

Lifeline Connections
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Skagit County Drug Court



Orientation Packet

TOGETHER, WE CAN!

Welcome from the Administrator:

Welcome to Lifeline Connections and Skagit County Drug Court. We are glad you are joining the Drug Court program. Drug courts have some of the highest completion rates of any treatment protocol in Washington State. The outcomes are impressive related to sobriety, and the recovery of a holistic lifestyle.

What is Drug Court?

Drug Court is an intensive two-year program to support participants through recovery with tools, education, and resources. *Successful participation in Drug Court requires the program to come first in everything you do.*

The Drug Court structure provides incentives and sanctions to help keep you on track through the recovery process. The goal is your recovery from substance use, compensation for any victims, and putting you in a position for long-term success in your recovery even after graduation.

Through the dedicated professionals of the Drug Court program and team, participants may be eligible for additional assistance for basic needs, housing, transportation, healthy activities, and educational opportunities.

How and When do I Appear for Drug Court?

Drug Court hearings are held the second and fourth Wednesday of every month at 1:30 p.m., with some potential adjustments for holidays. Hearings are at the main courthouse for Skagit County Superior Court, located at **205 W. Kincaid St, Mt. Vernon WA, 98273.**

Attendance is mandatory. The only exception for attendance is when a participant or observer is in an inpatient treatment program or has a pre-excused absence.

Now that you have an overview of Drug Court, you are ready to begin the first steps of engaging with the program:

STEP 1: Contact Lifeline for Assessment and Begin Random UAs

Contact Lifeline Connections at 360-399-6900 to schedule your assessment/s. Our address is 2105 Continental Place, Suite A, Mount Vernon, WA 98273. You are required to complete both a substance use disorder and mental health assessment and follow through with the recommendations for both assessments. You will fill out an intake sheet and provide funding information. **If you have no funding, contact the front desk 360-399-6900. If you are on a county grant you will be required to make a co-payment which is due by the 20th of each month.**

- UAs: You will be required to submit a monitored urinalysis specimen. You will be given the UA COLOR CODE CALL IN NUMBER (360-397-8221) and told to call EVERY MORNING between 6:00 AM and 8 AM to hear the color code message. This information is also available at: lifelineconnections.org/color-line
- **Remember to call every day (including weekends and holidays) and listen carefully to the message. Even if you have not been assessed yet, you must still call the color line every day. When you first begin the program, your color is gold.** If you are taking prescribed medications you must report this each time you submit a UA. A copy of all prescriptions must be supplied to your Drug Court Case Manager.

STEP 2: Attend Daily Sober Support Meetings

You must attend 90 sober support meetings within the first 90 days in Drug Court. Sober support meetings might include 12-Step, Smart Recovery, church-based recovery groups, or other recovery groups approved, IN ADVANCE, by your drug court case manager. You must document your meetings. Meeting slips must be turned in to Lifeline Connections at your weekly Process Group. Failure to turn in completed slips is considered noncompliance and will result in a sanction. Documentation slips and meeting schedules are available at the reception desk.

STEP 3: Complete Orientation Paperwork and Sign Releases of Information

After reading this packet, you are to complete the orientation paperwork. The information in the orientation paperwork will familiarize you with treatment at Lifeline Connections. The forms in the packet are to be completed and signed. They are to be given to your primary counselor at your first individual session. These forms serve as the basis for your treatment planning.

Drug Court Requirements

Overview of Drug Court Rules and Requirements

Drug Court rules include, but are not limited to, the following:

- No possession or use of drugs, alcohol, marijuana or other prohibited substances as detailed below
- Comply with all treatment recommendations from your treatment provider(s)
- Attend all scheduled court dates in a prompt and respectful manner, observing courtroom rules, attire, and etiquette
- Maintain confidentiality regarding Drug Court participants, including information learned in group meetings and hearings
- Do not commit any criminal law violations
- Attend and participate in all court-ordered services in a respectful and courteous manner
- Submit to all drug and alcohol testing when so required
- Adhere to the requirements of Drug Court's drug and alcohol policies and orders
- Pay the monthly Drug Court fee and restitution
- Avoid any type of gambling (such as at casinos or the purchase of lottery or scratch tickets)
- Be honest at all times with the Drug Court team, treatment providers, and other members in the Drug Court program

This is an overview of the requirements. They will be discussed more in depth below.

