



Ada County Mental Health Court



Revised 02/02/2009

ADA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT

MISSION STATEMENT

The MENTAL HEALTH COURT (MHC) in Ada County will strive to reduce recidivism of offenders with mental illness in the criminal justice system. The MHC provides community protection with a cost-effective, integrated continuum of care through the development and utilization of community resources. The MHC holds defendants accountable and assists offenders to achieve long-term *stability*, become law-abiding citizens, and become successful family and community members.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Ada County MENTAL HEALTH COURT (MHC). This handbook is designed to answer questions, address concerns and provide overall information about the MHC program. As a participant, you will be expected to follow the instructions given to you by the judge and probation officer as well as to comply with the treatment plan developed for you by an approved treatment provider. This handbook will detail what is expected of you as a MHC participant and review general program information. It is intended to be a standard guide to MHC participants in Ada County. All participants are encouraged to share this handbook with family and friends.

NOTE THAT ALL ITEMS IN THIS PROGRAM GUIDE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.

Please contact the Mental Health Court at 208-287-7507 with any specific questions

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I. PROGRAM

ADA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT

About Mental Health Courts

Mental Health courts are an innovative alternative to *incarceration* with emphasis on accountability and intensive monitoring for individuals charged with *felonies*. The Ada County Mental Health Court removes defendants from the crowded courtrooms of the traditional criminal justice system and places them in a new type of courtroom environment. In this environment, they undergo treatment and counseling, make regular appearances before the judge, and are monitored closely for program compliance. While Mental Health Courts may vary statewide in scope, organization and points of intervention, all share an underlying premise that *crime committed by a mentally ill person* is not simply a law enforcement or criminal justice problem but a public health problem. Mental Health Court programs see the court, specifically the judge, as filling a role that goes beyond that of adjudication.

About the MENTAL HEALTH COURT Program

The Ada County Adult MENTAL HEALTH COURT (MHC) program is a diversion opportunity for some felony offenders who are *mentally ill* and have not been successful in their compliance with treatment. The four-phase program consists of intensive treatment by mental health professionals, frequent appearances before the MHC judge, mandatory mental health programming, regular visits with the Probation Officer, substance treatment for those co-occurring substance use disorders, and substance abuse testing. Other treatment modalities may also be used. The first three phases last a minimum of three months each. Promotion to the next phase occurs when the MHC team determines that the participant has progressed to a point that they are able to accept additional responsibility and accountability. When the defendant has reached appropriate goals to demonstrate progress, and when at least three months has passed, defendants are eligible for promotion.

Upon completion of the first three phases, the client will enter Phase IV, a minimum of six months in a continued care program. The entire program length, which is determined by the participant's progress, will not be less than 15 months. All participants in MHC are supervised by a felony probation officer and will be required to comply with the rules and requirements of felony probation.

The MHC program is for mentally ill offenders. Unfortunately, the community mental health systems are not ideally suited to all individuals with mental illness. In particular, there are individuals with serious mental illness who either do not volunteer for treatment or they are not compliant with the treatment they do receive. These individuals may be homeless, abuse drugs and/or alcohol, and engage in minor criminal behavior. They often have a history of recurring hospitalization. Increasingly, those treatment-resistant clients find themselves incarcerated in local jails and state prisons.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible to participate in the MHC program, you must:

Have the capacity to manage the structure of MHC: You must be able to read, write & understand information given to you. You must have a current mental health diagnosis of a severe and persistent mental illness such as Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, or Chronic Depression, Severe with psychosis are examples of eligible diagnoses. Other diagnosed conditions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis..

Have a criminal history and be identified as having mental illness for which treatment attempts have been unsuccessful.

