



SKAGIT COUNTY
**PARTICIPANT
HANDBOOK**
ADULT DRUG COURT
2024/2025



SKAGIT COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
205 W KINCAID ST
MOUNT VERNON, WA 98273

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Introduction



Welcome to Skagit County Drug Court. We are glad you have chosen to join this program and hope it will help you lead a healthier life.

Drug Court is an intensive two-year program that will support you while you work on your recovery. The goals are your recovery from substance use disorder, compensation for any victims, and to help put you in a position for long-term success after graduation.

The Drug Court Team wants to see you succeed and is dedicated to supporting you. The Team will hold you accountable for your decisions to help you be accountable to your own recovery.

Drug Court is not easy and, in order to be successful, it will require that you put Drug Court first in everything you do.

We are excited to work with you on this intense, personal journey in your recovery! The Drug Court Team is ready to work with you as you gain new and transformative insights and knowledge about yourself that can lead to a whole new life for you and your loved ones.

We are committed to creating the structure and environment that will encourage you on a sustained recovery.

The Drug Court Team

The Drug Court Team is a group of multidisciplinary professionals that manages the day-to-day operations, reviews participant progress, contributes observations and recommendations based on their expertise, and implements and oversees the delivery of legal, treatment, and supervision services. The Team includes:

Judge

The judge leads the team and makes final decisions on recommendations from the team. The judge strives to be fair and impartial.

Therapeutic Courts Coordinator

The court coordinator is your main court contact, keeps records, and can help connect you with outside services.

Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Outpatient Treatment Provider

The SUD outpatient treatment provider provides treatment, case management, and relapse prevention.

Prosecutor

The prosecutor advocates for the state, public safety, and victim interest.

Defense Attorney

Your defense attorney is your legal representative in court and can explain your rights and give you legal advice.

Public Health

Skagit County Public Health oversees the SUD outpatient treatment contract, provides funding, and offers support on best practices.

Law Enforcement

The law enforcement representative observes participants in the community and acts as the eyes and ears of the team.

Community Justice Center

The jail representative observes participants when they are incarcerated and acts as a liaison between the court and jail.

Program Requirements

Participant Expectations

Drug Court is not easy. It is highly structured, and participants are expected—and required—to adhere to many rules. Each phase has additional rules that participants must follow. See pages 13-18 for phase-specific rules and requirements. **Violations will result in sanctions.**

Below is an overview of the rules that all participants must follow regardless of phase. These rules also apply to all Drug Court activities, which include anything directly related to your involvement in Drug Court, such as one-on-one meetings, groups, recovery support meetings, and mental health appointments.

You are required to:

- Follow the specific rules and requirements of whatever phase you are in.
- Comply with all court orders.
- Arrive on time to and stay for the entirety of all court hearings and behave appropriately while in court (see page 5 for the Court Schedule & Rules).
- Pay the monthly Drug Court fee and restitution as required for the phase you're in.
- Adhere to No-Contact Orders.
 - If No-Contact Orders between you and the victims of your Drug Court charges are lifted, modified, or rescinded, you may not have contact with those individuals without prior approval by Drug Court.
- Keep surprises to a minimum. Submit an online form within 24 hours if:
 - your contact information changes (address, phone number, email address)
 - you have law enforcement contact for any reason
 - you experience any major life change
- Be honest at all times with the Drug Court Team, all treatment providers, and other participants in the Drug Court program.
- Never share information about other Drug Court participants that you learn in group meetings or hearings.
- Submit to drug and alcohol testing when required by the color line, court order, your SUD outpatient treatment provider, and/or your housing provider.
- Attend sober support meetings and get your attendance slip signed. Give your signed slip to the court coordinator by noon every Monday.
- Maintain valid releases of information between the SUD outpatient treatment provider and the Drug Court Team, as well as between the SUD outpatient treatment provider and other medical, dental, and behavioral health providers.

Program Requirements

Participant Expectations

Additional Treatment Requirements:

- Comply with your SUD outpatient treatment provider's policies and all treatment recommendations.
- Attend all activities required by your SUD outpatient treatment provider and/or the Drug Court Team.
- Be on time for and participate in treatment and activities.
- Phones must be off and kept out of sight during all treatment and activities. You may not leave a session to use your phone. If you use your phone during a session, you will be dismissed and given an unexcused absence.
- Schedule and attend your treatment appointments. Missed appointments will be billed to you and must be paid before another appointment is scheduled.
 - You will be required to restart treatment groups if you miss more than two sessions.

Drug Court observers and participants are expected to put their recovery above all else. As such, you are expected to not do certain things.