Drug Court Phases

In order for successful completion of the Drug Court program, participants must work their way through a series of phases. Each phase has its own set of time and compliance requirements that must be satisfied before beginning a higher phase.

Each week of Drug Court, the judge will say whether you are in compliance or not in compliance with the program's requirements. The expectations of each phase are attached.

Noncompliance findings may delay advancement of phases, prolong time in the program,

result in sanctions, and possibly result in termination from the program. Completing phases depends on meeting current phase requirements.

Please refer to the phase attachment for your current phase, its requirements, and the length of the phase.

Incentives, Rewards, and Sanctions

Compliance with phase requirements will be met with incentives to encourage each participant's success in the program. Rewards may include verbal recognition and praise from the court, applause, advancement in phases, certificates of completion, and a variety of prize drawings.

Findings of noncompliance or lack in progress can be met with sanctions to address the noncompliant behaviors after careful consideration by the Drug Court team in accordance with Drug Court guidelines. Sanctions may include community service work, work crew, or jail time. Serious or persistent violations may result in termination from Drug Court.

PROCEDURES CONCERNING DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

As you would expect, strict measures are in place to ensure that Drug Court members are not using any prohibited substances.

Prohibited Substances

Drug Court participants are expected to abstain from all mood enhancing substances. This includes alcohol, marijuana, heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, other illegal drugs, ADHD medications like Adderall or Ritalin, and opiate-based prescription medications. It also includes any other substance, such as spice, bath salts, kratom, or any other mood-altering substance or practice (like huffing) that is currently available or that may be invented in the future.

If you have questions about specific medication you have been prescribed (such as ADHD medication), please direct those to your attorney or the treatment provider as soon as possible.

Below is a list of medications that should be avoided:

Minor tranquilizers and sleeping pills (SEDA-TIVE-HYPNOTICS): Ambien, Amytal, Atian*, Barbiturates, Centrax*, Chloral Hydrate, Dalmane*, Fiorinal, Halcion*, Librium*, Meprobamate, Nembutal, Noludar, Phenobarbital, Phrenalin, Placidyl, Quaalude, Restoril*, Seconal, Serax, Tranxene*, Tuinal, Valium*, Versed*, Xanax*. * =Benzodiazepines

Narcotics (PAIN KILLERS): Codeine, Darvocet, Darvon, Demerol, Dilaudid, Fentanyl, Hydrocet, Levodromoran, Mepergan, Methadone, Morphine, Nubain, Percet, Percodan, Stadol, Suboxone, Talwin, Tylox, Vicodin.

Antihistamines: Actifed, Atarax, Benadryl, Chlortrimeton, Dimetapp, Drixoral, Sudafed, Vistaril.

Muscle Relaxants: Flexeril (may be used cautiously with supervision), Parafon Forte, Robaxin, Soma.

Over the Counter Drugs: Cough and cold preparations, diet pills, Geritol, sleeping pills, Tylenol Elixir (or any liquid with elixir in the name).

Suboxone and/or Subtex or Methadone are not allowed in Drug Court unless as prescribed in accordance with the Medication Assisted Treatment protocol.

All “designer drugs” (legal or not) are not allowed. These include, but are not limited to, Kratom, Spice and Bath Salts.

The above list provides a guideline. If in doubt, check with your drug court counselor.

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

MAT is only authorized as prescribed by a certified agency or certified physician who adheres to federal and state requirements. A participant on MAT must:

- Comply with the monitoring requirements of the prescribing agency or physician.
- If the prescriber is not Lifeline Connections:
 - Immediately report your MAT prescription to Lifeline Connections, and
 - Sign a release of information allowing Lifeline Connections and the prescribing provider to confer, and for the prescriber to provide regular progress reports on compliance with monitoring requirements.

Failure of the participant to adhere to the MAT program must be reported to Lifeline Connections and the Drug Court team and will be considered a treatment failure, with sanctions to potentially include termination from Drug Court.