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You *may be* excluded from applying for the MHC program if you are a “violent offender.” A “violent offender” is a person who is currently charged with or has been convicted of an offense, during the course of which offense or conduct:

- A. The person carried, possessed or used a firearm or dangerous weapon;
- B. There occurred the death of, or serious bodily injury to any person;
- C. There occurred the use of force against the person of another, without regard to whether any of the circumstances described in sub-paragraph (a) or (b) is an element of the offense or conduct of which or for which the person is charged or convicted; or
- D. Have one or more prior convictions for a felony crime of violence involving the use or attempted use of force against a person with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm.

If you have a history of incarceration for violent crime, the facts will be reviewed and examined by the MHC team to determine if your crimes were not truly violent incidents, despite the seriousness of the charge, and that the offense was linked to mental illness.

You will be excluded from applying for the MHC program if: You are currently charged with, have pled guilty to or been found guilty of a felony in which you committed, attempted to commit, conspired to commit, or intended to commit a sex offense.

Accessing the MENTAL HEALTH COURT Program

Referral into the MHC program may be made by the District Court Judge in your case or a felony probation officer. Following legal, clinical and probation screening, your application for acceptance into the MHC program will be submitted to a staffing team for acceptance or denial. If accepted into the MHC program, your attorney may continue to represent you, in a non-adversarial manner, during your participation in the program.

Guilty Plea and Sentencing

If you have been charged with a new crime, you will be required to plead guilty and be sentenced before participating in the MHC program. You will not be allowed to withdraw your guilty plea if you are terminated or voluntarily withdraw from the MHC program. If you were already on probation prior to participating in MHC, successful completion of MHC will be a requirement of your probation. A minimum of six additional months of probation are required after graduation from Mental Health Court.

Program Rules

As a MHC participant, you will be required to abide by the following rules:

1. Be honest. Honesty is the key to your success in ACMHC and your recovery, if you have an addiction.
2. Attend all ordered treatment sessions. This includes individual and group counseling, educational sessions, and other treatment as directed. Unexcused missed treatment sessions will result in a sanction.
3. Be on time. If you are late for treatment, you may not be allowed to participate and will be considered non-compliant. Contact your counselor if there is a possibility that you may be late.
4. Do not make threats toward other participants or staff or behave in a violent manner. Violent or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and will be reported to the court. This behavior may result in a sanction or termination from the MHC program.
5. Attend all court sessions as directed by the MHC probation officer. Participants who are sanctioned may be required to attend additional court sessions.
6. Abstain from the use of alcohol and illicit drugs. This condition is fundamental to successful completion of the program. Any prescription medication must be reported to the MHC team for review. Abuse of prescription drugs will result in a sanction.
7. Submit to urinalysis and/or breath tests as requested. You will be tested throughout the entire program for substance abuse and/or medication compliance. The MHC judge or any team member may require a test at any time and will have access to all drug testing results including any “stalls” or failures to produce. Failing to report for a drug test, appearing late to submit to a urine test, and/or altering a specimen will be treated as violations.

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One of the goals of ACMHC is to help you achieve total abstinence from alcohol, inappropriately used prescription and/or over the counter medication, and illicit drugs. A positive breath or urine test will not automatically disqualify you from the program. The judge will review your overall performance with the MHC team to determine a response.

8. Maintain confidentiality of other MHC participants. Treatment cannot succeed unless all participants maintain the confidentiality of other participants and of information disclosed in treatment.
9. Romantic and/or physical relationships between members of MHC are strictly prohibited.
10. MHC participants with substance use disorders are required to disclose their substance use disorder to all health care professional they see for any reason. MHC participants should request non-narcotic medications when possible.
11. Participants who use emergency room/emergency department services are required to get permission in advance if possible. After going to the E.R./E.D., participants are required to provide the FACT team with all documentation relative to the condition for which they were treated. Participants must provide MHC staff with copies of all medical bills, whether related to the E.R./E.D. and/or other health care providers.
12. Participants are required to provide proof of contact with health care professionals, as well as proof that they have disclosed their substance use disorder to their health care professionals. All medications prescribed by non-MHC team providers **MUST BE APPROVED BY THE FACT TEAM PSYCHIATRIST BEFORE THEY ARE TAKEN.**
13. Participants are strictly prohibited from taking over-the-counter medications other than aspirin, acetaminophen, ibuprofen, and naproxen. Every other over-the-counter medication that a participant would like to take **MUST** be approved in advance by the FACT team nurse or psychiatrist.
14. Participants are prohibited from applying for title loans while they participate in Mental Health Court.
15. Participants are **REQUIRED** to bring their calendars to all appointments related to MHC, including classes, appointments with any team member, classes, probation appointments, etc. Calendars should be filled out as far in advance as possible.

