

Superior Court of California,  
County of Solano

# DEPENDENCY DRUG COURT



# PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

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## WELCOME TO DDC

Welcome to the Solano County Dependency Drug Court Program, which we also call the “DDC.” Deciding to participate, you have made an important step in your Recovery! This handbook explains what DDC is. It will explain your responsibilities as a participant. Consider this your guidebook and refer to it throughout the program. Along the way, if you have any questions, please feel comfortable asking any one of the DDC Team members for help. Everyone on the team is committed to providing you with the best possible pathway to success.

## PROGRAM MISSION

The mission of the DDC program is to promote the health and wellness of families by helping parents through recovery in a monitored and supportive environment.



## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the DDC program, you must have:

- An open dependency case in Family Maintenance or Family Reunification in Solano County;
- Be 18 years or older; and,
- Have a history of substance use, abuse, or dependence.

The DDC Team *also* considers the following factors:

- Your motivation to participate;
- Your willingness to be honest in admitting alcohol or drug use; and,
- Your case history.

A parent with a child under the age of three will generally be given preference if there is a waiting list. Parents who have been prescribed narcotic medication, who use medical marijuana, or who participate in a methadone maintenance program will be reviewed by the DDC Team on a case by case basis for admission

The Team will meet to review your case and decide whether you meet the eligibility criteria and whether you are motivated and ready to be honest about your recovery process. If you are not accepted into the program, the case manager will work with you to find other resources available to you.

**SHOW UP AND TRY HARD**

You will be expected to attend court once a month. The team will meet prior to court to discuss your progress in the program. During the court hearing, your progress will be shared with the team and other DDC participants in open court. Court sessions are informal and children are allowed to be present. Like other juvenile hearings, court is closed to the public but you may bring a support person (friend or family) with you. All participants are required to stay until all cases are called. This is how you show support for your fellow participants. We believe it takes a community to help you through recovery.

**Tip:** Remember to bring proof of your attendance at AA, NA or other recovery support meetings. If you do not bring proof, you risk being non-compliant for that reporting period (don't worry, we explain what this means later).



**PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

**WHAT WILL BE EXPECTED OF ME?**

Before you are accepted into the program, you will be assessed by someone who will let the team know what your treatment needs are. After you are assessed you will be referred to a treatment provider and the treatment provider will come up with a

treatment plan for you. Our program will require you to **follow the treatment provider's treatment plan.**

You will be required to **attend recovery support meetings**, such as AA, NA, Life Ring, Celebrate Recovery, Individual meetings with your sponsor or other approved recovery support meetings. These meetings are to connect you with a recovery community.

You will be required to **provide urine, hair or saliva samples** (your own urine, hair or saliva) to be tested for alcohol and drugs. You may be asked to test by Child Welfare Services (CWS), your treatment program and/or your case manager. Urine samples will be collected while someone of the same gender observes you.

You will be required to **contact your case manager** on a regular basis (usually weekly). Your case manager is there to help you. If something happens and you need help, call your case manager. If it's a medical emergency you should call 911 first.

And don't forget to **show up to court.**

## PROGRESS REPORTS

At each DDC hearing, your case manager will complete a progress report that includes information about how you're doing in your treatment program, your drug tests results, and any other issue that your case manager thinks is relevant to your recovery (examples: your housing or job situation).

Great Job! You are in full compliance if you:

- Did everything you were supposed to in your treatment program (example: attended all required group and individual sessions);
- showed up and tested negative for all drug tests; and,
- attended all required recovery meetings

Part way there but not all the way. You may be partially compliant if you:

- Did not attend all required recovery meetings OR
- Did not attend all required group or individual sessions OR
- Maintain contact with your case manager

Not this time....You may not be in compliance if you:

- Tested positive or missed a drug test OR

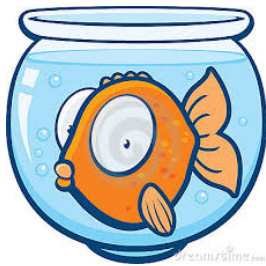
- Did not attend any recovery meetings OR
- Did not attend any required group sessions or individual sessions OR
- Have consistent issues with your attendance in DDC or treatment program OR
- Discharged from your treatment program due to your behavior/failure to participate

The final decision regarding your compliance with DDC will be made by the judge. Each decision will be based on the facts in your case. Continued non-compliance in the program may result in your termination from the program. Prior to being terminated, the team will meet to discuss your case and the judge will make the final decision.

## INCENTIVES AND SANCTIONS

This program uses incentives and sanctions to motivate you. Sanctions, like extra homework, are intended to help you get back on track. Incentives, reward you for continuing to do well in the program.

Incentives that may be used in this program:



- Enter the fishbowl for drawing of gift card
- Recognition by the Judge
- Earn special activity to be used on a visit with your child/ren
- Candy Bars
- Advance to the next phase
- Graduation

Sanctions that may be imposed in this program:



- Write a reflective essay
- Letter of apology
- Increased recovery meetings
- Spend more time in your current phase
- Termination from program

## PROGRAM PHASES

Program phases help the DDC team track your progress in the program. Participants advance phases by completing the tasks listed below and with a favorable review of the team. There is a length of time associated with each phase, but each participant will generally move to the next phase based on his/her progress. Some participants may enter DDC at different Phases after consultation with DDC Team.

