail, from the date of arrest, prior to starting the program. If referred after previously declining on a probation revocation, must complete the RSAT program before Drug Court entry; such referrals are at the discretion of the Probation Office.
- Must have no prior violent felony convictions
- Meet clinical criteria for substance abuse or dependence
- Must be at least 17 years old
- Must be a resident of the State of Georgia

DISQUALIFICATION CRITERIA

³ The District Attorney may use discretion on any referrals deemed appropriate for consideration in the Drug Court Program

The following criteria disqualify an offender for the Forsyth County Drug Court Program:

- Violent felony convictions or history, including, but not limited to, murder, vehicular homicide, serious injury by vehicle, armed robbery, robbery, aggravated assault, aggravated battery, terroristic threats, etc.
- Multiple felony convictions as deemed inappropriate for the program by the DA's Office
- Involvement in sale or distribution of drugs within the last three years
- Severe and/or untreated mental/physical health problem which would impede their ability to actively participate in and complete the intensive program
- Presence in the United States is not legally documented
- Verifiable membership in a street or prison gang
- Graduated or terminated from any accountability court within the previous 3 years

ENTRY PROCESS

After arrest, defendants are identified by jail personnel and the District Attorney's Office, or by the Probation Officer, as potentially eligible for the Forsyth County Drug Court Program. They are given a bond in the usual manner. The District Attorney's Office sends notice of their Drug Court Review Date on the soonest Friday practicable after their bond, typically within two to three weeks of release. Those unable to make bond, or those on probation, are placed on a Drug Court Considerations Calendar on the earliest Friday after seven (7) days in custody (to increase the likelihood of making a decision while sober).

On their bond returnable date, those who have made bond report to the Accountability Court Office at 425 Tribble Gap Road, Cumming, Georgia 30040 to meet with defense counsel about the specifics of their case and the requirements of the program. Those still in jail will be seen by the defense attorney at the jail prior to clinical assessments.

If a defendant is not interested, their case is placed on the regular trial track. Those on probation who decline Drug Court are placed on the next revocation calendar.

If interested in the program, defendant's residency is verified, and defendants complete a clinical evaluation. Results of clinical evaluation, including risk assessment and ASAM level are entered into case management system by a member of the treatment team. Following that evaluation, interested and referred defendants are given a date to return to Drug Court, or if incarcerated, are brought over to Drug Court, on Tuesday at 3:00 PM to enter the program, following execution of the contract packet.

The Drug Court Team consists of the Judge, District Attorney, Defense Attorney, Accountability Court staff, Felony Probation, law enforcement, Pre-Trial Services, and treatment representatives. The Team meets at 1:30 PM on Tuesday to determine who will be offered entry into the program and to review the progress of current participants as presented on the spreadsheet. Those who are accepted enter their plea in Drug Court at 3:00 PM and will attend orientation on Wednesday and begin screening and groups immediately.

The Drug Court Judge presides over Drug Court sessions. If unavailable, a Senior Judge will be utilized or Court will be cancelled.

If a defendant is legally and clinically eligible but the Team deems them unsuitable, they will be placed on the regular trial track or the next revocation calendar.

The anticipated maximum length of time between arrest and entry into the program is 14 days.*
The anticipated minimum length of time between arrest and entry into the program is 8 days.*
*these do not include those after violating probation or timeframes during a national pandemic

Upon request by another jurisdiction, cases will be considered for supervision or transfer. Such cases will be placed on the calendar and reviewed by the Drug Court Team.

PHASES

The Forsyth County Drug Court is a minimum of 24 months in duration (maximum of 4 years) and consists of five phases. Phase 1 is the Preparation Phase, Phase 2 is the Education Phase, Phase 3 is the Maintenance Phase, and the last phases are dedicated to re-entry into unsupervised society and aftercare. Upon entry into the Program, an Individualized Treatment Plan will be created for each participant. The Individualized Treatment Plan will be updated upon phase move. Participants may be eligible for a maximum benefit once they reach 36 months in the program.

Phase Requirements

Phase 1 is a minimum of three months in duration. Participants will attend court sessions weekly. Treatment groups will occur a minimum of three times a week combined with a minimum of two random, observed drug screens each week. Participants are required to meet with Case Manager one time per week, initially, then, as directed by the Accountability Court office. Participants are also required to write their life story before being eligible to phase up.

Phase 2 requires a minimum of six months. Participants will continue to attend court weekly. Group attendance decreases to a minimum of two times a week with random, observed drug screens remaining at a minimum of two per week. Must attend at least one Community Support meeting per week. Participants must complete the GED pre-test, if they cannot provide proof of a GED or High School Diploma, during Phase 2.

Phase 3 will last a minimum of six months. Court sessions will be attended twice a month. Treatment groups will continue at a minimum of two a week along with at least two random, observed drug screens. Three Individual Counseling sessions will be completed, if not completed in earlier phases. Must attend at least two Community Support meetings per week. Participants must take the GED or classes for educational advancement, as directed by the ACO Staff during Phase 3.

Phase 4 will last a minimum of five months. Court sessions will be attended once a month. Treatment groups will decrease to a minimum of one a week along with random, observed drug screens weekly. Must attend at least three Community Support meetings per week.

Phase 5 and Aftercare Phase will be at least four months in duration.

Phase 5: Court sessions will be attended once a month. Groups will be reduced to a minimum of two a month and random, observed drug screens will occur at least weekly. Must attend at least three Community Support meetings per week.