You may not:

- Possess or use drugs, alcohol, cannabis, or other prohibited substances (see pages 9-10). This includes purchasing, carrying, or storing these items for another person.
- Commit any new crimes.
- Engage in any form of gambling, such as going to a casino or race track, purchasing lottery/scratch tickets, or playing BINGO.
- Go into establishments that serve alcohol as their main function of business, including casinos. For instance, you can go to Applebee's for dinner but you cannot go into the bar.
- Have contact with anyone—including family members, friends, and significant others—who is incarcerated or on DOC community custody or any other DOC program. This includes making/receiving phone calls, writing letters, putting money on books if they are in jail/prison, and/or having someone else contact an incarcerated or DOC-involved individual on your behalf.
- Be around people, places, or things associated with using drugs and/or alcohol, with the exception of Drug Court participants, treatment, Drug Court activities, and recovery support meetings. You are expected to stop associating with friends, significant others, and relatives who are using drugs.
- Make contact with someone if there is a court order between you and them.
- Use a "street" or "using" name while you are participating in Drug Court.

Court Schedule & Rules

WHERE: Skagit County Superior Court
205 West Kincaid Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

WHEN: Second and Fourth Wednesdays of every month*
Arrive by 1:15pm
Court begins promptly at 1:30pm — Do not be late

Attendance at Drug Court hearings is mandatory. Failure to appear in court will result in a bench warrant. The only exceptions to this rule are:

1. When a participant or observer is in in-patient treatment
2. When a participant or observer has a pre-excused absence

**Some adjustments may be made for holidays.*

Participants who experience emergent non-compliance issues may be required to attend a hearing between regular Drug Court sessions.

Courtroom Conduct

The clothes you wear and your behavior should show that you have respect for yourself, your recovery, the judicial system, and your fellow Drug Court participants.

Courtroom Etiquette:

- Arrive at the courthouse by 1:15pm. Take care of your personal needs before Drug Court. Tardiness will result in a sanction.
- Remain in court until Drug Court has ended.
- Turn off and put away your cell phone and other electronic devices.
- Food and drinks are not allowed unless the judge gives you advanced permission.
- Tell the truth at all times. Withholding information is the same as a lie.
- Do not use profanity or offensive language.
- Chewing gum and tobacco are not allowed.
- Watch and listen to the proceedings. Everyone must pay attention to what is happening in court. Do not talk to others while court is in session.
- Arrange for childcare. Except for your graduation, children are not allowed in court.
- When it's your turn:
 - Speak clearly into the microphone
 - Address the judge as "Your Honor" or "Judge"
 - Stand up straight; do not lean on the podium or counter
 - Keep your hands out of your pockets

Courtroom Attire:

- Wear clean, neat clothing with no holes, rips, or stains. If you need courtroom clothing, talk with your defense attorney or SUD outpatient treatment provider.
- The following are not allowed:

• Shorts	• Halter tops	• Exposed bras
• Exposed midriffs	• Muscle shirts	• Pants that sag below underwear waistline
• Hats or sunglasses	• See-through fabric	• Sweatshirts/hoodies
• Mini-skirts/dresses	• Anything with drug/ alcohol/violent themes	• Sweatpants
• Skirts/dresses with slits higher than mid-thigh	• Gang attire	• Flipflops
• Tank tops	• Revealing necklines	• Slippers

What should I do now?

Step 1

Contact your SUD Outpatient Treatment Provider

Lifeline Connections
360-397-8246 ext. 33151
1413 East College Way, Mount Vernon



What to expect

- To fill out an intake sheet
- To have a substance use disorder assessment
- To have a mental health assessment
- To be required to follow through with all treatment recommendations
- To begin drug testing immediately (see page 7)
- To sign releases of information for all providers and members of the Drug Court Team

Step 2

Attend daily recovery support meetings.

You must attend recovery support meetings daily during Phase I of Drug Court. For detailed phase requirements, see pages 13-18.

Your attendance must be documented. You must fill out the meeting slip and have it signed by the meeting leader for the meeting to count toward your requirements. Forgery of meeting slips will result in a sanction or termination from Drug Court.

Signed meeting slips must be turned into the court coordinator by noon every Monday. You can pick up blank documentation slips and meeting schedules from the court coordinator or find them on the Drug Court website. The QR code for the Drug Court website is on the cover of this handbook. Failure to turn in completed slips on time will result in a sanction. Information on sanctions can be found on pages 19-22.

Acceptable recovery support meetings include:

- 12-step programs
- Smart Recovery
- Religious institution-based recovery groups
- Recovery Café Skagit Recovery Circles
- Other recovery groups that have been approved by the Drug Court Team **in advance**

Step 3

Complete orientation paperwork and sign releases of information.

After reading this handbook, you must complete the orientation paperwork acknowledging that you have received this handbook, which can be found on the last page of this handbook. Submit the signed paperwork to the judge at your next Drug Court hearing.

Drug Testing

Drug and alcohol testing is central to monitoring your compliance in Drug Court. Tests are administered randomly, and you will be observed during your test. Urinalysis (UA) tests are most common, though other forms of testing, such as hair follicle analysis or cheek swabs, might be ordered by the Court. **A missed test is considered a positive test.**

1 Call the UA Color Code Line EVERY morning

Call 360-397-8221 between 6am and 8am EVERY morning, including weekends and holidays. This information is also available at lifelineconnections.org/color-line.