Phases

Mental Health Court treatment and participation is phase-based. At the beginning of the program, more treatment opportunities and accountability are expected. As participants progress through phases, they take more personal accountability.

Phase One — Three Months Minimum

- ◆ Report to probation officer in person at least once a week or as directed by the probation officer.
- ◆ Cooperate with Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) team to determine a mental health treatment plan. Remain or become compliant with ALL mental health treatment directives. This could include daily medication monitoring throughout Phase I.
- ◆ Attend Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Symptom Management, and Cognitive Self Change (CSC) classes as directed .
- ◆ If you have a substance use disorder, participate in dual diagnosis group, weekly.
- ◆ If you have a substance use disorder, participate in a minimum of five 12-step meetings each week if directed by the treatment team and probation officer. Provide written verification as directed by the probation officer.
- ◆ Obtain a 12-step sponsor within 30 days.
- ◆ Submit to random drug tests including but not limited to urinalysis, oral fluid, and./or BAC tests one (1) to three (3) times per week or as directed by probation officer or treatment provider. Call the drug testing line daily to learn if you are required to test that day.
- ◆ Leave call-in messages daily between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. to report on your calendared activities and make a sobriety pledge. Leave call-in messages nightly between 8:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. to report on what your day was like and whether or not you remained sober.
- ◆ Attend MHC at least once per week.
- ◆ Follow curfew of 9:00 p.m. nightly.

Phase Two — Twelve Weeks Minimum

- ◆ Report to probation officer in person at least three times monthly or as directed by the probation officer.
- ◆ Cooperate with Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) team to determine a treatment plan. Remain or become compliant with ALL mental health treatment directives. This could include daily medication monitoring throughout Phase I.
- ◆ Attend Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), Symptom Management, and Cognitive Self Change (CSC) classes weekly.
- ◆ If you have a substance use disorder, participate in dual diagnosis group, weekly.
- ◆ If you have a substance use disorder, participate in a minimum of four 12-step meetings each week if directed by the treatment team and probation officer. Provide written verification as directed by the probation officer.
- ◆ Maintain contact with your 12-step sponsor a minimum of once weekly.
- ◆ Submit to random drug tests including but not limited to urinalysis, oral fluid, and/or BAC tests one (1) to three (3) times per week or as directed by probation officer or treatment provider. Call the drug testing line daily to learn if you are required to test that day.
- ◆ Leave call-in messages daily between 6:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. to report on your calendared activities and make a sobriety pledge. Leave call-in messages nightly between 8:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. to report on what your day was like and whether or not you remained sober.
- ◆ Attend MHC at least once per week.
- ◆ Follow curfew of 10:00 p.m. nightly.

Phase Three — 12 Weeks Minimum

- ◆ Report to probation officer in person at least two (2) times per month or as directed by the probation officer
- ◆ Remain compliant with ALL mental health directives.
- ◆ Attend a minimum of three 12-step meetings per week if directed. Provide written verification as directed by the probation officer.
- ◆ Continue to contact your sponsor at least once (1) per week and provide written verification as directed by the probation officer.