Participants will have the opportunity to move to the Aftercare Phase, if they have completed their entire graduation packet and all responsibilities, after two months in Phase 5.

Aftercare Phase: If a participant completes their entire graduation packet and all responsibilities in Phase 5 and is moved to Aftercare Phase, they are required to continue screening, but many

requirements will be lifted. During Aftercare Phase, if it is determined by the Accountability Court Staff or Treatment, the participant can be moved back to the Phase 5 schedule.

The number of meetings, etc., listed here are minimum requirements. It may be necessary for participants to submit to individual counseling, additional groups, court sessions, and/or screens based on their level of commitment, progress, etc.

Residential Treatment

If you enter residential treatment as a part of your Drug Court treatment requirements, you will be required to attend court quarterly. These dates will be provided to you and the residential facility. Once in residential treatment for twelve (12) months, the participant will undergo a reassessment at the Accountability Court Office to determine ongoing needs level. Upon return from residential, the participant shall return to the phase they were in when they left. After 30 days in that phase, the participant shall be evaluated by treatment to determine which phase is appropriate for treatment. This can result in moving to a higher or lower phase. If residential is successfully completed, upon meeting the measures required, they may still graduate in 24 months. If residential is not successfully completed, upon reentry into the program, the earliest available graduation date shall be determined.

Leave Requests

Leave requests must be submitted, in writing, to the Accountability Court office on the Monday immediately prior to the leave request. Participants in Phase 1 will not be granted leave for any reason other than emergencies and/or documented court appearances, etc. Phase 2 participants will be granted 2 leave requests. Phase 3 participants will be granted 2 leave requests. Phase 4 participants will be granted 2 leave requests. Phase 5 participants will be granted 2 leave requests. If group is missed during a leave, the participant must make up the group within two weeks of the leave being granted. In Phases 2 and 3, only 1 group may be missed per leave request. In Phases 4 and 5, participants shall not miss a group while on leave. These requests are apart from any emergency, subpoena, court appearance, etc. Participants are required to provide a urine screen on the day they return from leave. On weekdays, if there is not a screen at the screening location, the participant is required to report to the drug court office by 9 am. Any questions may be directed to the Accountability Court office for clarification.

Medical Leave

Medical leave is defined as the period of time during which a medical doctor states that a participant cannot (either in hospital or on bed rest) attend/participate in Drug Court sessions of any kind outside of the hospital or home. A Medical Leave Form will be completed by participant (in advance when possible) and reviewed by Treatment Team at Drug Court staffing for approval. During weeks one (1) through six (6) of Medical Leave, the participant is responsible for following the directions of the Accountability Court office including pill counts, weekly status reports, and doctor visit updates. When a participant has been on Medical Leave for six (6) weeks, the participant's future in the program will be discussed. The participant shall be required to attend court and appear for drug screens as directed by Drug Court staff during their medical leave. Participants on medical leave from the program are still subject to the rules and

regulations of the Drug Court Program and any violations can be addressed while the participant is on Medical Leave, or upon return.

Maternity leave will require similar documentation but the leave will be approved as follows (with the exception of extenuating circumstances): a female participant will be excused from all Drug Court participation for two weeks following birth. For weeks three and four, the female participant will be required to submit to screens as normal. At the conclusion of the fourth week following birth, the participant shall return to their regular Drug Court schedule.

Fees

Participants are charged monthly fees to recoup some costs for court, treatment, drug screens, and defense attorney costs. Fees are expected to be paid in a timely manner. If a participant falls behind, sanctions will be imposed until they are current. For those in residential programs, minimum payments necessary to move from one phase to the next must be made before a phase move will be considered.

Termination Criteria

Termination will be considered as a “last resort.” If termination becomes necessary, the State, in a Drug Court session, will give oral notice to the participant of a termination hearing with the expectation that the participant will contact the defense attorney and be prepared for said hearing the following week in Drug Court. The staff shall be provided access to all records, as allowed by the release of confidentiality, to be viewed in the Accountability Court Office. Attorneys (prosecutor, Drug Court defense attorney, and/or retained counsel) may look at and make notes from the file of the participant facing termination but will not be allowed to make copies of or leave the Accountability Court Office with the file.

The Forsyth County Drug Court has identified criteria to be used in deciding whether to terminate a participant from the program. The following will be used as guidelines only and the final decision rests with the trial Judge after a hearing.

- Commission of a new offense; felonies are presumed termination to be determined at hearing, misdemeanors will be at the discretion of the staff
- Substituting or otherwise tampering with a drug screen
- Chronic non-compliance evidenced by continued use, multiple missed groups, failure to follow program requirements, poor attitude, disruptive behavior, etc.
- Being AWOL from the program
- Threats/violence toward other participants or any accountability court staff member
- Termination/discharge/or otherwise leaving a residential treatment program without prior permission from Drug Court (warrant to be issued upon Accountability Court Office/DA Office/Probation notification)

GRADUATION CRITERIA

The following criteria must be completed prior to anticipated graduation:

1. Write a letter to the Judge regarding your progress in the Drug Court Program, letter must be submitted to and approved by Accountability Court office, and must include the following:
 - Background: Life before Drug Court
 - Arrest situation
 - Reflections on Drug Court success
 - Reflections on Drug Court struggles
 - Plans/Goals for future: personal and recovery
2. Complete Giving Back Project
 - Project/Site to be approved by Accountability Court office
 - Minimum of 24 volunteer hours
 - Documentation must be verified by Accountability Court office
 - Submit to Accountability Court office a written summary of how/why project was chosen, feelings while completing project, personal reactions after project completion
3. All Drug Court/Treatment fees must be paid in full or substituted community service work must be completed
4. Complete recovery plan with assistance of treatment staff and submit to Accountability Court office
5. Attend and document at least one Phase 1 group
6. Provide certification of having GED, high school diploma, or other educational improvement records
7. Complete a minimum of 120 days without a missed, positive, or diluted screen or use of unapproved substance; Complete a minimum of 3 months without a jail time sanction or from release from last jail sanction; Must not be placed on daily community support meetings within 4 weeks of anticipated graduation date
8. Must meet with Accountability Court office to review completed requirement.

Once participants have completed these criteria and reached their end date, they must continue to drug screen until the formal graduation date.

SANCTIONS

Sanctions are the imposition of consequences, perceived as negative by the receiver, as a direct result of a prohibited activity. Sanctions will be swift and appropriate. The Forsyth County Drug Court Team will determine sanctions on an individual basis as related to the current violation with the final sanction being in the sole discretion of the judge. Sanctions may include but are not limited to: a day in court, community service work, increased drug screens, and jail time. Unless otherwise specified herein or by the Court, all paperwork and monies from participants must be turned in to the Drug Court staff as directed in the Participant Handbook by Monday at noon for the week prior.

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL JAIL SANCTIONS ARE IMMEDIATE FROM COURT.

NO CREDIT WILL BE GIVEN TOWARD CSW FOR BRINGING EQUIPMENT, USING PERSONAL VEHICLE, ETC. (If Drug Court discovers a participant did not work all hours assigned, the sanction will be determined on a case by case basis by the Drug Court Team.)

Graduated Sanctions:

DRUG SCREENS

- 1st Missed/Positive Screen Admit: Therapeutic response
Deny: 8 hours CSW & therapeutic response
- 2nd Missed/Positive Screen Admit: 16 hours CSW & therapeutic response
Deny: 1 day FCDC & therapeutic response
- 3rd Missed/Positive Screen Admit: 1 day FCDC & therapeutic evaluation
and follow recommendations
Deny: 3 days FCDC & therapeutic evaluation
and follow recommendations
- 4th Missed/Positive Screen Admit: 3 days FCDC & therapeutic response
Deny: 6 days FCDC & therapeutic response
- 5th Missed/Positive Screen Admit: 6 days FCDC & therapeutic response
Deny: 10 days FCDC & therapeutic response
- 6th Missed/Positive Screen Admit: 10 days FCDC & residential or termination
Deny: 14 days FCDC & residential or termination

****Admission only valid if sign in sheet is filled out in its entirety prior to providing sample (to include circling yes, specifying which substance, and including the date of last use).**

A 2 hour window is provided for all drug screens. If a screen is announced at group (not on the daily call), the 2 hours begin at the time of check-in. Participants may screen until group begins and again for 15 minutes following the conclusion of group. Failure to submit a screen during those times will result in a missed screen for sanctioning purposes. This scenario applies even if one is

late for or not allowed to enter group. Missing a screen announced at group will count as a missed screen for sanctioning purposes.

- EtG level is set at 350 ng/mL and EtS is set at 100 ng/mL to be considered a positive, EtS is the control so can sanction if EtS is at or above 100 ng/mL
- **Honesty Gift:** If participant admits a prior use not caught by the drug screen, the use will be treated as an admission. Additionally, a treatment response will be added. This will only be allowed one time and will not be used to terminate if the admitted screen is their 6th, etc.
- Regarding THC use: Upon entry, participants who have been positive for marijuana will need to achieve two consecutive negative screens with at least 4 days between the screens. The participants' creatinine ratio shall be utilized to determine new use. **A THC/creatinine ratio of 1.5 or higher will be considered a positive with denial screen. **In unconventional situations where a participant remains positive for longer than 30 days, seek toxicological assistance. An oral report to the drug court staff is adequate.****

****Sobriety Incentive:** Participants will get a screen roll-back each 6 months they go without a positive, missed, or dilute urine screen. There is no limit on how many roll-backs a participant may receive. A participant may not roll back to their first screen (community service).

- If a participant successfully completes residential treatment (minimum of 9 months), they receive 2 drug screen roll backs (ex.: 3rd would be treated as 1st)
- **Participants are required to report to the Drug Court office on the first business day after release from jail for a drug sanction or a jail sanction of three days or greater. Failure to report results in mandated counseling. If the participant is already in mandated individual, they must complete 8 hours of CSW.**
- Dilution of UDS Treated as a denial of use.
 - If creatinine level is 11-19.9:
 - 1st- education from Accountability Court office or staff and presentation to group and does not delay phase up
 - 2nd- sanction in the progression still counted as denial
 - If level is < or = 10.0
 - 1st: treat as a positive denial in the screening progression and education from Accountability office or staff and delay phase up.
 - 2nd- possible motion for termination, if no motion to terminate, sanction in the screening progression
 - If creatinine level is under 50 but >20
 - 1st time: meeting with Drug Court Accountability Court office or staff
- Use or possession of any mood or mind-altering substance (including supplements/meal replacements/vape juice) without prior approval of the Drug Court Office
3 days in jail

- Use or possession of any non-mood or mind-altering prescription without permission
 - 1st - read handbook and present to case manager and then group
 - 2nd and subsequent - 1 day in jail
- Failure to comply with any appointment pertaining to Medication Assisted Treatment, including but not limited to lab work, failing a screen, tardiness to appointment, etc.