2 Provide your sample

When your color comes up, go to your SUD outpatient treatment provider between **8:30am and 11:30am** to provide your sample. Open hours are subject to change, but will not change without giving you advanced notice. **If you arrive late, you will not be able to do your test and it will be considered a positive test.**

When you arrive for your test, you will fill out paperwork. You must report all prescription medications you're taking EVERY TIME you take a drug test. **If your paperwork is not correct, your test will be considered positive.**

If your sample leaks, your test will be considered positive. Ensure the cap is on tight, seal the cap, and ensure the seal is not ripped.

3 Drug Court receives your test results

You must remain at the testing location until your instant UA results are available and sign off on the results. All test results are given to the Drug Court Team. Positive instant test results will result in sanctions appropriate to the phase you're in, your attitude, your sanction history, and your actions.

If your instant UA result is positive, you may dispute the finding. **Disputes must occur immediately after the instant test shows your sample is positive for prohibited substances.** If you dispute a positive instant UA result, your sample will be sent to a lab for confirmation. You may be responsible for the cost of the lab confirmation. Test results received from the lab are considered by the Team to be accurate and final. Only the first test provided to your SUD outpatient treatment provider on a given day will be accepted by the Court. Additional tests paid for privately or by any other provider will not be accepted, regardless of the results. For more information about drug testing, see pages 8-10.

A positive test result includes:

- Positive for prohibited substances, including prescription medications that have not been prescribed to you and/or not disclosed prior to providing each sample (see pages 9-10)
- Refusal or inability to provide a sample
- Failure to provide a sample within the time frame
- No-shows or missed tests
- Samples that leak
- Tests that were adulterated or tampered with
- Diluted test results
- Low creatinine test results
- Paperwork that was incorrectly filled out

UA Anomalies

Sometimes, a sample test will not test positive for prohibited substances but will show anomalies that indicate that the sample may have been tampered with. Tests that show these anomalies will be considered positive by the Drug Court Team.

1 Diluted Tests or Low Creatinine Levels

Creatinine is a waste product of muscle metabolism. When kidneys function normally, they filter creatinine and other waste products from your blood. These waste products are removed from your body through urination and will show up in your UAs.

Some people think that if you drink a lot before a UA, your urine sample will be too diluted to show any illicit substances. However, if you hydrate too much before a UA, your creatinine levels will be low, which indicates to the Drug Court Team that you may have purposefully tried to dilute your urine.

If creatinine levels test at 20 mg/dL or below, the sample is too diluted to provide accurate test results. It is impossible for the drug test to determine if the sample was diluted on purpose. Therefore, even if other measures do not definitively show that a sample has been tampered with, these tests are invalid and will be considered positive.

To reduce chances of having a diluted UA, you should:

- Not drink more than 20 ounces of any liquid within one hour of providing your urine sample
 - Caffeine, energy drinks, and water reduce creatinine
- Try to take your UA as early in the day as possible
- Eat regular, well-balanced meals

There are some medical conditions that could lead to low creatinine levels. If your UAs routinely show low creatinine levels that are not a result of excessive hydration, you should see your doctor, and if you do not, the Court may order you to do so.

2 Other measures

Other measures that indicate that a sample has been tampered with include:

- High or low pH
- Temperature
- Specific gravity
- Nitrites
- Adulterants
- Oxidants

Anomalies in the any of the above will be considered to be a positive result.

Prohibited Substances

As a participant in Drug Court, you may not use or possess any potentially mind-altering or mood-enhancing substance, even if it's legal. You may not even purchase, carry, or store these items for another person. If you do so and are caught, you will be sanctioned as if you intended to use the substances yourself.

Below, you will find lists of substances you must avoid, but the lists are not comprehensive. If you have questions about a specific substance, you should talk to your defense attorney. **DO NOT** assume you can use something just because it is not explicitly prohibited below.

1 Alcohol and Drugs

- Any form of alcohol, including non-alcoholic beer
- Cannabis (marijuana) and any derivatives, including CBD and derivatives of hemp
- Prescription or illicit narcotic painkillers
- Illegal drugs
- Psychedelics and hallucinogens
- Tranquilizers, sedatives, and muscle relaxers
- Prescription medications that are not prescribed to you (For more information about prescription medications, see page 10.)
- Other substances like spice, bath salts, kratom, tranq (Xylazine), or any other mood-altering substance or practice (like huffing), legal or illegal, that is currently available or may be invented in the future

2 Over-the-Counter Medications

Some over-the-counter medications contain substances that you are not allowed to use while you're in Drug Court. Before taking any over-the-counter medication, check with your SUD outpatient treatment provider. The following medications are not allowed:

- Any medications that contain alcohol, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine or other ephedrine derivatives, dextromethorphan (Dimetapp), diphenhydramine (Benadryl), chlorpheniramine maleate (when in doubt, ask a pharmacist)
- Any medication with elixir in the name (such as Tylenol Elixir)
- Diet pills
- Sleeping pills

3 Prescription Medications

It is possible that you will be prescribed a controlled substance or another medication to address a specific medical concern—such as ADHD or mental health conditions—that other participants in Drug Court would not be allowed to use. It is important that you share dosage information with your SUD outpatient treatment provider.