- ◆ Submit to random drug tests, including but not limited to urinalysis, oral fluid, and./or BAC tests as directed by the MHC team. Call the drug testing line daily to learn if you are required to test that day.
- ◆ Participate in classes as directed by the Mental Health Court Team.
- ◆ Attend MHC at least two (2) times per month.
- ◆ Follow curfew of 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Phase Four — Six Month Minimum

- ◆ Report to probation officer in person at least once a month.
- ◆ Attend treatment as instructed by the Treatment Team.
- ◆ If directed, attend 12-step meetings a minimum of two (2) times a week and provide written verification as directed by the probation officer. Continue to contact sponsor at least once per week and provide written verification as directed by the probation officer.
- ◆ Submit to random drug tests including but not limited to urinalysis, oral fluid, and./or BAC tests one (1) to three (3) times per week or as directed by probation officer or treatment provider. Call the dru
- ◆ Attend MHC once a month.
- ◆ Maintain employment or participate in continuing education as directed.
- ◆ Complete a Community Service Project in consultation with the Coordinator and Team members.
- ◆ Prepare a statement of goals to present to the Judge in advance of graduation.
- ◆ Prepare a detailed Relapse Prevention Plan with the assistance of a substance abuse counselor from MHC.
- ◆ Prepare a before and after statement to be read at graduation.
- ◆ Be current on all fines, court costs, and MHC fees. Have all court-ordered community service completed.
- ◆ After Graduation, each MHC participant will remain on probation for a minimum of six months. This period may be lengthened at the discretion of the Court.
- ◆ After the six months of probation following graduation, the graduate may petition the Court to request that the charges be reduced or dismissed.

II. FAQ'S (Frequently Asked Questions)

What if I have a serious medical condition?

In general, if you have a serious medical condition you will not be excluded from MHC. You must be willing to **fully** disclose your condition and medical care to the treatment providers and MHC team. If you are taking a prescribed medication for your condition, you must continue to do so. Although we can be flexible and work around your condition, you must be able to engage in and complete treatment.

Can I use prescription medication?

As a general rule, MHC participants are expected to be drug free, including the unauthorized use of prescription medication.

If your doctor prescribes medication, you must bring in the prescription to your probation officer as well as the drug testing facility. You will then sign a release so that your probation officer can verify the prescription. While in MHC, you must use ONE doctor or ONE dentist and ONE pharmacy. We also require that you notify the medical professional of your addiction and that you request non-narcotic pain medications when a prescription is being recommended.

What happens once I am in the program?

You will be required to participate fully in the program to graduate from MHC. This will include random drug testing, court appearances, making payments, verifying self-help meetings, individual and group therapy, mental health treatment, as well as ongoing contact with your probation officer.

What if I want to travel outside of Ada County?

If you need to travel outside Ada County, you must first contact your probation officer to request permission to leave. As a condition of travel, the probation officer may require you to submit to a drug test prior to leaving and immediately upon return. Another condition may be that a treatment group not be missed. If a treatment group would be missed, further permission from your treatment provider would be required.

What sanctions are given?

If you do not comply with the treatment tasks, probation conditions, or do not attend mandatory meetings, the Judge may sanction your actions or treatment will be increased. Possible responses include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Additional treatment contact
- ◆ Additional AA/NA meetings
- ◆ Writing assignments
- ◆ Additional court appearances
- ◆ Demotion to a prior phase
- ◆ Delayed promotion to the next phase
- ◆ Sheriff's labor program
- ◆ Community service hours
- ◆ Restricted curfew
- ◆ Jail time
- ◆ Termination from the program

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How do drug tests work?

You will be required to provide ongoing random urine samples to monitor your progress. A same-sex employee at the testing facility will supervise you when you give a specimen. Urinalysis reports are documented and available to the court. Any positive urine screens, tampered samples or refusal to provide a sample may be grounds for sanctions from the Judge.

Poppy seeds are a concentrated form of opium and should not be eaten. Some “power drinks” contain pseudoephedrine & are not to be taken. Your recovery is important. Staying away from these items will not only give you clean tests, it will keep substances out of your system which may trigger old addictions.

You must be very careful not to ingest:

- ◆ Alcohol
- ◆ Poppy seeds in any form (muffins, bread, bagels, etc.)
- ◆ Flushing agents
- ◆ “Natural” or herbal remedies
- ◆ “Power” drinks (Red Bull and others)
- ◆ All over-the-counter medications (such as Nyquil and including nasal sprays) without **prior** approval from your probation officer
- ◆ Metablife or other over the counter diet aids
- ◆ Controlled substances

The best rule to follow regarding what you can and cannot take is simple. Take **no** medications or herbal supplements, prescribed or over-the-counter, without first obtaining permission from your probation or parole officer.

What if I relapse?

You may relapse during this program, but that just means you have more work to do. It does not necessarily mean, however, that you will be terminated from the program. The MHC team understands that addiction is a devastating disease which consumes you. All we ask is that you are honest and tell us if it happens. That way the team can make sure the program is fitting your needs, or if you need something different or something more.

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What if I know that another MHC client is breaking the program rules?

Participants of the MHC should maintain group accountability by reporting any rule violations. If one client knows that another client is breaking the rules & doesn't report it, both clients could be sanctioned including loss of phase points.

What benefit does the MHC defendant receive upon graduation?

After graduation and a minimum six month probationary period, which can be extended if restitution is still owed or any violations occur during this time, the defendant can petition the Court to dismiss the felony charge or reduce the case to a misdemeanor and to be released from probation.

What are grounds for termination from MENTAL HEALTH COURT?

This is a voluntary program. You can *voluntarily terminate* from the program at anytime, however, the original sentence will be imposed. The judge and staffing team can also *involuntarily terminate* you from the program for non-compliance, new criminal charges, bench warrants or drug testing problems. Although a relapse is not absolute grounds for termination, a continual inability to meet your treatment goals will result in expulsion. There are several grounds for possible termination. These include:

- > Possession of alcohol, drugs, or paraphernalia at your residence, in your car, or on your person.
- > Attending a treatment group under the influence
- > Possession of a weapon in your residence, car or on your person
- > New charges, in particular violent or sexual crimes
- > Corrupting or negatively influencing another MHC participant
- > Tampering with a UA sample, using the urine of someone else for your own, or allowing someone else to use your urine for their sample

What happens if I'm terminated from MENTAL HEALTH COURT?

If you are terminated from MENTAL HEALTH COURT you will appear before the assigned District Judge for possible imposition of sentence and service of the remainder of your prison sentence in the state penitentiary.

What are my conditions of probation in MHC?

The standard conditions of probation in MHC are as follows:

- > Should I be terminated from the treatment program, I will be sentenced by the Court based upon my admission to the probation violation(s) (or if a new charge, based upon my guilty plea).
- > Shall not knowingly associate with persons using or possessing controlled substances and shall not associate with any person (s) the Court or probation officer specifically restricts me from associating with.
- > Shall not work with any police agency on drug cases or cases where I may come into contact with controlled substances. I may voluntarily provide historical information to a police agency regarding my involvement with controlled substances.
- > Report any change of address and/or phone number to the Court and my treatment provider within 48 hours. I must get permission from my probation officer **prior to moving**.
- > Any failure of the treatment program (including but not limited to positive urinalysis tests, missing treatment, violation of release conditions, commission of a new crime) may result in modification of the treatment program, release conditions, revocations of my release, and/or termination from the program.

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- > Seek and maintain employment or obtain employment counseling, complete high school or obtain a G.E.D. as directed by the Court. Must be employed **full-time** or alternative as ordered by your probation officer.
- > Appear in court for any scheduled hearings, regardless of my compliance with the treatment program.
- > Length of time of participation in the program is a minimum of 15 months, but the Court may extend the program to allow me additional time to successfully complete my program requirements.
- > Submit to random urinalysis testing at my own expense. Any unpaid tests at termination will still be due and owing.
- > Maintain regular contact with my attorney.
- > Appear for all court dates.
- > Remain in Ada County, except for employment, court, or family visitation purposes with permission of your Probation Officer. Permission must be obtained 5 days prior to leaving.
- > Commit no law violations.
- > Shall not possess or use a police band scanner.
- > Report all law enforcement contacts **immediately** to probation officer (ANY contact even if not arrested or cited)
- > Not use or possess any non-prescribed substance(s) or alcohol. All prescriptions must be shown to probation officer, treatment personnel and drug testing personnel immediately upon receipt.
- > If you have a current prescription, you must take any prescribed medications in the prescribed dosages at the prescribed times.

