

MENTAL HEALTH COURT PARTNERS

State of Michigan

- 15th Judicial District Court
- State Court Administrative Office
- Michigan Association of Treatment Professionals

Washtenaw County

- Board of Commissioners
- Dept. of Community Corrections
- Washtenaw County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Public Defender's Office
- Washtenaw County Sheriff
- Shelter Assoc. of Washtenaw Co.
- Washtenaw County Community Mental Health

City of Ann Arbor

- City Attorney's Office
- Ann Arbor City Council
- Ann Arbor Police Dept.

Other Partners: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Dawn Farm

Hon. Karen Quinlan Valvo, Presiding Judge

Washtenaw County Justice Ctr.
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI
48107

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Mental Health Court Probation
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WASHTENAW COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT COURT



15TH District Court

The Washtenaw County Mental Health Treatment Court (WCMHTC) is a Problem Solving Court. It was created to provide probation to adult offenders whose mental illness contributed to the commission of their crime. The WCMHTC uses a team approach to address participants' needs by providing mental health and substance abuse treatment, case management, and intensive judicial supervision. The WCMHTC is a **voluntary** program.

Eligibility

Eligibility is evaluated by the Mental Health Court Team on a case-by-case basis. General requirements include:

- Must be diagnosed with a serious mental illness that has contributed to the defendant's current legal problems.
- Must have a co-occurring diagnosis if substance use disorder is present, and mental illness diagnosis *must be primary*.
- Must have pled guilty to a misdemeanor.
- Must not be a violent offender or have been charged with criminal sexual conduct in any degree.
- Must be a resident of Washtenaw County.

Once a defendant expresses interest, his/her case is referred to the Mental Health Court by the judge, prosecutor, or defense attorney. All parties must agree to the referral.

The defendant schedules an intake screening with the Mental Health Court Probation Officer. All relevant information is reviewed, and the defendant receives an informational Participant Handbook.

The Probation Officer will assist the defendant in scheduling a Mental Health assessment. If the defendant meets eligibility criteria and is capable of following the probation requirements, s/he is recommended for acceptance into the WCMHTC.

Upon acceptance, the defendant is sentenced into the Mental Health Treatment Court for probation supervision for a term of 18-24 months.

As a participant of the Mental Health Treatment Court, the defendant must appear for bi-weekly judicial reviews, in-person (or ZOOM) probation appointments, and must attend treatment as directed. Random drug testing is required. S/he will be monitored by the Mental Health Treatment Court Probation Officer for compliance with all orders of the Court.

GOALS OF THE MENTAL HEALTH COURT

- Reduce criminal recidivism
- Improve access to mental health services
- Treat and stabilize mental health conditions
- Increase well-being and promote independence
- Improve family relationships and social support connections
- Increase compliance with treatment and other court orders
- Improve stability by helping to establish housing and employment assistance, educational support, and job skills

Graduation

Successful completion of the Mental Health Treatment Court is a huge accomplishment; the occasion is recognized with a gift card, graduation card, and certificate.

Court reviews are held every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. on the 5th floor, Courtroom 3 of the 15th District Court, 301 E. Huron St. Ann Arbor, MI