Drug and Alcohol Testing

Drug Court believes that drug and alcohol testing is central to monitoring participants' compliance. Tests are administered randomly or at scheduled intervals in accordance with each participant's phase in the program. Most testing in Drug Court is performed by urinalysis testing, however other types of testing may be ordered to reflect the concerns of the team with respect to use. Such testing may include hair follicle analysis or cheek swabs. **A missed test is considered a positive result.**

Testing Procedures

Drug and alcohol testing occurs on a random basis throughout the entire Drug Court program. Participants must call the designated color-coded UA number daily, even on weekends. If the participant's assigned color comes up, they will be required to report to complete a UA that day during the designated time frame.

Test results received from the laboratory are considered by the team to be accurate and final. Only the first test provided to the treatment agency on any given day will be accepted by the Court for purposes of determining compliance. Additional tests paid for privately at the treatment agency, a hospital, or other treatment facility will not be considered by the Court for any purpose, regardless of the results.

The Drug Court Team is informed of all test results. A positive test result includes:

- Positive for prohibited substance(s)
- Refusal or inability to provide a sample
- Failure to provide a sample within the provided time frames
- No-shows or missed tests

- Tests that were tampered with
- Diluted test results (see below)
- High creatinine test results
- Adulterated UAs

All results will be reported to the Drug Court Team. Positive test results will result in sanctions appropriate to the phase, attitude, history, and actions of the participant/observer.

You are required to follow the submission procedures for providing your samples. If your paperwork is not correct or if your sample leaks, it will be considered positive. Ensure the cap is on tight and the seal you place over the sample is not ripped.

Due to decreased availability of UA testing, cheek swabs or other forms of testing for substances will be accepted by the team as directed by the treatment provider and/or ordered by the court. Regardless of the type of test offered, all participants are required to participate in the testing as directed by their treatment provider.

Substances to Avoid

Some food, drink, or other products contain components that may appear to be a positive result for drugs or alcohol on urinalysis testing. Observers/participants are required to read labels and educate themselves about products before consuming or being exposed to them.

Observers/participants shall not consume/expose themselves to the following items while in Drug Court:

- Poppyseeds (such as in muffins, bagels, or other food)
- Non-Alcoholic Beer and Wine
- Food and other ingestible products with trace amounts of alcohol (such as vanilla or almond extract, herbal extracts such as ginkgo biloba, communion wine, food cooked with wine, liquid or homeopathic remedies, etc.)
- Mouthwash and breath strips containing ethyl alcohol (non-alcoholic

mouthwashes are available and acceptable)

- Hand sanitizers: excessive, unnecessary, or repeated use of these products could result in a positive test. Hand washing with soap and water, where available, is just as effective for sanitizing.
- Hygiene products containing ethyl alcohol: limited use of these products will likely not result in a positive test for alcohol, but excessive, unnecessary, or repeated use of certain aftershaves, colognes, hair sprays, mousse, astringents, insecticides (insect repellants, such as “Off”), and some body washes could result in a positive test.
- Solvents and Lacquers containing ethyl alcohol.

If you are employed where contact with such products cannot be avoided, *you must discuss this with your case manager*. Do not wait for a positive test to do so.

Drug Court will not accept consumption of the above items as a valid explanation for positive UA results. If you have a question about any items, contact your treatment provider *before* being exposed to a substance that could result in a positive UA.

Diluted Tests / Low Creatinine

If creatinine levels test at 20 mg/dl or below, the sample is too diluted to provide accurate results, regardless of any other aspects of the test (i.e. gravity, etc.). These tests are invalid and are considered positive UAs.

Creatinine is a chemical waste product of muscle metabolism. When kidneys function normally, they filter creatinine and other waste products from the blood. These waste products are removed from the body through urination.

Participants are instructed not to drink more than 20 ounces of any liquid within one (1) hour of providing their urine samples. They are further advised to provide their samples as early in the day as possible and eat regular, nutritionally well-balanced meals. Protein increases creatinine, but caffeine, energy drinks, and water reduce creatinine.

Prescription Medication

Except as discussed below, Drug Court has a no-tolerance policy for prescriptive pain medication or other addictive medications or drugs of any kind.

