

Skagit County Drug Court Phase Updates: 2025-2026

Due to reduced funding, Drug Court will experience some changes with its phases so the program will now take 12 months from entry to graduation. The current handbook (Skagit County Participant Handbook Adult Drug Court 2024/2025) applies, however changes to the phases are detailed below.

Changes: Overview

Drug Court has historically consisted of four phases. Due to the reduced program time to 12 months, it will now consist of three phases.

For all phases, the participants are required to be present in court for both monthly court hearings, regardless of their phase.

Phase I will still last three months.

Phase II will now last six months.

Phase III will now last three months.

Restitution

Restitution must be paid in full prior to graduating from Drug Court.

Because the program length has been reduced, the court will still allow participants 24 months to pay restitution in order to graduate from the program. When this happens, a participant will be permitted to complete Phase III and will be given additional court dates to check in on restitution payments.

Once restitution has been paid in full, the participant will officially graduate from Drug Court.

Phase I

There are no changes. Please refer to your original handbook.

Phase II

The only changes to this phase are as follows:

- The length of Phase II is now six months.
- A participant is eligible to advance to Phase III once they have 6 consecutive weeks of compliance in Phase II immediately before moving to Phase III.
- A participant must have full-time employment, volunteer work, or schooling in order to advance to Phase II.

For all other Phase II requirements, please refer to your original handbook.

Phase III

This will now be the final phase before graduation from Drug Court.

The only changes to Phase III are as follows:

- The length of Phase III is now three months.
- A participant is required to be in court for *both* regular Drug Court hearings each month.
- A participant may leave Skagit County without advance permission from the full team if they have discussed that travel with the treatment provider. If the treatment provider has concerns, the participant must still submit a request to leave the county to the full team for consideration.
- A participant is eligible to graduate once they have completed three months in Phase III and have 6 consecutive weeks of compliance in this phase immediately prior to graduation.