

How do I refer someone to the program?

Referrals can be made by county attorneys, defense attorneys and probation officers once there has been a new arrest for a felony or gross misdemeanor-level charge or upon a probation violation filing. The County Attorney is the gatekeeper and can deny a referral. Once approved by the County Attorney, the coordinator will meet with the participant to determine if they are eligible and if they have an interest in the program. The coordinator will refer the participant to complete a chemical use assessment. The Drug Court Team will review the case at the next meeting and determine if they will be accepted and if they will enter the drug court track or DWI track. Once accepted, the participant must enter a guilty plea or admission to the violation prior to entry into the program. The participant will be instructed to attend the next drug court or DWI track session and meet with the coordinator to enroll in the program.

For additional information or to obtain a referral form, contact Nicole Grams, Drug Court Coordinator at (507) 461-7315 or nicole.grams@co.waseca.mn.us.

The following County Attorneys participate on the drug court teams:

Steele:

Juila Forbes (507) 444-7780

Waseca:

Rachel Cornelius (507) 835-0328

STEELE-WASECA DRUG COURT

Waseca County Court Services
307 North State Street
Waseca, Minnesota 56093

Nicole Grams, Drug Court Coordinator

Cell: 507-461-7315

Fax: 507-835-0556

Duty Officer: 507-835-0553

E-mail: nicole.grams@co.waseca.mn.us

STEELE-WASECA DRUG COURT REFERRAL BROCHURE

Mission: – The Steele-Waseca Drug Court (SWDC) collaboratively reduces crime, increases public safety, lowers recidivism, rehabilitates offenders, and re-integrates them into the community with the means to become contributing members of society.



Contact:

Nicole Grams, Drug Court Coordinator

Tel: 507.461.7315

Fax: 507.835.0556

Steele-Waseca Drug Court

Introduction

On July 1, 2014, Steele and Waseca Counties implemented a drug court program that targets adult high risk/high need offenders with a history of alcohol or other substance abuse problems. This brochure provides you with a general overview of the Steele-Waseca Drug Court (SWDC) program. On January 1, 2017, SWDC launched the DWI track to target high risk/high need DWI offenders and provide intensive services.

What is Drug Court or DWI Court?

A voluntary program created by the District Court that allows eligible defendants to reduce their prison or jail sentence in exchange for completing substance abuse treatment and other conditions. The duration of Drug Court is a minimum of 18 months.

Drug Court is a proven model for addressing substance abuse in a judicial environment with clear and specific expectations and goals. The Drug Court uses a team approach to deliver evidence based practices including rigorous treatment, intensive supervision, random and frequent drug and alcohol testing, frequent court appearances, licensed mental-health service providers, and educational programming to participants. Drug Court is NOT an easy way out of jail or prison.

Who is eligible for Drug Court?

Adult offenders who have entered a guilty plea to a felony or gross misdemeanor and/or violated the terms of their probation and meet the following criteria:

Resident of Steele or Waseca County

Deemed high risk/high need based on a Risk and Need Triage (RANT) screen or RANT-DUI

History of substance abuse and in need of alcohol or drug treatment as indicated by a chemical use assessment

Who is Not Eligible for Drug Court

Violent offenders per 28 C.F.R. § 93.3(d)

Prior criminal history of sexual assault or on supervised release from the Department of Corrections.

Violent Offender Defined:

A person who is (1) currently charged with or convicted of an offense during the course of which: (i) The person carried, possessed, or used a firearm or other dangerous weapon; or (ii) There occurred the use of force against the person of another; or (iii) There occurred death of, or serious bodily injury to, any person; without regard to whether proof of any of the elements described herein is required to convict; or (2) Has previously been convicted of a felony crime of violence involving the use or attempted use of force against a person with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm.

What are Drug Court Requirements?

The drug court program consists of five phases. The first phase is two months and the second through fifth phases are a minimum of three months for a program minimum total of 18 months. Each phase is designed to encourage achieving treatment goals, establishing relapse prevention plans, and setting future goals. Each phase increases the participant's ability to become healthy, productive tax paying citizens by establishing supportive services in the community, maintaining employment, a stable residence, reaching educational goals such as a GED or High School Diploma, and improving financial stability by demonstrating compliance with payments towards financial obligations. The program provides incentives for positive behaviors and immediate sanctions for violations.

What are Drug Court requirements?

The requirements vary based on the participant's phase in the program. It consists of the following types of conditions:

- Weekly to once monthly SWDC Court attendance
- Regular meetings announced or unannounced with Drug Court staff and/or law enforcement
- Attendance and completion of Substance Abuse Treatment
- Attendance and completion of a cognitive skills program, i.e. Thinking for Change or Driving with Care, Moving On
- Compliance with other service as indicated, such as mental health, anger management, parenting classes etc.
- Attendance at local support groups such as AA, NA, Celebrate Recovery, etc.
- Curfew starting at 9:30 p.m.
- A minimum of twice weekly random drug testing
- Actively seeking and maintain employment
- Obtaining a G.E.D. or High School Diploma
- Obtain a valid driver's license
- Payment of fine, fees, restitution and child support (if indicated) -Drug Court fee is \$450