3 days in jail
- If energy drink is located during a search or participant is seen possessing or consuming energy drink

8 hrs CSW
- Failure to turn in remaining approved prescription medications and/or containers

3 days in jail
- Failure to report to Accountability Court Office within 72 hours to turn in Physician Notification Form, as well as paperwork from physician if medications were administered, and/or bring prescriptions to be discarded

3 days in jail
- Use of any mood-altering substances, including, but not limited to designer drugs, synthetic marijuana, bath salts, kratom, CBD oil, etc., regardless of chemical compound will be sanctioned as a use (not use without permission)
- Substitution of UDS in Phases 1 or 2 will result in up to 30 days in jail or, at the discretion of the court, termination from the program. If such adulteration or substitution occurs in Phase 3 or higher, the participant will likely be terminated from the program
- Failure to sign in for screen

4 hrs CSW

 - If there is no record of a screen=missed screen
- Failure to choose “admit” or “deny” on sign-in sheet
 - Will be treated as a denial if screen is confirmed positive
 - Must stand at sign-in sheet and remind others (1 time for full check-in/testing window)
 - Staff can impose greater sanction if deemed necessary
- Failure to complete stand and remind

4 hrs CSW

GROUPS AND INDIVIDUAL

- Failure to sign in at group

4 hrs CSW
- Being kicked out of group

3 days in jail
- Late/missed group
 - If late to group or case management check-in
 - 1st time: 2 page paper

- 2nd time: work detail
 - 3rd time: 4 hrs CSW
 - 4th time: 1day FCDC
 - If denied entry into group (decision regarding entry is left up to the discretion of the group leader)
 - 1st time=8 hours CSW
 - 2nd time=treated as a missed group
 - 3rd or more=discretion of the team
 - If missed completely** or participant leaves without the facilitator's permission
 - 1st time=24 hrs in jail
 - 2nd time=3 days
 - 3rd time or more=discretion of the team
- **Judge can waive jail sanction if a true emergency can be proven and documented.
- Failure to bring Workbook to group
 - 1st time: paper and presentation on responsibility
 - 2nd time: 4 hours CSW
 - 3rd time: 8 hours CSW
 - Lost Workbook
 - 1st time: 4 hours CSW, catch up workbook, and setback
 - 2nd time: 8 hours CSW, catch up workbook, and setback
 - 3rd time: Team discretion
 - Missed mandated individual appointment (must be ordered and removed by Judge)
 - Treated as missed group
 - Emergency situations will be considered by the team
 - If up to and including 15 minutes late, 2 page paper and written apology to counselor
 - 16+ minutes late, treated as missed
 - Must call to notify of absence or reschedule in advance of appointment to avoid sanctions
 - Missed voluntary individual appointment (must call to notify of absence or reschedule in advance of appointment to avoid sanctions)
 - Results in mandated individual counseling
 - If up to and including 15 minutes late, 2 page paper and written apology to counselor
 - 16+ minutes late, treated as missed
 - Treatment Noncompliance: If a participant is noncompliant with treatment and all treatment resources have been exhausted per Accountability Court Office, they shall

receive an individualized deadline from the court. Response to failure to meet deadline will be handled on a case by case basis.

- Missing case management check-in, including orientation (defined as missing or being over 30 minutes late)
 - 1st time: 8 hours CSW
 - 2nd time: 16 hours CSW
 - 3rd time: 1 day in jail
- Being late to phase-up meeting
 - 1-10 minutes: Paper on why they should phase up
 - Greater than 10 minutes: considered missed and must be rescheduled

AA/NA/SUPPORT MEETINGS

- If AA/NA/Support meeting sheet lacks proper documentation to include the participant's name:
 - Credit for only 1 meeting per day unless otherwise directed or approved
 - **Clean slate is given after one week of successful completion of support meetings; accelerated sanctions may be implemented at the discretion of the staff.**
 - 1st time=extra meeting
 - 2nd time=2 extra meetings
 - 3rd time=3 extra meetings
 - 4th time= 1st time-Community Support Presentation to Group
2nd time- Community Support Presentation & 8 hrs CSW
3rd time- Community Support Presentation & 16 hrs CSW
 - If no AA/NA/Support meetings are turned in:
 - Start at 2nd level of above tier
 - In phases 4 and 5, the following sanctions will be imposed for inaccurate meetings:
 - 1st time=2 extra meetings
 - 2nd time=3 extra meetings
 - 3rd time=Community Support Presentation to Group & Phase 1 Group
 - In phases 4 and 5, the following sanctions will be imposed for missed meetings (weeks must be consecutive):
 - 1st week=extra meeting + extra treatment group
 - 2nd week=2 extra meetings + extra treatment group + 1 day in jail from court on Tuesday (delayed phase move/graduation 4 weeks)
 - 3rd week=delay phase move/graduation for 3 months