General Medical Care

When consulting with a medical provider, dentist, or any other medical or mental health professional who may be issuing prescriptions to you or administering care, you are required to:

- Tell the provider that you are in recovery for substance use disorder and in Drug Court and cannot take addictive drugs, including opiate and benzodiazepine medications;
- Ask for the names of any medications prescribed and their potential side effects. Be sure you understand how to take the medication and how long you are to take it. If you have any questions about its potential for addiction, discuss it with the provider, the pharmacist, or your treatment provider;
- Take all medications as prescribed by the medical provider;
- Give a list of medications and copies of all prescriptions to the treatment provider;
- Sign a Release of Information for each prescribing medical provider for Lifeline to verify the validity of the prescriptions; and
- Do not use cough remedies that contain alcohol or ephedrine. When in doubt, consult a pharmacist.

Medication Assisted Treatment: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) may be used as deemed medically appropriate for participants by a medical professional. The Skagit County Superior Court MAT Policy will be followed by Drug Court.

Serious Emergencies

If a participant is in a serious accident or has a serious acute medical emergency, they must follow these steps:

- 1.) Notify all medical providers that they are in a Drug Court and are not allowed to take prescriptive narcotic pain medication.
- 2.) If the medical care provider insists on administering prescribed narcotic pain medication, the participant must follow these steps:
 - Call their substance use disorder treatment provider about the medical situation and all prescribed or administered medication. If possible, this should be done before taking the medication. If not possible, this must take place at the first opportunity to contact the substance use disorder treatment provider following administration of the medication.
 - Sign all releases between the substance use disorder treatment provider and the medical provider.
 - Obtain and immediately provide to the Court copies of all prescriptions and medical records related to the emergency.
 - Meet with or call the substance use disorder treatment provider at the first opportunity following administration of the medication to discuss the matter and follow the provider's recommendations.
- 3.) If the team permits the participant to continue taking the prescribed medication, the participant must take the medication using the precautions as directed by the team. The participant must also stop taking the prescribed medication as soon as their physician says it is possible.
- 4.) Bring any unused medication to the court for disposal/destruction.

Planned Surgeries or Other Medical Care or Treatment

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

- Discuss the matter with their treatment provider and the team as far in advance of the procedure as possible.
- If taking narcotic pain medication is approved by the treatment provider, the participant must follow the steps in (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.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS OF DRUG COURT

Drug Court is about more than urinalysis testing and avoiding certain substances. It is about a change in lifestyle and attitudes. The program is designed to help you make those adjustments so you can be successful in your recovery.

Each phase in Drug Court has a different set of requirements to provide the right amount of support for you during this journey. There are also many rules that you must be familiar with and remember. If you break those rules, you will be subject to sanctions. You are expected to read and be familiar with these requirements of Drug Court.

Participation in Drug Court Activities

Drug Court activities include anything directly related to your involvement with Drug Court. This could include one-on-one meetings, groups, sober support meetings, and sessions with a mental health provider. During those activities, you must observe the following rules:

- Attend all activities recommended by your provider or case manager.
- Be on time. Tardiness will not be tolerated. Being late for an activity will result in court sanctions.
- Missed appointments will be billed to you and must be paid before another appointment is scheduled. Missed appointments (including mental health) may result in a sanction.
- You are responsible for scheduling your appointments with your provider.

- You must attend Drug Court process group each week.
- You will be required to restart treatment groups if you miss more than two sessions.
- If a violation of a procedure cannot be dealt with in a timely manner, it will be turned over to the Drug Court Team for possible sanction.
- Cell phones are not allowed in any activity. They must be turned off and kept out of sight. You may not leave a group to use your phone. If you use your cell phone during an activity, you will be dismissed from group and given an unexcused absence.
- You must keep Lifeline Connections' financial department informed of any changes in your financial situation. Payment for treatment must be current each month.
- If you change residence, you must update your address and phone number with the front desk and your case manager / counselor. This must be done within 24 hours of a change or a court sanction will be imposed.
- When entering Lifeline Connections, you must check in at the reception desk. You may not loiter in the reception area or halls. You may not enter any office without authorization. If you arrive early for a scheduled group, you are to wait in the group room.
- When attending groups at Lifeline Connections, you must have proper hygiene and abide by the agency dress code. Please clean your shoes/boots before entering the agency.

