

DWI TREATMENT COURT PROGRAM

The DWI Treatment Court program is a court supervised, intensive treatment concept available only to the non-violent offender. The program is a voluntary intensive program which requires a total commitment from every participant.

Before an individual is accepted into the program, they must submit to both a legal and clinical screening. The legal screening involves a thorough research of the individual's criminal history and details of all prior arrests. The clinical assessment is done through the use of the ASI (Addiction Severity Index) screening tool. This will determine whether or not there is a substance abuse addiction that would merit the need for treatment.

The length of the DWI Treatment Court program is a minimum of 18 months, which varies depending on the individual's motivation and attitude toward their sobriety. It consists of a continuum of care throughout four phases, and includes the following services: judicial supervision, random drug screens, 24-hour alcohol monitoring, treatment groups, individual sessions, incidental and monthly financial obligations, self-help meetings, court appearances, and more. The program also assists with educational, employment, and some mental health needs.

The DWI Treatment Court team meets weekly to staff each participant. Such things as rewards, sanctions, probation concerns, treatment progress, etc. are all part of the DWI Treatment team discussions. The team recommendations are then brought before the judges each week prior to each court hearing.

NOTE: Upon acceptance into the DWI Treatment Court, the defendant's driver's license will be suspended until further notice. Once given permission to obtain a Hardship license by the DWI Court Judge, the defendant will be required to have an ignition Interlock installed in their vehicle, as well as SR22 insurance.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

- The offender is charged with a violation of a statute of this state relating to a 3rd or 4th offense Driving While Intoxicated charge, and there is significant relationship between the substance use and the crime.
- The offender is a substance abuser who may be at risk for addiction by habitual use of alcohol and/or other drugs and such use may be to the extent that it endangers the health, safety, or welfare of that person or any other person or group of persons.
- The District Attorney has reason to believe that the individual who is charged suffers from alcohol or drug addiction and based upon his criminal record recommends him to the DWI Treatment Court program.
- A licensed clinician, upon screening, deems the offender clinically appropriate to benefit from drug treatment. Referrals for mental health services may also be made at that time.

DISQUALIFICATION CRITERIA:

- Prior felony conviction or pending charge of R.S.14:2 violent crime, including the crime before the Court.
- Conviction of an aggravated burglary or simple burglary of an inhabited dwelling if the defendant has one prior felony conviction.
- Prior felony conviction for narcotics distribution, PWITD, or cultivation
- Criminal record of sex crimes **EXCLUDING** prostitution and crimes against nature.
- Criminal record of weapons violations.
- Use of a weapon during current offense.
- Active confidential informant.
- On active parole.
- Undocumented alien.
- Defendant not capable of participation.
- Currently in a MAT maintenance program.

NOTE: The current charge.....

- Cannot be a R.S. 14:2 Crime of Violence.
- Cannot be a DWI involving death or a vehicular homicide.
- Cannot be a DWI involving serious bodily injury.

ENTRY PROCESS:

- (1) The defendant or his/her attorney must fill out a Request for Consideration form. This form is forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for initial approval.
- (2) After approval from the District Attorney, the defendant is then notified, either through his/her attorney or by the DWI Court office, to complete the application process.
- (3) The DWI Court team will then complete the legal and clinical assessments to determine whether this individual can benefit from the DWI Court Treatment program.
- (4) The defendant will then appear before the Court to voluntarily plead under Title 13:5304 as required by state statute.

PROGRAM COSTS:

The DWI Court program has a one-time application fee of One Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) which is due during the screening process.

In addition to the application fee, there is a Two Hundred Dollar (\$200.00) supervision fee due each month from the participant for the duration of the program.

Charges for 24-alcohol monitoring, and ignition interlock as well as incidental charges for program materials and drug testing confirmations, shall apply. Payments may be made in the office by money order, major credit card, debit card or pre-paid debit card. Cardholders pay a fee for payments made in this manner.

DWI Treatment Court Contact Info:

Location:
802 2nd St.
Gretna, LA 70053

Hours:
Monday-Friday
8:30am-4:30pm

Main Number		(504) 364-3478
Fax		(504) 364-3479

This program has been made possible through the cooperation and support of:

The Judges of the 24th Judicial District Court

Jefferson Parish District Attorney's Office

24th Judicial District Public Defender Office

Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office

Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court

Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana