

LANE COUNTY ADULT TREATMENT COURT



Public Defenders' Orientation Summary

For more info see <http://www.lanepds.org/index.php/Adult-Treatment-Court-program/>

The Verdict is in: Drug Courts WORK

The scientific community has put Drug Courts under a microscope and concluded that Drug Courts WORK.

- FACT: Nationwide, Drug Courts are SIGNIFICANTLY better at helping drug-addicted offenders stay out of jail and quit using drugs than probation and treatment alone.
- FACT: Nationwide, 75% of Adult Criminal Drug Court graduates never see another pair of handcuffs.
- FACT: Drug Courts are better at combatting methamphetamine addiction than any other types of treatment studied.

What is “Adult Treatment Court” A.K.A. “Drug Court”?

Treatment court is not a place, it's a **type of supervised probation**. People who choose to participate in the Adult Treatment Court program have to comply with all the **usual requirements** of Supervised Probation **plus extra requirements**.

The **Usual Requirements Of Supervised Probation include:**

Living in Lane County, obeying all laws, meeting regularly with your assigned Probation Officer (PO), and following all the PO's directives. They determine where you are permitted to live and work, who you can hang out with, and whether you can travel out of state. Probation costs \$40 a month.

Extra Requirements of Treatment Court Probation include:

(1) Indefinite Probation: Treatment Court probation lasts as long as it takes you to complete the program, or until you are “terminated” (in other words, ordered to leave), whichever comes first. **On average, the program takes 21 months to complete.** It can be completed in as little as 1 year, but can sometimes take 3 years or even longer.

(2) Intense Substance Abuse Treatment:

- Program participants **agree to be assessed by Emergence**, an Addiction and Mental Health service provider located in downtown Eugene, **and to follow all of their treatment recommendations.** These include:
- **Abstinence.** The program **does not require immediate detox**, but everyone is expected to stop using within a reasonable period of time. Abstinence is confirmed by frequent, **random UAs**— every participant is required to call a hotline every day, and if their pre-assigned number is called that day, they have to show up at Emergence in person during **UA hours** to provide a urine sample in front of an observer.

UA HOURS

Monday-Friday: 8:30-9:25 AM (sign in by 8:45 if you have court) Evening: 4:45-5:45 PM (sign in by 5:15 on group nights) Saturday and Sunday: Only option: 4:00-6:30 PM Holidays: Only option: 9:00-11:00 AM

- **Intensive outpatient treatment (\$10/WEEK, COVERED BY OHP)**
Most participants begin by attending group therapy, one-on-one counseling, and outside support groups, and are required to complete numerous writing projects. Treatment obligations initially take about **15 hours a week, and last at least 32 weeks.**
- For individuals who require a higher level of care, **Emergence makes referrals to inpatient treatment programs** all over Oregon. Such programs often last **90 days**, though they can **sometimes last much longer.** Residential treatment is typically followed by at least 1 month of residence in a “recovery house” in Eugene/Springfield. PLEASE NOTE: Every inpatient and outpatient treatment program, including Emergence, and every recovery house, has its own set of rules, and participants are expected to follow those rules or be sanctioned by the Program AND, if appropriate, by the Court

(3) Regular Court Attendance:

- Court is held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 9 am to approximately 12 pm.
- **Everyone starts by attending once a week**, and depending on progress, may be required to attend more frequently or permitted to attend less frequently.
- **Participants must also meet with their case manager at least once a month** to make sure they are on track to graduate and for general trouble-shooting.

(4) Getting Your Life Together

Participants are expected to:

- secure stable housing;
- Work, attend school, or engage in some combo of the two that adds up to **full time** (people on SSI/SSDI are permitted to volunteer);
- Submit proof of High School graduation or completion of GED;
- Complete a Volunteer Project; and
Pay off Restitution, if any

What happens in Court?

- Service Providers such as Emergence update the court on your progress. Before every court date, the “Treatment Team” meets (this is called a “staffing”) and goes over how you are doing.
- **If you have met 100% of your obligations, in other words, if you did everything you were supposed to and followed all the rules, your name will be written on a white board** and you will be eligible for various rewards and incentives.
- **If you don't meet your obligations, there are various “responses,” or “sanctions”** (for example: a verbal warning from the judge, a writing assignment, more frequent court appearances, road crew, jail sanctions, and, finally, termination from the program).

The team also makes other miscellaneous decisions at staffing, like whether a participant should be permitted to travel, whether to make adjustments to particular rules and/or graduation requirements, whether to make outside referrals, etc.

A few statistics that may be helpful for those considering program participation.

- For the 2015-2017 fiscal (July 1, 2015- June 30, 2017) period, 166 completed the program either successfully (graduated) or unsuccessfully (terminated). Of those who completed the program, **39% were successful.**

The average time in the program for all graduates was 21 months.

- The average in time in the program for female graduates was 22 months.
- The average time in the program for male graduates was 20 months.

Unofficial Observations

- Many people who do not “graduate” still report that they are very glad they participated because of the help they received getting off of drugs.
- Many people choose Treatment Court because they like the built-in accountability. If you like the idea of being held accountable for your actions, you are likely to have a good experience.
- Being homeless is no reason to turn down the program. Treatment Court gives you access to affordable, high-quality substance abuse and mental health treatment and an array of social services to help with housing, medical insurance, transportation, education, employment, and more.
- If you live far from Eugene/Springfield; if you have an inflexible job; or if you have significant day-time child care responsibilities, this program may not be the right fit. Talk to your attorney.

How do you get into Treatment Court?

- 1. Your attorney needs to refer you to treatment court and send you to an Orientation at the Public Defenders' Office, where you will receive more detailed information**
- 2. If you decide not want to do the program,** you must still go to your next court date. Otherwise, the court will issue a warrant.
- 3. If you DO want to try the program...**

You must meet with an attorney one on one to go over and sign the appropriate Petition (essentially, a contract outlining your rights and responsibilities) and to complete a Treatment Court questionnaire

You must go to the Treatment Court and submit the Petition

The Judge will give you 4 appointments.

- An Assessment at Emergence
- A Court Orientation (you will receive a detailed handbook of all program rules)
- A Court date for "Check in"
- A Court date for "Opt in," i.e. a proposed start date.

You will also receive information about groups you are supposed to attend and instructions regarding random UAs. The court will accept anyone who attends all four appointments, goes to at least one group, provides two UAs, and says you want to participate.