### **Phase I: Assessment, Stabilization, Treatment** (approximately 3-4 months)

The Case Manager will help you identify your goals, help you develop or update your treatment plan, and help identify treatment services for you.

Activities include:

- An assessment;
- Enrollment in treatment services;
- Belief Systems Exploration;
- Regular attendance at court hearings;
- Random drug testing;
- Be in contact with your Case Manager at least once a week;
- Consistent compliance with CWS; and,
- Write and submit an essay.

### **Phase II: Foundation for the Future** (approximately 3-4 months)

Activities include all of the Phase I activities, plus:

- Self-assessment work;
- Relapse prevention work;
- Creating a plan for financial independence and a clean and sober living environment;
- Develop a recovery network; and,
- Write and submit an essay.

### **Phase III: Community Re-integration** (approximately 2 to 3 months)

Activities include all of the Phase I activities and Phase II, and:

- Consistent compliance with CWS case plan;
- Build social network for recovery (e.g. NA/AA involvement, church attendance, clean or sober leisure activities);
- Maintain a period of sustained sobriety
- Certain participants may enter this Phase upon release from residential treatment; and,

- Write and submit an essay.

### **Preparing for Graduation and Aftercare** (approximately 2 to 3 months)

- Develop an aftercare plan;
- Continue to develop and maintain a clean and sober support network;
- Attend 12-step program or its equivalent; and,
- Complete graduation essay.



## **GRADUATION**

You will be eligible to graduate when you have:

- Consistent attendance at court and at service provider programs;
- Complete appropriate program phases;
- Complete personal treatment goals;
- Maintain sobriety;
- Submit a graduation application to the DDC Team; and,
- A favorable review by the DDC Team.

Graduation from DDC does not guarantee family reunification, but it is very important in supporting the work you are doing in reuniting with your child(ren). The decision in your legal case is made by the Judge, who takes into consideration how you have done in all areas of your efforts to reunify, including your participation in this program.

## TERMINATION

If you are terminated from the program, you will be terminated for one of three reasons:

1. If you are consistently non-compliant with program requirements, you will be **unsuccessfully terminated**.

Unsuccessful termination may occur for:

- Refusing to drug test
- Repeated unexcused absences from court hearings
- Consistent missed appointments with your Case Manager
- Failure to attend treatment



2. Participation in DDC is voluntary. If you are still eligible for the program but other factors make it difficult for you to continue in our program we recognize that you must choose what you think is best for you. If you are unable to finish the program but have made substantial progress in recovery you may be eligible for a **termination with progress**. Termination with progress means that although you have not finished all of the program requirements, you have made substantial progress in recovery and you have not been terminated because of non-compliance.

3. If after you are accepted into DDC, you become ineligible (example: you are no longer in family reunification or maintenance) then you will be **terminated due to ineligibility**. However, you can still receive services from your case manager even if you are no longer eligible for the program.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

The DDC program has safeguards to protect your confidential information from unauthorized use. All team members follow all laws related to protecting your health information.

## YOUR DDC TEAM

Before every hearing, your team meets to discuss your progress. The team members are:

- The DDC Judge
- Your case manager
- A representative from CWS
- Your attorney
- An attorney representing CWS (County Counsel)
- Your child(ren)'s attorney

Other people that work with your team to support your success:

- Staff from your treatment program
- Court staff
- CWS social workers
- County Substance Abuse Administration staff

## Frequently Asked Questions

***“Am I still eligible for the program if CWS is recommending that reunification services be terminated but the judge has not made a ruling yet?”***

Yes, you may be eligible. The decision to accept or deny your admittance will be made by the DDC Team on a case-by-case basis.

***“If my work or other obligations interfere with my Drug Court sessions, what should I do?”***

To succeed in Drug Court means putting your Recovery and Treatment obligations first. Carefully organize your life and your schedule so that you can meet your Court obligations. If you miss your court appearances for any reason, this could result in your termination from the program, which is something all Drug Court participants wish to avoid. You may want to inform your employer that you are not available for overtime or out of town work. If your employer is the type of person who would be supportive of your Recovery, you might consider telling him or her about your Court obligations, so that together you can design your work schedule to fit around participation in the DDC.

***“If transportation problems come up, what should I do?”***

As you get more involved in your treatment and peer support groups, we hope you will develop a network of clean and sober people to support your recovery. Other parents in the DDC may be able to help you with rides. Your social worker may be able to help you with transportation costs (for example, bus passes). It might be helpful to enlist the support and assistance of clean and sober family members. Remember to plan ahead, and talk to your Case Manager.

***“What do I do if I have an emergency and I cannot make court or an appointment?”***

Unexpected situations arise at some point in everyone’s life. If an emergency comes up and you cannot make your appointment, contact your DDC case manager, social worker and/or your attorney immediately. If you are in a critical situation, your social worker may be able to help you develop a plan to get through a crisis. If you do not call your case manager, you will have an unexcused absence. This could result in termination from the program.

***“If I don’t have childcare, may I bring my child to Dependency Drug Court with me?”***

You may bring your child(ren) to DDC sessions. Please remember, however, that there is no childcare available during the session, and you will be responsible for supervising your child while you attend court.

***“What happens if I can’t stay for the entire session?”***

Participants are required to remain in court for the entire calendar. In the event that you have a medical or other appointment that cannot be scheduled for a different day, it is your responsibility to advise your attorney and your DDC case manager ahead of time.

***“Is my participation in DDC a substitute for an outpatient drug treatment program as required on my case plan?”***

No. DDC is not a drug treatment program. DDC is designed to enhance your drug treatment program with extra support and assistance.

***“Can my participation positively or negatively impact my Child Welfare Services case?”***

Yes. Your participation in DDC and your progress is reported to the Court in your Child Welfare Services Case.

***“Why should I do something “extra” that is not part of my case plan?”***

DDC is a unique opportunity for you to receive assistance that is tailored to your particular needs. By participating in DDC, you receive the extra benefit of a support network to assist you with virtually every aspect of your case plan. You will receive feedback regarding your progress and an opportunity to connect with other parents who have made a commitment to sobriety.

***“What are the requirements of DDC?”***

Generally, you will be required to attend court one time per month, attend 12 step meetings or other support meetings, participate in treatment services, and contact your DDC case manager at least once a week.

***“What happens if I participate in DDC and then drop out?”***

Your case will be evaluated to determine if you should be terminated from drug court with or without progress. Your termination will be reported to Child Welfare Services.

***“If I leave Dependency Drug Court, may I return at a later date?”***

Re-entry into DDC is determined on a case by case basis by the DDC Team.

**DDC TEAM  
Contact List**

Senior Case Manager, Courtney Tindall 600 Union Ave, Fairfield, CA 94533	707-207-7411
Attorney at Law, Kenneth J. Lee 19201 Sonoma Hwy PMB #343, Sonoma, CA 95476	707-492-2137
Attorney at Law, Caroline DeBois 675 Texas St., Suite 3600, Fairfield, CA 94533	707-334-3380
Solano County Child Welfare Services 275 Beck Ave, Fairfield, CA 94533	707-784-8791
Collaborative Courts Manager, Cynthia Garcia 600 Union Ave, Fairfield, CA 94533	707-207-7423

# Solano County Dependency Drug Court

## The Participant Contract: Parents' Rights and Responsibilities

By signing this participant contract, I understand that I will have access to:

- The Dependency Drug Court's sincere desire and efforts to assist me with living a clean and sober life.
- The Dependency Drug Court's network of professionals and treatment providers, including the Judicial Officer, Dependency Drug Court Case Manager, Child Welfare Services, Parent's Counsel, County Counsel, Minor's Counsel, and treatment providers.

In exchange for the above, I agree to the following:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. I agree to give my time and make my best efforts in the program.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. I agree to support my sobriety and child(ren) by making all my court appearances.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. I agree to attend treatment and/or counseling when directed to do so by the DDC team.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. I agree to stay in contact with my Case Manager and Social Worker and attend all meetings with them as scheduled.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. I agree to maintain a clean and sober living environment at home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. I agree to support my recovery by following the goals on my treatment plan.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. I agree to be honest in all of my dealings with the DDC team.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. (Any other things you may want to add) \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DDC Participant's name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Participant's signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DDC Case Manager:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Dependency Drug Court Drug Test Contract

I, \_\_\_\_\_, understand that:

\_\_\_\_\_ I will be tested for the presence of drugs in my system on a random basis according to procedures established by the Drug Court Team and/or my treatment provider.

\_\_\_\_\_ The Drug Court Team, CWS and/or my treatment provider will give me a time and location to drug test.

\_\_\_\_\_ It is my responsibility to report to the assigned location at the time given for the test.

\_\_\_\_\_ If I am late for a test, or miss a test, the test will be considered positive for drugs/alcohol and that I may be sanctioned.

\_\_\_\_\_ If I fail to produce a specimen or if the sample provided is not of sufficient quantity, the test will be considered positive for drugs/alcohol and that I may be sanctioned.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have been informed that the ingestion of excessive amounts of fluids can result in a diluted urine sample and I understand that my urine sample will be tested to ensure that the sample is not dilute.

\_\_\_\_\_ If I produce a dilute urine sample it will be considered positive for drugs/alcohol and that I may be sanctioned.

\_\_\_\_\_ If I substitute or alter my specimen or try in any way to modify my body fluids for the purpose of changing my drug test results, the test will be considered positive for drugs/alcohol and that I may be sanctioned or terminated from the program.

I have read this contract and fully understand all its terms. I understand that the results of my drug tests may be presented as evidence in my dependency case.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Participant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_