

## DWI COURT TEAM MEMBERS

Niki Leicht, Program Coordinator

PH: 651.266.9277

[Niki.leicht@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:Niki.leicht@courts.state.mn.us)

The Honorable J. Thomas Mott

PH: 651.266.9187

The Honorable Robert Awsumb

PH: 651.266.8193

Jessica McConaughey, Prosecutor

PH: 651.266.8750

Kate Latimer, Defense Counsel

PH: 651.690.5529

Mark Gangl, Case Manager

PH: 651.266.2358

Mike O'Hara, Conditional Release

PH: 651.266.2984

Lisa Portinga, Treatment Specialist

PH: 651.645.3661

Deb Halton, MADD State Victim Advocate

PH: 651.523.0802

## Mission Statement

Enhance public safety through a court supervised program designed to assist repeat DWI offenders and restore them as law-abiding members of our community. A collaborative and strength based approach is used to support participants while holding them accountable.

## SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

# RAMSEY COUNTY DWI COURT



RAMSEY COUNTY  
COURTHOUSE  
15 WEST KELLOGG  
BOULEVARD  
SAINT PAUL,  
MINNESOTA 55102  
PHONE:  
651.266.9277

## REDUCING RECIDIVISM, PROMOTING RECOVERY...

The Ramsey County DWI Court is designed to enhance public safety by holding repeat DWI offenders accountable through the use of technology, judicial supervision, chemical dependency treatment, intensive case management and supplemental services.

The DWI Court functions with a team of criminal justice professionals. The team consists of the presiding judge, prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, conditional release agent, case manager/probation officer, treatment provider, psychiatric nurse, MADD advocate, and program coordinator. DWI Court also works with the St. Paul Police and the Ramsey County Sheriff's Office for additional community supervision of participants. A research analyst provides evaluation for all of the Ramsey County Problem-Solving Courts.

DWI Court offers specialized programming for participants. Driving With Care is a cognitive based curriculum where clients learn that change in behavior is made by changing their thoughts, attitudes and beliefs. They learn about their own patterns of alcohol use and abuse and how to make cognitive and behavioral changes so as to prevent recidivism into DWI behavior. DWI Court also offers groups for our female participants, focusing on gender specific programming.

Things do not change, we change. - Henry David Thoreau

Participants are screened for program eligibility at arraignment (first appearance) and are released from jail on conditional release if they are interested in participating in DWI Court. While on conditional release, clients will be placed on SCRAM (secure continuous remote alcohol monitoring), receive a chemical health evaluation, and observe the DWI Court process. If clients are interested in the program and deemed appropriate participants by the DWI Court team,



they will enter a plea and be continued for sentencing in DWI court. Once the plea is entered, participation in the orientation phase of the program begins and clients are expected to follow through with chemical dependency treatment recommendations and begin attending community support group meetings. Orientation phase is followed by three more phases and participants move through these phases based on their progress in the program. Movement through the phases is determined by the team, after participants apply for phase movement and demonstrate what they have accomplished in each phase. **The length of the program is determined by the participants progress through the phases and the goals that they accomplish. After graduation from the program, participants remain on administrative supervision with community corrections for the remainder of their probationary term.**

### Eligibility Requirements:

*Resident of Ramsey County  
No violent criminal history  
Charged with third or more DWI in lifetime (alcohol related conviction, gross misdemeanors only)  
Committed to recovery  
Charged in Ramsey County*

### Benefits:

*Most often jail sentence is reduced by half  
Assists participants in leading an alcohol and drug free lifestyle  
Integrates community treatment and other resources within the court system  
Reduces recidivism and enhances public safety*

### LOCATION:

Court is held on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. in courtroom 1040 with Judge J. Thomas Mott or Judge Robert A. Awsumb in the Ramsey County Courthouse, 15 West Saint Paul, Minnesota.  
We welcome visitors, so if you are interested please contact Niki Leicht, Program Coordinator, at 651.266.9277.