

What is DUI Court?

DUI Court is a specialized accountability court dedicated to changing the behavior of high-risk DUI offenders through intensive treatment and supervision. The goal of DUI Court is to protect public safety by using the highly successful drug court model that uses accountability and long-term treatment to address alcohol and drug addiction. The DMMC DUI Court is a comprehensive 5-phase program designed with specific objectives aimed at keeping the participant alcohol- and drug-free in order to rehabilitate the offender and reduce the likelihood of recidivism.



Sometimes the wrong choices bring us to the right places.

Is DUI Court effective?

A large body of research supports the effectiveness of DUI courts to lead participants out of the justice system and into long-term sobriety. One study found that DUI Courts reduce recidivism by as much as 60%. Mitchell, O., Wilson, D.B., Eggers, A., & MacKenzie, D.L. (2012). Assessing the effectiveness of drug courts on recidivism: A meta-analysis review of traditional and nontraditional drug courts. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 40(1). DUI Courts also reduce the costs associated with traditional prosecution and incarceration of repeat DUI offenders. One study concluded that taxpayers save \$3.19 for every dollar spent on DUI Court programs. Carey, S., Harrison, P., Johnson, A., & Zil, C. (2014). *Minnesota DWI Courts: A summary of evaluation findings in nine drug court programs*. Portland: NPC Research. In short, DUI Court benefits both the community and the offender by providing a cost-effective approach to reducing DUI recidivism while, at the same time, rehabilitating offenders through therapeutic assessment, intensive treatment and education.

For more information, see www.dwicourts.org, the website for the National Center for DWI Courts.

Who is eligible to participate in DUI Court?

The DMMC DUI Court program targets offenders who are identified as “high-risk”. An initial screening will determine whether an offender is potentially eligible to participate in DUI Court. As a preliminary matter, an offender must:

- Be an adult offender charged with DUI or Physical Control in DMMC or NPMC
- Have two or more prior convictions for alcohol- or drug-related driving offenses
- Reside in King County, Washington
- Have a diagnosis of a substance use disorder and/or co-occurring disorder

The fact that a defendant may screen as potentially eligible does not guarantee acceptance into the program. The DUI Court Team will meet and discuss whether to accept an offender into the program, taking into account the defendant’s prior criminal history, amenability to treatment, and the ability to comply with the DUI Court requirements.

Note: DMMC DUI Court guidelines comply with RCW 2.30.030 (governing therapeutic courts)

What are the benefits of participating in DUI Court?

Those who graduate from DUI Court are more likely to maintain stable employment, reunite with family members, discover new talents and interests, seek higher education, and, most importantly, develop the tools necessary to break the cycle of drinking or using drugs and landing in jail. Many graduates have described their participation in DUI Court as life-changing. Features of DUI Court include:

- Shorter probationary term (program may be completed in minimum of 24 months, compared to 60 months of traditional DUI probation)
- Quicker access to treatment
- Support with relicensing efforts
- Support developing alternative transportation plan, including goal-setting and bus pass benefits
- FREE behavioral therapy program
- Reduced fines and fees
- Built-in incentives and rewards to keep participants motivated

DUI Court Team



Judge

Hon. Lisa Leone

DUI Court Coordinator

Jennefer Johnson

Prosecutor

Tara Vaughn

Public Defender

Julie Codd

DUI Court Probation Officer

Melissa Patrick

DUI Court Law Enforcement Officer

MPO Justin Cripe (DMPD)

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