JOB SEARCH AND VERIFICATION

- Not allowed to start own business while in Drug Court

- To be self-employed while in the program, business must have been set up, active, and registered with the state at the time of entry into Drug Court
- Independent Contractor (1099)
 - If had a 1099 job in previous year, provide copy of 1099 by April 1
 - Failure to turn in 1099 Get a W-2 job
- Job search
 - Must be continuously employed for 28 days (4 weeks) before job search requirement is reset
 - Week 1-3 = 5 job applications per week & attend Jumpstart weekly, if offered (Jumpstart is a weekly group focused on employment assistance and life skills)
 - Failure to turn in 5 job applications or proof of employment will result in immediate progression to daily job search
 - Week 4-6 = daily job search: report to Accountability Court Office daily at 8:30 am to complete job search, form must be completed and returned by close of business on the same day, attend Jumpstart weekly
 - Being late for job search check-in and/or failure to return with job search form (no more than one sanction per day) 4 hrs CSW
 - Week 7 and on=4 hrs CSW daily & attend Jumpstart weekly until employed
- All participants of Drug Court are required to be accountable for their time through employment or school. Participants, unless excused due to student status or disability, must work full-time, which is defined as no less than 28 hours per week. If a participant is a student, they must provide proof of student status and are required to be in classes and/or work no less than 28 hours per week. If a participant is receiving disability, they must work, but are only required to work 18 hours, or two hours less than amount allowed by disability.
- Job verification (due on the 1st Monday of each month)
 - Failure to turn in
 - 1st week: 8 hours CSW
 - 2nd week: 16 hours CSW
 - 3rd week: 2 days Court Duty
 - 4th week: 2 days in jail
 - Not turned in on time, insufficient documentation
 - PHASES 1-2
 - 1st week: 4 hours CSW
 - 2nd week: 8 hours CSW
 - 3rd week: one day of Court duty to be chosen and supervised by Drug Court Office
 - 4th week: 1 day in jail

- PHASES 3-5
 - 1st week: 8 hrs CSW
 - 2nd week: one day of Court duty to be chosen and supervised by Drug Court Office
 - 3rd week: forfeit leave or day in jail from court on Tuesday
 - 4th week: response at the discretion of the treatment team
- Working less than 112 hours per month
 - 1st month- 4 hours CSW
 - 2nd month- 8 hours CSW and new job before 1st Monday of next month or sufficient hours worked
 - 3rd month- 12 hours CSW and deadline from Court. Failure to meet deadline is a possible termination offense
- Quitting job or losing job without having a replacement = Start at daily job search

CONTRABAND⁴

- Contraband found in house, car, and/or seen on person
 - Ammunition 1 day in jail
 - Alcohol 3 days in jail
 - Paraphernalia (including smoking screens, rolling papers, vapes, etc.) 3 days in jail
 - Firearms 7 days in jail
 - Includes all firearms regardless of age/size/location
 - Using modified language from Federal Firearms Definitions 18 U.S. Code § 921, the term “firearm” means
 - Any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or provides an electrical charge;
 - The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
 - Any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or
 - Any destructive device.
 - The term “destructive device” means –
 - Any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas –
 - Bomb
 - Grenade
 - Rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces;
 - Missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce,
 - Mine, or

⁴ If a participant is caught vaping, it results in 6 days FCDC because possession of paraphernalia and possession of mood altering substance.

- Device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clauses;
 - Any type of weapon by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter; and
 - Any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device as described in the paragraphs above and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.
- Possession of crossbows – treated like a firearm 7 days in jail
 - Possession of pellet guns 3 days in jail
 - Marijuana or any other dangerous drug or controlled substance not legally prescribed to the participant or another person residing in the household 7 days in jail
 - Possession of mood-altering substances, kratom, etc whether purchased legally or illegally 7 days in jail
 - Possession of energy drink 8 hrs CSW

CONTACT POLICIES

- Participants are not to have contact with persons on probation and/or parole, convicted felons, known drug users, known drug dealers, people incarcerated in any institution, people being supervised by any court agency, on misdemeanor or felony release/bond, or people participating in accountability courts in other counties without advance permission of the staff.
 - 1st time = 4 hrs CSW
 - 2nd time = 8 hrs CSW
 - 3rd time = 1 day FCDC
 - 4th time = 3 days FCDC
 - 5th time = Presumed termination
- For permission for contact in special circumstances, written requests must be turned into the court for approval.
- Communications between or among participants, including but not limited to, sexting, having contact of a sexual nature, distributing photographs that may be deemed inappropriate, or communications that are otherwise inappropriate for the drug court setting, etc. Communication and association between or among 2 or more participants is limited to Drug Court business, Drug Court requirements, and Drug Court sanctioned events in Phases 1 and 2. In Phases 3 – 5, participants from any Forsyth County Accountability Court may hang out

together, so long as it is not in a participant's home or in an establishment that serves alcohol. No physical relationships are allowed.

Participants, on a case by case basis, may be allowed to live together. The participants must have permission from the Court and must be in Phase 2 before being considered.

Staff's discretion including, but not limited to, jail time and termination

PERSONAL INFORMATION POLICIES

- Incorrect address/not at provided address 2 days in jail, weekend turn-in
 - Staying away from provided address more than 1 night a week, owner of residence must agree to the search or participant will be sanctioned as above
 - Probationers must still get permission from probation prior to moving. In the event a probationer wants to move out of Forsyth County, they must get permission from probation and the Drug Court Judge.
- Being in an establishment where the primary purpose is alcohol or drug related and/or food is no longer served 3 days in jail
- Failure to provide vehicle information to Accountability Court Office within 2 business days of possessing/changing vehicles 8 hrs CSW
- Failure to provide phone number where a message can be left on voicemail, answering machine or with a person 4 hrs CSW
- Attempting to or alerting another participant of actual or perceived investigative activity by drug court personnel or their agents (including, but not limited to law enforcement) 3 days in jail
- Failure to comply with home search (there must be some evidence that someone is present and failing to answer the door, i.e., more than a car in the driveway, or, something signifying movement in the house or on the property) 7 days in jail
- Clearing out social media/phones/iPads remotely after they have been taken up for search 7 days in jail
- Curfew Phases 1-2 = 11 pm and 3-5= 12am
 - Missed curfew/not calling before missing curfew
 - 1st time: increased surveillance
 - 2nd time: earlier curfew
 - 3rd time: earlier curfew and 8 hours CSW

FEES

- Progressive sanctions will be imposed for being behind in finances. Arrearage is defined as more than two months (\$400) behind in fees.
 - Week 1=4 hours of community service
 - Week 2=8 hours of community service
 - Week 3=Complete budget
 - Week 4=Placed on payment plan
 - Failure to comply in budget process as necessary to complete budget
1 day in jail
 - Missed or insufficient payment
24 hrs in jail (Saturday 8pm to Sunday 8pm)
 - Deviation from payment may be requested in writing by the Monday deadline
 - Must pay minimums to transfer phases even if on payment plan
 - Consideration for a scholarship should be made for those on a payment plan and moving from Phase 3 to Phase 4
 - Must meet indigent status using Indigent Defense Office standards
 - Week 5 (if no payment plan necessary) 1 day in jail
(8pm Saturday to 8pm Sunday)
 - Week 6 (failure to pay) Subject to termination

** Case Manager may place a participant on a budget at the participant's request, without progressing through the fee sanctions.

- Participants who are in residential will accrue \$50 per month supervision fee. Upon return to the program, these fees are not expected to be paid. If the participant graduates, these fees will be expunged. If the participant is terminated or discharged from the program, these fees will be included in the sentence as restitution.

OTHER

- Possession of weapon(s) at Drug Court facility/event 3 days in jail
- Failure to complete CSW at all 24 hours in jail
 - Up to 8 hours CSW is equivalent to 24 hours in jail
- Turning in CSW late (any time after Monday at noon up until 3pm the following Tuesday)
 - 1st time: Redo CSW + 4 hours CSW
 - 2nd time: 24 hours in jail
- Failure to complete CSW as directed (right time, correct paperwork, etc.)
 - 1st time: Redo CSW
 - 2nd time: 24 hours jail

- If participant leaves courthouse during a Drug Court Session without permission, a bench warrant will be issued for their arrest and participant will remain in jail at least until Drug Court convenes again
- Lying
 - When confronted by Accountability Court staff who has independent information
Jail time (staff discretion)
 - When confronted by the Judge
Sanction above doubled
- Asking staff to lie for you
7 days jail
- Appearing in Court visibly high
contempt – Judge’s discretion (brought to Judge’s attention by staff)
- Late to Court or graduation
8 hrs CSW
- Failure to sign in for graduation
4 hrs CSW
- Missed graduation
24 hours in jail
- Playing on phone in court
 - 1st time: take up phone and return at ACO next day
 - 2nd time: take up phone and return at ACO next day; 4 hrs CSW
 - 3rd time: take up phone and return at ACO next day; 8 hrs CSW
 - No rollback
- Failure to notify ACO/Case Manager of contact with law enforcement (other than ACO Law Enforcement Officer(s))
 - 1st: 8 hours CSW
 - 2nd: 16 hours CSW
 - 3rd: 1 day in jail
- Arrest sanctions
 - Misdemeanor arrest or citation
up to 30 days in jail
 - Custodial traffic offense
up to 30 days in jail
 - Civil arrest; upon return to Drug Court
30 days in jail
 - Any serious traffic offenses that would not result in custody at time of offense will be presented to team by case manager for discussion as to whether there should be a sanction.
- **Progressive Sanctions** will be imposed when participants do not move from one phase to another in a timely manner. Each phase has been assigned a minimum amount of time

necessary for completion of the phase. However, it is possible for participants to need extra time to complete requirements. Therefore, a **4-week grace period** is allotted for any last minute completion to occur. After that time frame, progressive sanctions will be imposed to encourage participants to finish the requirements and move on to the next phase. These sanctions will be as follows:

- Week 5 participant must create and explain to the Drug Court Team a monthly budget showing income/expenses and include proper documentation if fee arrearage is the reason for the delay
 - Week 6 will result in 8 hours of community service
 - Week 7 will result in a weekend in jail
 - **If requirements are still not met by week 8, participation in the Forsyth County Drug Court Program could be terminated**
- Failure to report to court for anticipated sanction or if violation is not addressed by staff timely and participant fails to report it to the Treatment Team or Court
 - Double the sanction
 - Other minor infractions will result in 4 hours CSW. Failure to complete community service will result in additional sanction.

For those on PROBATION also: they must complete all conditions of probation in addition to their Drug Court requirements. Drug Court does not substitute for any condition or requirement of probation.