Except as described in the section on Medical Care (page 11), Drug Court has a no-tolerance policy for prescription pain medication or other addictive medications or drugs of any kind.

If you are prescribed any medication, you must:

- By the next business day, disclose this to your treatment provider and the Drug Court Team, who will verify the prescription with your doctor.
- Disclose this information on your paperwork before every drug test for as long as you are taking the medication and for one month after you stop taking the medication (note the date you stopped taking it). Prescription medications will show up on your drugs tests. Without prior notification to the Drug Court Team and correct paperwork, you will be sanctioned for a positive drug test.

4 Foods & Products to Avoid

There are certain foods and products that may lead to positive results on your drug tests, so you must avoid them while participating in Drug Court. You are expected to read labels before consuming or using products. Drug Court will not accept consumption or use of the items below as a valid explanation for a positive UA result. If you have questions, talk to your defense attorney *before* consuming or using a product.

Here is a list of what you should avoid:

- Poppy seeds (often found in baked goods and bagels, including everything seasoning)
- Food and other ingestible products with trace amounts of alcohol (such as communion wine, food cooked with wine, liquid or homeopathic remedies, etc.)
- Mouthwash/breath strips containing ethyl alcohol (non-alcoholic options are available)
- Hand sanitizers—excessive, unnecessary, and repeated use can result in a positive drug test result
- Hygiene products containing ethyl alcohol—excessive, unnecessary, or repeated use of certain aftershaves, colognes, hair sprays, mousse, astringents, bug sprays, and some body washes can result in a positive drug test result
- Solvents and lacquers containing ethyl alcohol—if you are employed where contact with such products cannot be avoided, discuss this with your SUD outpatient treatment provider immediately. Do not wait until you have a positive test.

Medical Care

Drug Court lasts a minimum of two years. During that time, you may require medical treatment. Please follow the guidelines below if this happens to you.

Serious Emergencies

If you are in a serious accident or have a medical emergency and you are physically able to, you must:

1. Notify all medical providers that you are in Drug Court and cannot take narcotic pain medications.
2. If the medical provider insists on administering narcotic pain medications, you must:
 - a. Contact your SUD outpatient treatment provider and tell them about the medical situation and all prescribed or administered medications. If possible, do this before taking the medications. If not possible, do this as soon as you can after taking the medications.
 - b. Sign all releases between your SUD outpatient treatment provider and the medical provider.
 - c. Obtain and immediately provide to the Court copies of all prescriptions and medical records related to the emergency.
3. If the Team permits you to continue taking the prescribed medication, you must take the medication exactly as prescribed and use precautions directed by the Team. You must also stop taking the medication as soon as your doctor says it's possible.
4. Bring any unused medication to the Court for disposal.

Planned Surgeries or Medical Care

When seeking medical, dental, or mental health care, you must:

1. Inform every provider that you are in recovery from substance use disorder and are in Drug Court.
2. Inform every provider that you cannot take addictive drugs, including narcotics and benzodiazepine medications.
3. Sign a release of information allowing your SUD outpatient treatment provider to communicate with every provider about the care you receive and medications you are prescribed.
4. Ask for the names of any medications prescribed and a list of potential side effects.
5. Be sure you understand how to take the medication and how long you are supposed to take it. If you have questions about its potential for addiction, discuss it with the prescriber, the pharmacist, or your SUD outpatient treatment provider. Take all medications exactly as prescribed.

If a surgery or other medical procedure is scheduled that may require pain medication or sedation, you must:

1. Discuss the matter with your SUD outpatient treatment provider as far in advance of the procedure as possible.
2. If taking narcotic pain medications is approved by the Drug Court Team, follow steps 2, 3, and 4 in the "Serious Emergencies" section above.

Failure to follow the steps outlined above will be a serious violation of Drug Court rules and will result in a sanction.

Program Fees

Restitution

Victim restitution, if ordered, must be paid in full by the week before your graduation. If not paid in full, this will be considered a program violation, and your graduation will be delayed until restitution is paid in full. You may be terminated from the program if you do not pay your restitution. The Court will track restitution each month you are engaged in Drug Court.

- Restitution, once established, will be set at a minimum of \$20 during Phase II, unless otherwise ordered.
- Participants are expected to be employed during Phases III and IV, and so monthly restitution payments must be significant and at a rate that will allow for you to graduate on time.
- You **MUST** make your monthly restitution payment no later than 4pm on the last business day of the month. **Keep your receipt.**
- Your receipt is due every **FIRST** Drug Court of the month. Failure to turn in your receipt will result in a sanction.
- Turn in your receipt to the court coordinator prior to addressing the judge.
- The Court will not accept receipts submitted after Court.

Court Fees

Drug Court fees must be paid in full by the week before your graduation. Court fees must be paid monthly during phases III and IV, and you may be sanctioned or terminated from the program if you do not pay them. The Court will track court fee payments each time you appear for Drug Court.

- The minimum monthly payment during Phases III and IV is \$20, which you will pay to the Court Clerk.
- You **MUST** make your monthly Drug Court fee payment no later than 4pm on the last business day of the month. **Keep your receipt.**
- Your receipt is due every **FIRST** Drug Court of the month. Failure to turn in your receipt will result in a sanction.
- Turn in your receipt to the court coordinator prior to addressing the judge.
- The Court will not accept receipts submitted after Court.

Phases at a Glance

Overview

The goal of Drug Court is to move you through the program in a way that prepares you for continued recovery and success after graduation. There are four phases of Drug Court—plus a time for potential participants to observe—each with its own requirements. While you move through the program, different levels of care will be provided based on where you are in your recovery. This section outlines the specific requirements for each phase of Drug Court.

Observers and participants in Phases I and II have more meetings and court dates. While there are fewer requirements for people in Phases III and IV, more is expected of them as they are further in their recoveries and should be laying the groundwork for a successful, independent life after Drug Court.

At each Drug Court hearing, the judge will tell you if you are in compliance with the programs' requirements. Findings of noncompliance may delay phase advancement, postpone your graduation from the program, result in sanctions, and possibly lead to termination from the program.

Recovery Support Meetings



You are required to attend weekly recovery support meetings and get paperwork signed verifying your presence and participation. See pages 14-18 for specific phase requirements.

During Observation and Phase I, no more than one virtual meeting can count toward your weekly requirement.

Allowable Recovery Support Meetings

The Drug Court Team recognizes that people benefit from different types of meetings. The following can count toward your weekly recovery support meeting requirements.

- 12-Step programs
- SMART Recovery
- Religious institution-based recovery groups
- Recovery Café Skagit Recovery Circles
- Other recovery groups that have been approved by the Drug Court Team **in advance**

Phases at a Glance

Requirements

The following pages detail requirements specific for each phase. During all phases, you must:

- Comply with all treatment recommendations
- Follow all court orders
- Adhere to all other requirements in this handbook

In order to advance to the next phase, you must submit a phase advancement request. You may obtain this form from your SUD outpatient treatment provider or the court coordinator. If you would like assistance filling it out, your SUD outpatient treatment provider or the court coordinator can help you.

Out-of-Custody Observers



UA COLOR	Gold
COURT HEARINGS	Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month 1:30pm; arrive at 1:15pm
RECOVERY SUPPORT MEETINGS	Daily meetings You may not miss a day If you are using a 12-step program for support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain a “Big Book” or “Basic Text” within 30 days and show your copy to the court coordinator for verification within 30 days. You may be able to get one at a meeting.
PROCESS GROUP	Weekly
TREATMENT	Comply with all treatment recommendations from all of your treatment providers.
OTHER REQUIREMENTS	You may not leave Skagit County without advanced permission from the Drug Court Team.

Phase I

MINIMUM LENGTH OF PHASE	Three months
COURT HEARINGS	Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month 1:30pm; arrive at 1:15pm
UA COLOR	Gold or Navy. Your color is _____.
RECOVERY SUPPORT MEETINGS	Daily meetings; you may not miss a day If you are using a 12-step program for support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain a "Big Book" or "Basic Text" and show your copy to the court coordinator for verification within 30 days. You may be able to get one at a meeting. • Obtain a sponsor (or dedicated recovery support person) within 60 days <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ You may not be sponsored by a current Drug Court participant unless that person is in Phase IV and has approval from the Drug Court Team.
PROCESS GROUP	Weekly
TREATMENT	Comply with all treatment recommendations from all of your treatment providers.
FEES AND RESTITUTION	\$0/month during Phase I
OTHER REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may not leave Skagit County without advanced permission from the Drug Court Team. • You must resolve all other pending legal cases.
COMPLIANCE	You must have a minimum of six consecutive weeks of compliance immediately before advancing to Phase II.

Phase II

MINIMUM LENGTH OF PHASE	Nine months
COURT HEARINGS	Second and fourth Wednesdays of the month 1:30pm; arrive at 1:15pm
UA COLOR	Gold or Navy. Your color is _____.
RECOVERY SUPPORT MEETINGS	Minimum of two meetings per week If you are using a 12-step program for support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with your sponsor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ You may not be sponsored by a current Drug Court participant unless that person is in Phase IV and has approval from the Drug Court Team.
PROCESS GROUP	Weekly
TREATMENT	Comply with all treatment recommendations from all of your treatment providers.
FEES AND RESTITUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of \$20 in restitution/month
OTHER REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may not leave Skagit County without advanced permission from the Drug Court Team. • You must be employed or volunteering full time or be in school to advance to Phase III. • You must have your G.E.D. or high school diploma in order to graduate.*
COMPLIANCE	You must have a minimum of two consecutive months of compliance immediately before advancing to Phase III.

*If a participant has barriers that prevent them from realistically obtaining a high school diploma or G.E.D. within the two years of Drug Court, the team may set lower goals for the participant to complete as graduation requirements. Examples would be if a participant is not literate, is not a native English speaker, has a diagnosed learning disability, or makes several unsuccessful good-faith efforts during Drug Court to pass the G.E.D. tests.