Law Enforcement Contact

There will be times when a participant or observer in Drug Court has contact with law enforcement between court sessions. Sometimes these will be positive interactions or neutral, such as being a passenger in someone else's vehicle when pulled over for a minor traffic violation. Regardless of the type of contact, the participant or observer shall:

- Notify the law enforcement officer that they are currently participating in Skagit County Drug Court;
- Notify their treatment provider of the contact within 24 hours of the contact. If it is a weekend and no one is at Lifeline Connections, call your counselor and leave a detailed message on their voice mail; and

- Disclose the contact to the judge during the next Drug Court session.

Courtroom Conduct

The clothes you wear and your behavior in Drug Court should indicate that you consider this an important matter and that you have respect for yourself, your recovery, the judicial system, and everyone involved in Drug Court. Failure to follow courtroom rules of conduct could result a finding of noncompliance and a sanction. The following rules apply at all times in the courtroom:

Arrive on time and remain until Drug Court has adjourned (ended). Participants must care for their personal needs before entering the courtroom for Drug Court. You are expected to be in the courthouse by 1:15 p.m. Tardiness will not be tolerated. Failure to appear for court will result in issuance of a bench warrant.

Turn off cell phones and other electronic devices before entering the courtroom. Cell phones must be out of sight during court.

Food and drink are not allowed unless with advance permission from the judge.

Tell the truth to the Court at all times. Withholding information is the same as a lie.

No profanity and/or offensive language will be tolerated.

Chewing gum or tobacco is not allowed.

Watch and listen to the proceedings. Everyone must pay attention to what is happening in court and refrain from speaking with other individuals while court is in session.

Arrange for childcare. Except for your graduation, children may not be brought to court.

Proper attire must be worn. Observers/participants must wear clean and neat clothing with no holes, rips, or stains. Men shall wear a collared shirt with buttons. Women shall wear a nice looking top with pants or a skirt, or they may wear a dress.

Participants in need of courtroom clothing should speak with their attorney or the treatment provider. The following are not allowed in Drug Court:

shorts; exposed midriffs; hats; mini-skirts/dresses; skirts or dresses with slits higher than mid-thigh; tank tops; halter tops; muscle shirts; see-through fabric; clothing, hats, or jewelry with drug/alcohol/violent themes; gang attire; shirts with plunging or revealing necklines; sunglasses; exposed bras; pants that sag below the underwear waistline; sweatshirts or sweatpants; flip-flops; and slippers.

When a participant's case is called, they are expected to stand at the microphone and speak clearly. The judge will engage in a conversation about the participant's progress in Drug Court. The judge should always be addressed as "Your Honor" or "Judge." Do not lean on the podium or counter. Stand up straight and keep your hands out of your pockets.

Other participants are expected to give their full attention to the conversations their fellow participants are having with the judge.

Be respectful of other court proceedings while you are in the courthouse. This is not a social event.

Participants must bring proof of their payment of the Drug Court fee and any restitution at each hearing. Proof shall be provided to the prosecuting attorney prior to addressing the judge.

Places, People, and Activities to Avoid

Drug Court observers/participants are expected to place their recovery above all else. As such, you are required to:

- Stay out of all establishments that serve alcohol as their main function of business, including casinos. For instance, you could go to Applebee's for dinner but you could not go into the bar.
- Have no contact with anyone who is incarcerated or on DOC community custody or any other DOC program. This includes not making and/or receiving phone calls, writing letters, putting money on books, and/or having someone else contact an incarcerated or DOC-involved person on your behalf. This includes family members, friends, significant others, and other Drug Court participants.
- Stay away from people, places, and things associated with using drugs and/or alcohol. You are expected to stop associating with friends and relatives who are using.

- If there is a restraining order between you and another person, you may not contact them. If they are in jail or prison, you cannot put money on their books.
- Romantic and/or sexual relationships between Drug Court members are not allowed.
- Stay away from places associated with gambling. This includes casinos and race tracks.
- Do not engage in any gambling activities, including buying any type of lottery tickets.
- You may not use a “street” or “using” name while you are a member of Drug Court.

Sober Support Meetings

Sober support meetings are an important part of your recovery. In the first 90 days of Drug Court, you are expected to complete 90 meetings in 90 days. After that, you will be expected to attend a minimum of two sober support meetings per week. “30/30” and “90/90” mean one meeting every day without skipping a day.

