

DeKalb County Drug Court: C.L.E.A.N. Program (Choosing Life and Ending Abuse Now)

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the DeKalb County Drug Court: .C.L.E.A.N. Program (Choosing Life and Ending Abuse Now) is to enhance public safety by combining effective substance abuse treatment and intensive judicial supervision in a therapeutic court setting for non-violent substance abusing offenders, in order to assist the participant in choosing and developing a structured, disciplined, law abiding drug free way of life.



Judge Robbin Stuckert, Presiding Drug Court Judge

Frequently Asked Questions: DeKalb County Drug Court: C.L.E.A.N. Program (Choosing Life and Ending Abuse Now)

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What is the location of the DeKalb County Drug Court and hours of operation?

The DeKalb County Drug Court program is located on the 2nd floor of the DeKalb County Courthouse and is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Drug Court is held in Room 204 on Friday mornings from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 with Judge Robbin Stuckert presiding. The Friday Drug Court in Room 204 is open to the public from 11 a.m. to noon. DUI Court follows Drug Court on Friday and is from noon to 1 pm. DUI Court is also open to the public.

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How is the DeKalb County Drug Court: C.L.E.A.N. Program different from normal prosecution through Criminal Court?

- Drug Court is a diversion and treatment program. Defendants with substance abuse problems are not prosecuted and punished for their addiction. Instead, intensive treatment and rehabilitation are used to help offenders succeed in becoming and remaining drug-free.
- Participation is voluntary.
- The Drug Court team includes the judge, defense, prosecution attorneys, treatment staff, law enforcement personnel, probation, evaluation consultant, and other court related personnel that understand the recovery process and work together to help clients succeed.

- Decisions in the courtroom are communicated to the defendant by the judge but made by the Drug Court Team prior to court starting.
- The judge plays as essential role in monitoring participants' progress in treatment, supporting positive behavior and dispensing immediate sanctions for non-compliance with program requirements.



DeKalb County Drug Court Team 2012

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Who is eligible for Drug Court?

The following are the specific eligibility criteria for the DeKalb County Drug Court:

- Must admit to a substance abuse problem and agree to immediately stopping all drug use
- Must be 18 years of age or older
- Must be DeKalb County resident
- Must be a United States citizen or legal resident
- Must have felony charges pending
- Must resolve all out-of-county cases
- Must include all DeKalb County cases in final agreement

- ❑ Must have no serious or persistent mental illnesses which prohibit participation in substance abuse treatment
- ❑ Must be in stable physical health
- ❑ Must have transportation
- ❑ Must plead guilty and be sentenced to drug court



New drug court participant and his attorney entering a plea before the Judge and then joining drug court.

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Are there criteria that exclude a defendant from the DeKalb County Drug Court?

Drug Court ineligibility is governed by Illinois Statute 730 ILCS 166/20 (Drug Court Treatment Act). Generally, a defendant must be charged with a felony for a non-violent crime related directly or indirectly to drug use. Defendants who have a history of violent crime or have been arrested for drug sale or trafficking are typically ineligible.

The following criteria exclude a defendant from drug court:

- ❑ Has a class 2 or higher drug offense
- ❑ Has an offense that is a non-probation eligible offense
- ❑ Crime is a crime of violence
- ❑ Defendant denies use or addiction to drugs
- ❑ Defendant does not demonstrate a willingness to participate in a treatment program
- ❑ Defendant has been convicted of a crime of violence in the past 10 years excluding jail time, including but not limited to: first degree murder, second degree murder, predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, aggravated criminal sexual assault, criminal sexual assault, armed robbery, aggravated arson, aggravated kidnapping, kidnapping, aggravated battery resulting in great bodily

- harm or permanent disability, stalking, aggravated stalking, or any offense involving the discharge of a firearm
- Defendant has previously completed or has been discharged from drug court program.

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Are violent and/or serious offenders eligible for Drug Court?

The answer is “No”. Almost all Drug Courts exclude offenders charged with sales of drugs, possession for sale of drugs, or other serious offenses. Members of gangs who are involved in the sale of drugs are also excluded.

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Are Drug Courts another “soft-on-crime” prevention program?

Drug Courts across the country rely on sanctions, including terms of incarceration and increased drug testing and supervision, to respond to program failure. They provide comprehensive hands-on supervision and monitoring and require far more contact with the judicial personnel than any other case management approach.

In addition, the programs require participation in drug testing, educational and rehabilitation classes than have ever been required before. Drug Courts are tougher on offenders; it is hard work getting and staying clean and sober.

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How long does the Program last?

The program is a minimum of 14 months with the requirement of 1 year of sobriety. Analysis of the program in 2011 showed that the average participant spends 26 months in Drug Court.

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What are the benefits of Drug Court for offenders who successfully complete the Program?

Typically the felony charges are either downgraded to a misdemeanor or dismissed by the State’s Attorney. If the conviction is dismissed, program “graduates” will have no conviction on their records, which is a significant benefit in future employment and career opportunities. The offender will know the sentence when he/she successfully graduates from drug court. If the offender does not successfully graduate from drug court, he/she will also know the sentence that will be received.

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How does the Drug Court judge monitor each participant's progress in treatment?

The Drug Court judge meets with the Drug Court Team every Friday before Court and each participant is discussed. The Team consists of treatment providers, jail personnel, the Public Defender, the State's Attorney, Drug Court Coordinator, Drug Court probation officer, and an Evaluation Consultant. The treatment providers present information on the participant's progress in treatment and the drug staff report results of urinalysis for the week and other important information. The Team reaches a decision on dispensing a reward or a sanction and the judge communicates this decision to the participant from the bench.



Participant advancing in a Phase and being congratulated by Judge Stuckert.

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What happens if Drug Court Participants fail to comply with the Program's requirements?

If participants consistently fail to comply with Program requirements, they may be removed from the Program and prosecuted in Criminal Court. Participants are aware what the sentence will be if they do not successfully complete Drug Court when they plea to the crime and are admitted to Drug Court. However, only as a last resort and very rarely will the Court remove a client from the Program. The judge, staff and treatment providers work hard to find a way for treatment to work and participants to succeed. If a relapse occurs, the treatment counselor reviews the events that came before the lapse to help the person cope with feelings or events that triggered drug use. The treatment plan may be changed to include more counseling, self-help meetings and Court Appearance. If positive test results become too frequent, the Team may decide to reassign the client to an earlier phase of the program or require residential treatment.



Drug Court Participant having Electronic Home Monitoring Device Removed by Deputy

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How do clients “graduate” from Drug Court?

When participants have completed all 5 phases of Drug Court, have a minimum of 14 months in the Program, submitted an aftercare plan to the Drug Court Team, has paid restitution or fees in full, written a letter to the Team to graduate, and meet all

requirements of Phase V, the Drug Court Team will recommend that they attend the commencement ceremony and given a certificate of completion from the DeKalb County Drug Court: C.L.E.A.N. Program. Post graduation activities include an alumni association, aftercare plans and mentoring projects.

Upon completion of the Program, the participant's criminal charges are either dismissed or downgraded to a misdemeanor.

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What happens at Commencement?

Commencement is a recognition of the participants' accomplishments. Family, friends, relatives, the Drug Court Team, and the arresting officers and jail personnel are invited to the commencement. It is a celebration of personal sacrifice and achievement. At graduation there is music, food, and plenty of hugs and tears of happiness.

This program is an excellent example of what cooperation between criminal justice agencies can achieve in establishing a swift and fair justice system that results in the most cost-effective adjudication of defendants at the least expense to the taxpayers.



Standing room only at the commencement.

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What does treatment include?

Treatment services include:

IOP (Intensive Outpatient) Therapy

Group therapy

Individual therapy

Job training and Employment assistance

Referral to Illinois Employment and Training Center “Wings to Freedom”

program

Case Management

Referral to Kishwaukee College for GED

Referral to Kishwaukee College for vocational training

Urine Drug Testing

Immediate result

Sample sent out for a quantitative measurement

Sample sent out for detection of “designer drugs”

SCRAM

Tests for use of alcohol 24/7 and is worn around the ankle—this is only used when there is continual documented use of alcohol.

Education

Placement in residential treatment facilities for a 90 day program

Placement in half-way and ¾ houses

Attendance at self-help groups (AA, NA or other similar groups)

Who do we contact if interested in being in Drug Court?

You can contact the Drug Court Office directly at 815-895-7224 which is located at the DeKalb County Courthouse, 133 West State Street, Sycamore, Illinois 60178. Lawyers, defendants, or jail personnel can contact the office for more information or to refer someone.

See the [Participant Handbook](#)

See the [DeKalb County Drug Court Brochure](#)

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