FEDERAL FIREARMS REPORTING: Upon each admission of use or positive lab confirmation, that participant's name will be submitted to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) for entry into the NICS Index Denied Persons File for Controlled Substance Abuse as required by federal law. Report to NICS will initiate a 1 year prohibition on the possession or purchase of firearms or ammunition. Each report will restart the 1 year prohibition.

18 U.S.C. § 921 et seq., the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act (Pub. L. 103-159), the NICS Improvement Act of 2007 (Pub. L. 110-180), and implementing regulations as may be codified within the Code of Federal Regulations.

INCENTIVES

Incentives are responses to compliance, perceived as positive, by the participant. The Forsyth County Drug Court recognizes the importance of rewarding participants for good behavior. Incentives will also be swift to support program compliance. Incentives can range from praise from the Judge to having charges dismissed upon program completion.

- ACLP – (Accountability Court Limited Permit) – After 60 days in the program, participants may apply for a limited permit from Judge Bagley. They cannot have been to jail within 28 days of the request. The approval is on a case by case basis. There is a presumption that the one-year permit will not be renewed, but decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- Free Passes will be granted for use on sanctions other than jail-time, those given for fee arrearage, or missed groups. They will be granted monthly to participants who have had no sanctions for the prior month. These incentives do not expire and can only be used 1 per Court session. Once you accrue 6 free passes you must trade 5 in for either an extra leave, \$25 fee credit, or a \$10 gas card.
- Phases 4 and 5 may substitute one voluntary individual session for a required AA/NA/community support group meeting per week.
- Phases 4 and 5 may get credit for one community support meeting per week by getting permission, in advance, for pro-social meetings/activities
- For those who graduate with **no** sanctions: \$100 value gift/gift card
- Participants of the Month: 2 chosen per month, drawn from collection of names of participants who have had no sanctions for the prior month; allowed one throw-back
Allowed to choose from a gift card or program perk
- Gold Star Award: 2 chosen per month, staff chooses 2 participants who have some extraordinary progress/improvement/attitude in the prior month; allowed one throw-back
Allowed to choose both a gift card and a program perk
- Tell Me Something Good: Once a month the Judge will ask participants to share something good that has happened since their last court session and they will receive praise and candy
- Possible Additional Incentives: Phase move recognition
Grocery store certificates
Movie tickets
Fast food certificates
Graduation certificate
Trip to ACO closet to receive toiletries or basic need items

TREATMENT PROTOCOL

All Drug Court activities and locations may be viewed as an extension of the Forsyth County Drug Court. Participant behavior should reflect that understanding at all times. This includes treatment, community service sites, special events, and other functions associated with Drug Court activities. Violations of program rules can result in sanctions and/or new criminal charges. All staff members of the Forsyth County Accountability Courts are officers of the court, and participants are expected to follow their instructions.

1. No alcohol, drugs, weapons, or pocket knives will be brought to these facilities.
2. Groups will begin on time! Participants must be punctual, as tardiness will result in sanctions. Participants must attend and participate in the full session to receive credit.
3. Confidentiality is a must. What is said here stays here! There will be **severe consequences** for any violation of this rule.
4. Free expression of participant's thoughts and feelings is encouraged; however, violence, threats or intimidation will not be tolerated. Extreme use of profanity is not acceptable.
5. Leave group only in an emergency after notifying staff.
6. No visitors allowed. Participants will be notified of scheduled exceptions to this rule. This includes children and pets.
7. Pairing up with another Accountability Court participant for an intimate relationship is not permitted.
8. Smoking is permitted outside and away from buildings. **However, make sure cigarettes are extinguished and placed in the ash can provided.**
9. No littering in parking lot or in building. Participants will be responsible for assisting in maintaining the cleanliness of the building.
10. Destroying or defacing property will lead to sanctions.
11. Appropriate attire is required for all Accountability Court related activities. No clothing or accessories with alcohol or drug related logos should be worn at any time during Accountability Court functions.
12. All cell phones, tablets, etc., must be left outside in a locked vehicle. They will be confiscated if they ring, beep, vibrate, etc., during group.
13. **No sexual harassment will be tolerated!**

GROUPS

Initially, Forsyth County Drug Court participants will meet three times per week for one and one-half hours per group. An individualized treatment plan is set for each participant and they receive their schedule when they enter. While in the program, participants will engage in evidence-based curricula such as Matrix Early Recovery Skills, MRT, Criminal and Addictive Thinking, Staying Quit, etc. When said curricula involves workbooks or worksheets, these will be provided by the Drug Court Program. It is the responsibility of each individual participant to keep up with and bring workbooks and/or worksheets to group sessions. There are also many specialty groups which will be offered and/or required as participants progress through the program. These groups include Anger Management, Untangling Relationships, Self-esteem, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Healthy Relationships, and other identified topics.

TREATMENT PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS

The contracted treatment providers working with Forsyth County Accountability Court participants must be certified by the Georgia Addiction Counselors Association and/or licensed by the State of Georgia (or working towards licensure) (LPC, LCSW, LMFT, etc.) and maintain

certification/licensure through required continuing education. As of 2014, licensees must have 35 hours of continuing education. Additionally, the contracted treatment provider shall adhere to the continuing education requirements of all Accountability Court staff as noted on page 2 of this manual.