- > Not use or possess any substances intended to alter the results of a test of my blood, breath or urine. All positive, adulterated or diluted UAs are considered to be positive.
- > Shall report to/be available for contact with probation officer, counselor and treatment provider.
- > Shall not use, possess, or sell any illegal controlled substances or drug paraphernalia.
- > Shall obey all geographic restrictions set forth by the MHC Judge or probation officer.
- > Shall be prohibited from possessing a weapon or look-alike weapon or ammunition.
- > Consent to interviews in residence upon request of counselor, treatment provider or probation officer.
- > Shall not take any health supplements or herbal pills, powders or "remedies." Only allowed one brand name over-the-counter daily multi-vitamin unless doctor prescribed. Also shall not consume any poppy seed products.
- > Cannot go to any casino.
- > May not enter any establishments wherein the primary source of income is the dispensing of alcoholic beverages (NO BARS, LIQUOR STORES OR TAVERNS).
- > Must abide by 10:00 p.m. curfew unless receiving prior permission or curfew change by probation officer.
- > Must live in Ada County.

Upon entry into the program, you will review each one of these conditions with your probation officer and initial each one.

III. Dress Code

There is a specific Dress Code for all participants in the Ada County MHC at all court sessions, class sessions, meeting with any team members at any location including but not limited to the courthouse, probation, IDHW, the participant's home, or appearing in court before the Mental Health Court Judge, related activities, and at all drug testing facilities.

The dress code is as follows:

- ◆ Absolutely no article of clothing will be allowed bearing any alcohol or drug advertisement or message.
- ◆ No sexually explicit clothing is allowed (for example, Big Johnson t-shirts).
- ◆ Shirts and shoes must be worn at all times.
- ◆ No do rags may be worn at any time.
- ◆ No sleeveless shirts/ tank tops or backless shirts will be allowed.
- ◆ Shorts and skirts must be the length that they would reach the tips of your fingers while your hands are straight down at your side.
- ◆ Pants must fit properly.
- ◆ Swimsuits are not allowed unless they are fully covered and worn under appropriate clothing.
- ◆ Tops of pants must meet bottoms of shirts (no bare skin).
- ◆ If any Mental Health Court or Drug Court personnel informs you that you are dressed inappropriately you will be asked to leave immediately and may not receive credit for attending.

When you appear at court, you should be dressed in respectable attire. If you are coming to court directly from work and you are wearing old or battered clothing, you should bring a change of clothes with you and change in the court bathroom. Jeans that have holes in them, cut off jeans, short shorts, or tank tops will not be allowed in court. Hats or sunglasses are not appropriate in court and will not be allowed.

If you are dressed inappropriately, you may be asked to leave and your absence will be counted as unexcused.

IV. RULES & RESPONSIBILITIES

CONFIDENTIALITY

You will be required to sign a release of information which allows your treatment provider(s) to give information to the MHC Team which includes the Judge, prosecuting attorney, public defender, and probation officer. Your privacy is respected and the Team will make every effort to protect your identity.

Confidentiality is also essential to maintain the integrity of group therapy sessions. Nothing that is discussed within the confines of those meetings will leave those meetings. No information pertaining to another client should be discussed outside of group. This confidentiality applies to things said in the courtroom as well. Rule violations, however, should be reported immediately.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Fee

A MHC participant fee may be assessed to each participant in the amount of \$35.00 per month. The terms and conditions of this fee are determined by the Judge in consultation with the MHC Team.

