

What is Sobriety Court?

Sobriety Court is a special, non-adversarial court docket designed to offer immediate treatment to a non-violent offender for substance abuse, along with drug testing and judicial supervision, with the purpose of reducing repeat offenses and promoting a healthy lifestyle. Sobriety Court promotes abstinence by providing a continuum of rehabilitative services and intense court supervision. The program is designed to assist an offender in making better choices about drugs and alcohol and improving social behavior (family relations, choice of friends, work/school relations).

Sobriety Court will assist an offender in the struggle against addiction and help the offender make positive changes in his/her life. Sobriety may not come easily and it may require some personal sacrifice. There will be considerable support for the offender during the program. An offender's voluntary agreement to enter this program is a good first step toward a clean and sober life.

52/3 District Court Sobriety Court



Mission Statement

The Mission of the 52nd District Court, 3rd Division Sobriety Court is to serve our communities and improve public safety by focusing on drunk drivers and other substance abusing repeat offenders. The intense court supervision combined with treatment will provide a proactive response to the problem of substance abuse and will assist in reducing recidivism and minimizing jail time. This implementation will provide a cost saving alternative to incarceration and allow a positive change in the lives of offenders and their families, by encouraging personal responsibility and by becoming a law abiding, productive and substance free citizen.

52/3
District
Court

Sobriety Court



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Sobriety Court

Entry into the Program

An offender will be screened for eligibility by meeting all of the following criteria:

- Defendant's current offense is alcohol or drug related.
- Defendant has at least two prior alcohol or drug related convictions
- Defendant has no prior convictions of violent crimes as established by Federal guidelines and Michigan law.
- Defendant is a full time resident within the jurisdiction of 52/3 District Court, which includes the Cities of Auburn Hills, Lake Angelus, Rochester and Rochester Hills; the Townships of Addison, Oakland, Orion and Oxford and the Villages of Lake Orion, Leonard and Oxford.
- Defendant's age is 17 or over.

After pleading guilty at a pretrial, the offender will be ordered to have an assessment conducted by the court's probation department. Upon determining that the offender meets all criteria, the judge, with the offender's agreement, may sentence the offender to Sobriety Court. Reduced or no jail time will be ordered

at the time of sentencing. Additionally, jail time may be imposed throughout the program for continued non-compliance or the maximum jail sentence may be ordered if the participant fails in the program.

Program Phases

The 52/3 Sobriety Court is an 18-24 month program, consisting of three phases with various requirements (i.e. treatment, testing, AA, community service work, random home visits, etc). Included in the phases will be intense weekly meetings with a probation officer and a monthly review hearing with the judge. As a participant successfully progresses through the phases toward graduation, some requirements may become less intense.

Incentives/Sanctions

The Judge will encourage and acknowledge a participant's efforts if doing well in the program and will impose varying degrees of sanctions if the participant is not complying.

Team Approach

Sobriety Court is a collaborative effort among several individuals. The team consists of the judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, probation officer, a treatment specialist, an evaluation specialist and the coordinator.

The offender's agreement to participate in Sobriety Court allows for the sharing of information regarding treatment among the team members. This information will not be disclosed to anyone other than the Sobriety Court team members.

The Sobriety Court team is dedicated to working with the participants toward successful completion of the program

