

# DUI Court Program

## What is DUI Court?

DUI Court is an accountability Court dedicated to changing the behavior of the hardcore DUI offender. Our Court provides repeat DUI offenders with the supervision and treatment services needed to eliminate alcohol/drug use and dependency in an effort to reduce the number of DUIs thus protecting the life and property of our law abiding citizens while allowing the offender to be a productive citizen.

## Eligibility

- At least 17 years of age.
- Charged with a non-violent felony offense(s), as defined in the South Carolina Code 16-1-60.
- No record of convictions for violent or sexual offenses and no evidence of a pattern of violent behavior; not in possession of a firearm during the current or any previous offense.
- No felony charges pending in any other jurisdiction.
- Willingness to plead guilty to the offense.
- Substance or alcohol abuse problems.
- Voluntary participation.

## Requirements

- Attend all Court appearances, on time and dressed appropriately.
- Comply with all orders issued by the Judge.
- Attend all required meetings and appointments.
- Submit to urine or hair samples for drug testing, and/or submit to alcohol breath testing as ordered by the Judge, DUI Court Team or treatment providers.
- Pay all required DUI Court and treatment fees in a timely manner.
- Attend all self-help group meetings as directed by the Judge, DUI Court Team or treatment providers.
- Notify his or her DUI Court Coordinator in advance of any changes of address, employment, or telephone number.
- Pay a fee of \$40.00 for the initial assessment with treatment provider.

## Length of the Program

The length of the DUI Court Program is a minimum of thirteen (13) months, which is broken down into four (4) phases followed by six (6) months of aftercare. The participant must complete all four phases of the program in order to graduate.

## Criteria for Graduation from the DUI Court Program

- Successful completion of all four (4) phases and program requirements.
- Payment of all fees and Court-ordered restitution.
- At least thirteen (13) months enrollment in the program and four (4) consecutive months of sobriety.
- Unanimous recommendation from the DUI Court Team.
- The approval of the Judge.

Graduation from the DUI Court Program is a significant accomplishment, particularly for participants who have experienced repeated failures in their lives before they entered the program. Accordingly, graduations will be held and treated as celebrations by everyone in the program. The Judge will preside, refreshments will be served, and family members and friends will be invited to attend.