Cost of Supervision

The Department of Correction supervision fee is \$50.00 per month payable to IDOC. This must be paid in the form of money order and given to your probation officer during regular office visits.

Restitution

If restitution has been ordered in your case, you must make monthly payments to the clerk of the court. Your probation officer will assist you in establishing a payment plan.

YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO GRADUATE UNTIL YOUR COSTS AND FEES ARE PAID IN FULL.

COURTROOM BEHAVIOR

You are expected to maintain appropriate behavior at all times in the courtroom and courthouse. This includes:

- > No talking in the courtroom
- > No sleeping in the courtroom
- > No eating or drinking in the courtroom
- > No smoking in the courthouse
- > No gum chewing
- > Be on time and do not leave during the hearing except to use the restroom (emergencies only). You are expected to have used the restroom prior to the court session starting
- > Beepers and cell phones must be turned off or they will be confiscated
- > The court session is NOT the appropriate time to speak with any of the team members unless you have make arrangements to do so prior to the court session. You must call or set up an appointment.
- > Appropriate dress is necessary; shoes and shirts are required and no hats, shorts, sunglasses or tank-tops should be worn. You are expected to maintain appropriate grooming. If you are attending court straight from work and your work clothes will be soiled, keep a fresh change of clothes with you.

V. Graduation Requirements

Upon successful completion of the MHC program you will graduate. In order to graduate, you must accomplish the following:

1. 6 months of sobriety from prescription drug abuse, illicit drugs and/or alcohol
2. 6 months of steady employment unless retired, disabled, fulltime homemaker or fulltime student
3. Successful completion of all court-ordered treatment
4. Maintain sponsor contact as directed
5. Regular 12-step meeting attendance as directed
6. Completion of all specialized probation terms

7. Completion of high school diploma or GED, or attending English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, unless an exception is determined by the MHC team
8. Payment of fines, restitution and treatment fees

At graduation, your family, friends, employers, counselors and sponsor are welcome to come to court and share in this joyous and life-affirming occasion. Graduation from the program will be followed by monitored probation.

VI. Conclusion

The MHC program has been developed to help you achieve stability in your life. The program is designed to promote self-sufficiency and to return you to the community as a productive and responsible citizen. The judge, probation officer, treatment provider, and community resources are present to guide and assist you, but the final responsibility is yours.

Ada County Mental Health Court

We hope this handbook has been helpful and answered most of your questions. If you have additional questions or concerns about the MHC program, please feel free to contact the MHC probation officer, the MHC coordinator, or your defense attorney.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU!

VII. MHC TEAM MEMBERS

Mental Health Court Judge: Honorable Michael McLaughlin

Mental Health Court Clerk: Kristin Brown

200 W. Front Street, Boise, ID 83814 (208) 287-7551

Mental Health Court Coordinator: Kelly Jennings Norris

Mental Health Court Asst. Coordinator: Kendra Hoffman

200 W. Front St., Room 505A, Boise ID 83702

(208) 287-7507 Fax (208) 287-7549

Drug Testing and Call-in Message Line: (208) 287-7508

Dept. of Correction/Community Corrections Officer: Natalie Gregg

8752 Fairview Ave., Boise, ID 83704 (208) 327-7008, x272

Health & Welfare Region IV Mental Health

1720 Westgate Dr., Suite B

Boise, Idaho 83704 (208) 334-0979

Mobile Crisis Unit: (208) 334-0808

Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Debbie Barker and Marsha Thomason

1720 Westgate Dr., Boise, ID 83704 (208) 334-0802

MHC Treatment Provider: Ascent Behavioral Health

366 SW Fifth Ave., Ste. 100, Meridian, ID 83642 (208) 898-9755

Office of Consumer Affairs & Technical Assistance: Martha Ekhoft

1607 W. Jefferson, Boise, ID 83702 (208) 336-5533 x340

Your attorney:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

Address: _____



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With Many Thanks to the Kootenai County Mental
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