Sober support meetings might include 12-Step, SMART Recovery, church-based recovery groups, or other recovery groups approved, IN ADVANCE, by your Drug Court case manager. Meetings must be within a 7-day period AND must be on separate days of the week. The meetings you attend must be documented. You must turn in the documentation slip at your process group.

You must fill in the monitor slip completely and have the meeting leader sign for it to count. You must fill this in at the meeting...**NOT** as you turn in your slip. **Forgery of support group documentation will result in sanction or termination.**

Communications

Participants and members of the Drug Court Team are not allowed to discuss the substance or merits of the case with the judge without the presence of all attorneys to the case. This includes direct discussions and communications that could lead to an appearance of impropriety.

You are required to be truthful in all communications with your provider and other members of

the Drug Court Team.

If you have information about another Drug Court member about something that could endanger their life or the lives of others (including your own life), you must immediately report that information to your case manager or counselor.

RESTITUTION AND DRUG COURT FEES

Drug Court fees and restitution to any victims must be paid in full during the week prior to graduation. If not paid in full, your graduation will be delayed. The Court will track restitution and court fee payments each time you appear for Drug Court.

- Fees for Drug Court are \$480.00 or up to \$515 depending on the entry documents in the case. Minimum monthly payment is \$20.00, paid to the Court Clerk;
- Restitution (once established) will be paid monthly in Phases I and II at a minimum of \$10.00 per month. Because participants in Phases III and IV are expected to be fully employed, the monthly restitution payment must be significant and at a rate to allow timely graduation.
- Individuals in Phase I and II who are unable to meet their payment obligation/s are to contact the front desk at 360-399-6900 ext. 33101 in order to get connected to the Billing department, or call Billing directly at 360-399-6900, extension 30000.
- Restitution **MUST** be paid no later than 4:00 p.m. the last business day of the month. **KEEP YOUR RECEIPT.** You are required to bring a copy of your receipt of payment to show to the Court. This receipt is due every **FIRST** drug court of the month for all phases. Failure to do so will result in a work crew sanction. **THE COURT WILL NOT ACCEPT RECEIPTS SUBMITTED AFTER COURT.**

SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF DRUG COURT

Serious violations of the Drug Court program may result in the issuance of an arrest warrant or even filing of 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.

If a termination petition is filed, the participant will be represented by the Public Defender in

defense of the petition. If the participant decides to proceed with a hearing, the decision to terminate will be made by a judge after a full hearing.

There are two different results of a termination from Drug Court 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). Termination from the program results in an immediate sentence within the standard range.

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

INPATIENT TREATMENT

While a participant is in inpatient treatment, the team expects that person to focus on their recovery and maximize their time in treatment.

If in inpatient treatment, participants must:

- Sign any required releases of information for the treatment provider
- Inform the inpatient treatment provider that all aftercare will be through Lifeline Connections as part of the Skagit County Drug Court program, and
- Develop a discharge plan that includes Skagit County Drug Court.

It is possible for participants to attend Drug Court hearings while in inpatient treatment, but it is *not* expected. Drug Court wants participants to focus on their programming at treatment and will not sanction failures to attend Drug Court while in inpatient treatment.

For participants who wish to appear and will not miss other programming to attend Drug Court,

they may do so through:

Video link: <https://zoom.us/my/skagitsuperior3>

Or telephonic connection: 1(253) 215-8782

ID: 592 004 6045

Password: 868872

A participant's unexcused departure from inpatient treatment prior to completion will result in a warrant for their arrest and will subject them to sanctions or possible termination from the program.

PHASE REQUIREMENTS

All of the above requirements apply to *all* observers and participants of Drug Court. While you move through the program, different levels of care will be provided based upon where you are in your recovery. Observers and participants in the first two phases of Drug Court have more meetings and court dates, while people in Phases III and IV are farther along in their recovery and have higher expectations in terms of employment and restitution payments.

The goal is to move you through the program in a way that prepares you for continued recovery after graduation from the program. The requirements for each phase are listed below:

Out-of-Custody Observers

UA Color: Gold

- Sober Support Meetings: daily meetings (90/90: means one meeting every day without skipping a day)
- Attend Drug Court process group each week
- Attend at least one (1) one-on-one with your counselor each week.
- You are not allowed to leave Skagit County without permission from your counselor.
- If using 12-step for support: You must obtain a "Big Book" (AA, CA) or "Basic Text" (NA) within 30 days and bring it to your case manager for verification. You can obtain one at a meeting. Some groups provide them to newcomers.

Phase I

Length of Phase: 3 months

- UA Color: Gold
- Sober Support Meetings: daily meetings (90/90: means one meeting every day without skipping a day)
- Attend Drug Court process group each week
- Attend at least one (1) one-on-one with your counselor each week.
- You are not allowed to leave Skagit County without permission from your counselor.
- Fees and Restitution: Pay the monthly \$20 Drug Court fee and at least \$10 toward restitution
- You must obtain a sponsor and a home group (if you are using 12-step for your support) within 60 days of entering Drug Court. You may not be sponsored by a current Drug Court participant unless they are in Phase IV and have approval from the counselor.
- If using 12-step for support, you must obtain a “Big Book” (AA, CA) or “Basic Text” (NA) within 30 days and bring it to your case manager for verification. You can obtain one at a meeting. Some groups provide them to newcomers.

Phase II

Length of Phase: 6 months

- UA Color: Gold
- Sober Support Meetings: At minimum two each week.
- Attend Drug Court process group each week.
- Attend at least one (1) one-on-one with your counselor each week.
- Fees and Restitution: Pay the monthly \$20 Drug Court fee and at least \$10 toward restitution
- You must work with your sponsor. You may not be sponsored by a current Drug Court participant unless they are in Phase IV and have approval from the counselor.

Before advancing to Phase III, you must have full time employment or schooling.

Phase III

Length of Phase: 3 months

- UA Color: Pink
- Attend Drug Court process group each week.
- Attend at least one (1) one-on-one with your counselor each month.
- Have at least two check-ins with your counselor each month.
- Engage in MRT (Moral Reconation Therapy).
- You must maintain full time employment or schooling. If not, you will be moved back into Phase II.
- Fees and Restitution: Pay the monthly \$20 Drug Court fee and an amount of restitution that will allow you to pay the restitution in full by graduation

You must work with your sponsor. You may not be sponsored by a current Drug Court participant unless they are in Phase IV and have approval from the counselor.

Phase IV

Length of Phase: One year

- UA Color: Pink
- Attend Drug Court process group each week.
- Attend at least one (1) one-on-one with your counselor each month.
- Have at least two check-ins with your counselor each month.
- Engage in and complete MRT, if not already completed in Phase III.
- You must maintain full time employment or schooling. If not, you will be moved back into Phase II.
- Fees and Restitution: Pay the monthly \$20 Drug Court fee and an amount of restitution that will allow you to pay the restitution in full by graduation.
- You are permitted at this phase to be a sponsor of another Drug Court participant only with approval of your counselor.

Graduation from Drug Court

Graduation from Skagit County Drug Court requires that participants:

- Successfully complete Phases I – IV within 24 months
- Successfully complete all requirements of outpatient treatment, to include MRT
- Have a high school diploma or GED* and are either employed or enrolled in schooling
- Have paid all required Drug Court fees and restitution

Graduation from Drug Court is an exciting time! Everyone looks forward to celebrating the success of our graduates as we recognize their progress.

Once a participant graduates from Drug Court, they are no longer under the requirements of participation. Alumni groups or other pro-recovery opportunities may be available and are encouraged, but not required, to assist graduates with their long-term recovery.

We are very excited to work with you on this intense and personal journey in your recovery! The Drug Court Team is ready to work with you as you gain new and transformative insights and knowledge of 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

DRUG COURT MUST COME FIRST IN ALL THINGS

*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.

Lifeline Connections
Skagit County Drug Court - Orientation Packet
Authentication Log

By initialing and signing below I verify I have read and understand the following information:

_____ **The entire Drug Court Orientation Packet, including:**

_____ **Drug Court Requirements**

_____ **Procedures Concerning Drugs and Alcohol**

_____ **Prohibited Substances**

_____ **MAT**

_____ **Drug and Alcohol Testing**

_____ **Prescription Information**

_____ **Serious Emergencies**

_____ **Restitution and Drug Court Fees**

_____ **Phases**

Dated: _____

Individual's Printed Name

Individual's Signature