Phase III



MINIMUM LENGTH OF PHASE	Six months
COURT HEARINGS	Second Wednesday of the month 1:30pm; arrive at 1:15pm
UA COLOR	Pink or red. Your color is _____.
RECOVERY SUPPORT MEETINGS	Minimum of two meetings per week Continue to work with your sponsor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may not be sponsored by a current Drug Court participant unless that person is in Phase IV and has approval from the Drug Court Team.
PROCESS GROUP	Twice a month
TREATMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comply with all treatment recommendations from all of your treatment providers.
FEES AND RESTITUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimum of \$20 Drug Court Fee/month Amount of restitution must be sufficient to allow you to pay the restitution in full by graduation.
OTHER REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You may not leave Skagit County without advanced permission from the Drug Court Team. You must maintain full-time employment/volunteerism or be in school. You must have your G.E.D. or high school diploma in order to graduate.*
COMPLIANCE	You must have a minimum of three consecutive months of compliance immediately before advancing to Phase IV.

Phase IV

MINIMUM LENGTH OF PHASE	Six months
COURT HEARINGS	Second Wednesday of the month 1:30pm; arrive at 1:15pm
UA COLOR	Pink or red. Your color is _____.
RECOVERY SUPPORT MEETINGS	Minimum of two meetings per week If approved by the Drug Court Team, you are permitted to be a sponsor for another Drug Court participant.
PROCESS GROUP	Twice a month
TREATMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with all treatment recommendations from all of your treatment providers.
FEES AND RESTITUTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of \$20 Drug Court Fee/month. Your court fees must be fully paid before graduating. • Amount of restitution must be sufficient to allow you to pay the restitution in full by graduation. Restitution must be fully paid before graduating.
OTHER REQUIREMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You must maintain full-time employment/volunteerism or be in school. • You must have your G.E.D. or high school diploma in order to graduate.* • Have stable, long-term housing
COMPLIANCE	You must have a minimum of four consecutive months of compliance to graduate.

You must complete all requirements in all phases in order to graduate from Drug Court.

Incentives & Sanctions

Incentives

When you are found in compliance with phase requirements, you may receive incentives to encourage your continued compliance. Rewards may include verbal recognition and praise from the Court, applause, advancement in phases, certificates of completion, and a variety of prize drawings, such as a reduction in court fines.

Sanctions

If you are found in noncompliance or you are not advancing through the program, you may receive sanctions to address your behaviors. Sanctions are carefully considered by the Drug Court Team in accordance with Drug Court guidelines, and the judge makes final determinations.

The severity of sanctions depends on the violation, your behavior after the violation, your current phase, your sanction history, and your attitude. Sanctions may include writing assignments, community service, work crew, or jail time. Serious or persistent violations may result in termination from Drug Court.

If you are ordered to do community service

- Must be completed by your next Drug Court hearing date unless otherwise indicated
- Must be completed with approved non-profit organizations
- Must bring to court signed documentation from the non-profit verifying that you completed your community service hours
- Community service with Barrier Breakers or Tierra Nueva will not be accepted by Drug Court

If you are ordered to do work crew

- Must be completed by your next Drug Court hearing date unless otherwise indicated
- Must be completed with Jail Alternatives
- Must bring to court signed documentation from the Skagit County Sheriff's office verifying that you completed your work crew hours
- Call 360-416-1940 to schedule your work crew hours, or go in person to Jail Alternatives at 600 S. 3rd Street in Mount Vernon.

Violations & Sanctions

Violating a Drug Court rule will result in a sanction—a court-ordered response—from the judge. When considering how to respond to a program violation, the judge has discretion in which sanction(s) to order and will consider several factors, including what phase you're in, past behavior, and whether you're honest about your behavior.

What sanctions are typically given?

The chart on the following page lists presumptive sanctions. The judge may exercise discretion to order lower responses or raise responses due to extenuating circumstances in individual cases.

The violations and sanctions listed in the chart are not comprehensive and do not include every possible program violation or every sanction the judge may order. The chart is just a general guideline of what you can expect for common program violations.

Which sanction is given depends on many factors, including your progress in the program and sanction history. These responses are designed to address issues that gave rise to the sanction and prevent future violations.

Sanctions may be reduced significantly if a participant has been honest and forthcoming about the violation, such as disclosing the violation before it would have been discovered by the Drug Court Team. Dishonesty or intentional omissions will be severely sanctioned.

If you have questions about sanctions you may be facing for program violations, talk to your defense attorney.

What may make a sanction lighter?	What may make a sanction worse?
<p>Low responses are typically ordered when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A participant is new to Drug Court • A participant is in an earlier phase of the program • This is their first violation of the sort • They have had no or few other program violations • The violation is relatively minor <p>Sanctions may be reduced significantly if a participant has been honest and forthcoming about the violation, such as by disclosing the violation before the Drug Court Team finds out about it.</p>	<p>High responses are typically ordered when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A participant has been in Drug Court for a while • A participant is in a later phase of the program • They have had multiple similar violations • They have had multiple other program violations • The violation is relatively severe <p>Dishonesty or intentional omissions will result in a more severe sanction.</p>