SUPERVISION PROTOCOL

Forsyth County Drug Court participant cases will be managed by the Accountability Court office and staff. The Accountability Court Office is responsible for maintaining client records regarding group attendance, meeting attendance, fulfillment of community service requirements, drug screen requirements and results, sanctions and incentives, demographic information, and all other pertinent information. The information will be stored in the drug court case management system. The Accountability Court Office will gather such information from necessary agencies and then prepare weekly progress notes on each participant to be used in Treatment Team staffing and in court. This information must be as current and accurate as possible to ensure continuity and fairness in the sanctioning process. All communication between agencies shall be governed by the release of information signed by each participant. If an accusation of wrongdoing is made by a participant about a staff member, treatment provider, community service supervisor or others they have contact with through the requirements of the Drug Court Program, the receiving agency shall report it immediately (within no more than 24 hours) to the Accountability Court office. This does not supersede any agency reporting requirements already in place. The Accountability Court office will notify the Judge and District Attorney.

Data collected by Accountability Court Staff is used to complete CACJ requirements and make improvements to policies. These policies are discussed at planning group and steering committee meetings.

Throughout the program, Drug Court participants are subject to quarterly searches of their person, vehicle, residence, phones, etc., by law enforcement pursuant to their waiver of 4th Amendment Rights. The participant must have a searchable house/room. During such searches, deputies may perform breathalyzers, search phones, look in refrigerators, open cabinets, etc., to determine if the participant is in possession of drugs or alcohol and in compliance with the program rules. If a participant tests positive for alcohol/drugs during a search, the deputy will notify the Accountability Court Office and the participant will be required to attend the next Drug Court session where sanctions may be imposed. Additionally, if illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, or other contraband is located, the participant may be arrested on new charges or face sanctions, which may result in termination from the Drug Court Program. When law enforcement attempts to complete a search, they must be allowed to enter the residence.

TESTING PROTOCOL

All participants are required to have random drug screens and will be given drug screening instructions upon entry into the program. For the duration of Drug Court participation, it is the participant's responsibility to check daily to determine if they are required to drug test that day. Drug testing is performed on a random basis; however, a breath or urine specimen may be required at any time. **Participants must call each day to determine if a screen is required. If, for any reason, they cannot access this information by phone or the recorded message is not clear, it is their responsibility to report to the screening facility during scheduled drug testing hours.**

Each drug screen participant will be required to call or do a web check-in on a daily basis to determine if they are to report for a UDS that day. When instructed to submit a random UDS, participants are provided a 3-hour window during which they should report to the screening facility to provide a specimen. Testing times are as follows but may be subject to change with notification: Sunday to Saturday 6:00 am to 9:00 am. All tests are analyzed through Abbott. Breathalyzing equipment is also on-site to allow for testing of participants for alcohol at any time. Ethyl glucuronide testing (EtG) is used to detect the ingestion of ethyl alcohol within the previous 3 – 4 days, or approximately 80 hours after alcohol has been consumed. EtG samples are sent to Abbott for test results. Other laboratory tests may also be performed to ensure abstinence from prohibited substances. The random drug screen or EtG may be conducted any day of the week.

If a screen is announced upon arrival for group and not on the phone system, the 2-hour window starts at the beginning of check-in. Screens will be performed until group starts and then again for 15 minutes following the conclusion of group. Failure to provide a screen during those times will be considered a missed screen. If late or not allowed to enter group due to being late, the same time restraints apply.

All collected specimens are sent directly to Abbott. Contracted lab enters results, which are communicated electronically to the case management system. Any initial positives are confirmed through LCMS or GCMS.

All *regular, announced* drug testing will be conducted at the screening facility; however, other tests may be conducted at the Courthouse, Probation Office, Drug Court Accountability Court office's Office, Participant's location, or other Accountability Court event location. Drug testing days will be randomly chosen with a two-hour compliance window. **Late arrivals will not be allowed to test and failure to submit a specimen will be considered a positive screen. Tampering with or diluting a drug screen can be grounds for termination from the Forsyth County Drug Court Program.**

Upon reporting for a drug screen:

1. Only one participant is allowed in the testing area at one time. Each participant must sign in and be checked in by a screener. A same-sex staff member must accompany participants at all times during the drug screening process.
2. Participants must make sure that they hand their specimen to a staff member and watch them put the participant's label on the vial/bottle/screen.
3. Participants must indicate an admission or denial of use prior to submitting the screen and grant permission for confirmation of results if appropriate. **Honesty is a crucial component for recovery and participation in the Forsyth County Drug Court Program. Self-disclosure of use will be considered by the court when sanctions are imposed.**
4. Participants will not be allowed to leave the testing area or drink excessive fluids until a specimen is received. It is suggested that clients not drink any fluids 2 hours prior to screening to avoid possibility of dilution.
5. A staff member of the same sex must always witness the sample being given.
6. Participants must not carry purses, coats, bags, etc. into the testing area.
7. Participant must wash hands thoroughly prior to providing specimen.
8. Shirt sleeves should be rolled up to the elbow and participants may be required to remove additional clothing to ensure validity of specimen.
9. The test cup must contain a minimum of 1/3 level to be adequate for testing.

Participants may not be able to stop using drugs immediately and recovery may not occur overnight. However, all use of illegal drugs or alcohol will be sanctioned. This is not intended as a punishment, but to encourage sobriety. Thus, the ultimate goal of drug testing is to provide accountability and confirmation of an individual's progress towards recovery.

MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

MOUs signed with treatment counselors and screeners regarding expectations are available for review through the Purchasing Department.