Violations & Sanctions

What might happen if I ...	Low Responses	High Responses
Have a UA violation	Daily UAs, level of care review with provider	Daily meetings, jail, termination
Miss a sober support meeting	Community service and/or daily meetings	Jail, termination
Am noncompliant with my treatment or other provider's recommendation	Warning, community service	Jail, termination
Am dishonest or intentionally omit information	Community service and additional assignment	Restart MRT, jail, termination
Tamper with a UA	N/A	Work crew, jail, termination
Am arrested or charged with a new crime	Community service	Jail, termination
Don't provide the court coordinator with updated information	Warning, essay	Community service, jail, termination
Late to court	4 hours community service	Additional hours of community service, jail
Phone rings/is used during court	2 hours community service per instance	Additional hours of community service
Don't complete a prior sanction	Double the sanction	Jail, termination
Absent from the program for more than 60 days	Termination	Termination

In addition to the sanctions in the chart, you may be ordered to:

- live in recovery housing
- complete writing or calendar assignments
- check in by phone daily
- attend court more often
- lose travel privileges
- complete hours on work crew
- develop a compliance plan
- meet with the Drug Court Team
- have your phase-up or graduation delayed

Violations & Sanctions

Prosecutor Recommendations

The prosecutor advocates on behalf of the state, public safety, and victim interest. The Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney recommends the following sanctions for program violations. Being honest about violations before the Drug Court Team would have found out otherwise, including admitting to use of prohibited substances before you take a UA, will result in the prosecutor recommending a lighter sanction. Being in Phase IV of the program when you commit a violation will result in the prosecutor recommending a sanction that is 150% more severe than listed below.

Violation	Skagit County Prosecutor Recommendation
Missed recovery support meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st offense: 8 hours work crew/community service • 2nd offense: 16 hours work crew/community service • 3rd offense: 2 days in jail and moved back a phase
Late for recovery support meeting or court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st offense: 4 hours work crew/community service • 2nd offense: 8 hours work crew/community service • 3rd offense: 1 day in jail and moved back a phase
UA violation, including being late	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st offense: 2 days in jail • 2nd offense: 4 days in jail • 3rd offense: 6 days in jail
Driving without a license	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWLS 3: 2 days in jail • DWLS 1 or 2: 7 days in jail
Being in a bar or casino if you're not working with approval from team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st offense: 3 days in jail • 2nd offense: 6 days in jail • 3rd offense: termination petition filed
Failing to report another Drug Court participant for a rule violation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st offense: 8 hours work crew/community service • 2nd offense: 16 hours work crew/community service • 3rd offense: 4 days in jail
Being dishonest with the Court or your SUD outpatient treatment provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st offense: 2 days in jail • 2nd offense: 4 days in jail • 3rd offense: 7 days in jail or termination petition filed
Not participating or misbehaving in group treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st offense: warning from judge • 2nd offense: 8-16 hours work crew/community service; move back a phase or start phase over • 3rd offense: 24 hours work crew/community service; move back a phase or start phase over
Not reporting to treatment provider immediately after leaving inpatient treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14+ days in jail or termination petition filed
Leaving inpatient treatment without permission from the Court	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Termination petition filed
Missing a court date	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st offense: 2 days in jail • 2nd offense: 6 days in jail • 3rd offense: jail until next court date, likely termination petition filed

Graduation

Overview

Graduation from Drug Court is an exciting time! Everyone enjoys celebrating the success of our graduates as we recognize their progress, and we look forward to celebrating your success in a few years!

When you graduate, we hope you will invite your family and other people who are important to you and/or helped you during your recovery. This is a time to celebrate you and the hard work you have put into Drug Court!

After you graduate from Drug Court, you will have no more obligations to Drug Court. Once you graduate, one of three things will happen.

1. If you did not plead guilty before entering Drug Court, your case(s) will be dismissed.
2. If you pled guilty before entering Drug Court, you will have a sentencing date scheduled for two years from the date of your graduation.
 - a. If, during those two years, you have been charged with new crimes, you will be sentenced to “time served” on your Drug Court charges, and the Drug Court charges will remain on your record. You may be convicted and serve time on the new charges in a separate case.
 - b. If, during those two years, you have NOT been charged with any new crimes, your case will be dismissed.

Pro-Recovery Activities



Engaging in pro-recovery activities can reduce the time until your sentencing hearing from two years to 16 months. Engaging in pro-recovery activities is not a requirement but will assist you with long-term recovery.

Before you graduate, submit a plan to the Drug Court Team on what your pro-recovery activities will be. If approved, follow your plan and make sure to get documentation that you engaged in the approved activities. After 16 months, you can contact the Court to schedule a sentencing date.

Acceptable Pro-Recovery Activities

- Drug Court Alumni Groups
- Volunteering for a recovery-oriented program, such as Recovery Café Skagit
- Regularly attending a recovery group meeting
- Leading a recovery group that meets regularly
- Attending school for a degree or certificate in a human services-related field
- Working in a recovery-oriented field
- Your idea, with advanced approval from Drug Court Team

Opt Out/Termination

Overview

While we hope that you will graduate from Drug Court, you may also exit Drug Court by opting out of the program or through a termination.

Once you are signed into the program, you are required to adhere to the program's requirements. You may voluntarily opt out of participating in the program by notifying your defense attorney. The outcomes of a voluntary opt-out are the same as with a termination from Drug Court.

Serious violations of the Drug Court program may result in the issuance of an arrest warrant or result in the prosecutor filing a termination petition. A termination petition is a request from the Skagit County Prosecuting Attorney to terminate a participant's involvement in the Drug Court program.

Additionally, if you do not participate in Drug Court and/or treatment for 60 days, or if you revoke required releases of information, the Court will assume you are no longer interested in participating in the program, and the prosecutor will file a termination petition. At the termination hearing, it will be presumed that you are unwilling to engage in treatment and the Drug Court program. Until a termination hearing is conducted, your engagement with the program will be suspended.

Termination is a serious consequence of the program and not a decision that is taken lightly. Prolonged absences from the program, dishonesty, commission of new crimes, and persistent violations of Drug Court requirements are among some behaviors that would be considered serious violations of the program.

If a termination petition is filed, talk to your defense attorney.

Outcomes

If a termination petition is filed, the participant will be represented by their defense attorney. If the participant decides to proceed with a hearing rather than opt out, the decision to terminate will be made by a judge after a full hearing.

At the hearing, the judge will determine whether you will remain in the program. If you are permitted to remain in Drug Court, you may be sanctioned for the behavior that led to the termination petition.

If you are terminated from the program, there are two different results depending on how the participant entered the program:

- For participants who did not plead guilty prior to entry, a stipulated facts trial will be held on the police reports submitted in the case. They will be sentenced within the standard range on the charge(s) for which they are convicted after that trial.
- If the participant already pled guilty prior to entry, a guilty finding has already been made and they will immediately be sentenced within the standard range for the charge(s).

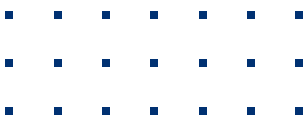
Helpful Checklists

WHEN SHOULD I TURN IN:

- **signed meeting slips**
- **restitution and/or Drug Court fee receipts**
- **verification of community service/work crew hours**
- by noon every Monday to the court coordinator
- at the FIRST Drug Court of the month to the court coordinator
- by the date in your court order (if unlisted, by your next Drug Court hearing date) to the court coordinator

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF:

- **I have contact with Law Enforcement?**
 - Tell the law enforcement officer that you are in Drug Court.
 - Submit the online form within 24 hours.
 - If you are suspected of a crime, contact your defense attorney.
- **my housing/job/contact information changes?**
 - Submit the online form within 24 hours.
- **I have a return to use?**
 - Contact your SUD outpatient treatment provider and tell them what happened. Follow their recommendations.
 - Go to your next random UA test and disclose your return to use there, too.
 - Possible court sanctions will be less severe if you are up front and honest with the Team than if they find out another way.
 - Contact your defense attorney. You may be required to attend an emergency Drug Court hearing. Be prepared to be honest with the Court and ready for a possible sanction, which could include jail time.
- **I violate another Drug Court rule?**
 - Contact the court coordinator by the next business day and tell them what happened.
 - Possible court sanctions will be less severe if you are up front and honest with the Team than if they find out another way.
 - Contact your defense attorney. You may be required to attend an emergency Drug Court hearing.
 - Be prepared to be honest with the Court and ready for a possible sanction, which could include jail time.



Contact Information



Superior Court

205 W. Kincaid Street
Mount Vernon
360-416-1200

Court Coordinator

TBD

Public Defender's Office

121 W. Broadway
Mount Vernon
360-416-1650

SUD Outpatient Treatment Provider

1413 E. College Way
Mount Vernon
360-397-8246
ext. 33151

UA Color Line

Call 360-397-8221
between 6am and 8am
or visit:

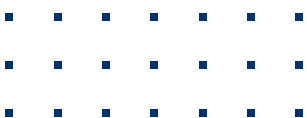


Public Health Behavioral Health Coordinator

Christi Brua Weaver
christibw@
co.skagit.wa.us

Work Crew

Jail Alternatives
600 S. 3rd Street
Mount Vernon
360-416-1940



Skagit County

Adult Drug Court

Orientation Paperwork

By initialing and signing below, I verify that I have read and understand the following information. I know that if I have any questions about the content of this handbook, I should reach out to my defense attorney.

- ___ The entire Skagit County Adult Drug Court Participant Handbook, including:
- ___ The Drug Court Team
 - ___ Program Requirements and Participant Expectations
 - ___ Court Schedule and Rules
 - ___ What should I do now?
 - ___ Drug Testing, UA Anomalies, and Prohibited Substances
 - ___ Medical Care: Serious Emergencies and Planned Surgeries or Medical Care
 - ___ Program Fees
 - ___ Phases at a Glance and requirements for each phase
 - ___ Incentives and Sanctions
 - ___ Violations and Sanctions
 - ___ Graduation
 - ___ Opt Out/Termination

Participant's Printed Name

Participant's Signature

Date

Return this signed and dated form to the judge at your next Drug Court hearing.