

## Pennington County DWI Court Staff

The Pennington County DWI Court program is a collaborative effort of the following departments: 9th Judicial District, Pennington County Attorney's Office, Pennington County Sheriff's Department, Thief River Falls Police Department, RiverView Recovery Center, Pennington County Department of Human Services, Sanford Mental Health, Thief River City Attorney's Office, and the MN Department of Corrections Office.

**Honorable Kurt Marben**  
**Honorable Tamara Yon**

**DWI Probation Agent**  
218-683-8529 (Office)  
218-227-9017 (Cell)

**Melora Bergee DWI Court  
Coordinator**  
218-684-7029

**Pennington County Attorney's Office**  
218-681-0773

**Riverview Recovery**  
218-681-8019

**Pennington County Sheriff/TRF P.D.**  
218-681-6161

**Sanford Mental Health**  
218-683-4349

**Pennington County Human Services**  
218-681-2880

**Thief River Falls City Attorney**  
218-681-7373

### MISSION STATEMENT

To unite judiciary, criminal justice entities, substance abuse treatment providers, and the community to support the long term recovery of DWI Court participants. This program would then help participants become productive law-abiding citizens, reduce alcohol use of non-violent addicted participants, enhance public safety, reduce the financial impact on society and change behaviors of all who are involved.

For More Information call:  
Melora Bergee, DWI Court Coordinator  
218-684-7029  
[Melora.bergee@courts.state.mn.us](mailto:Melora.bergee@courts.state.mn.us)

## Pennington County DWI Court



Pennington County Courthouse  
141 Main Ave S  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701



## WHAT IS DWI COURT?

*A DWI Court is a specialty court dedicated to changing the behavior of the alcohol dependent offender, arrested for Driving While Impaired (DWI). The goals of DWI Court are increase public safety by using the Drug Court model to address alcoholism as a root cause of impaired driving: Help participants remain clean and sober: Reduce alcohol and drug related crime and to reduce expensive incarceration costs. An eligible defendant who enters a guilty plea or is convicted of a DWI has the option of participating in this program which is an alternative to traditional criminal probation.*

## FUNDING

The Pennington County DWI Court is currently funded by the Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety

## BASIC STRUCTURE

The Pennington County DWI Court is a five phase treatment process, lasting a minimum of 14 months. Each phase consists of specific requirements for transition into the next phase. Phase movement results after participants accomplish:

- Treatment goals as agreed upon in the treatment plan
- Court Conditions as agreed upon at acceptance to the DWI Court
- Phase requirements

TO SUCCEED THE PARTICIPANT MUST BE MOTIVATED TO MAKE A COMMITMENT TO BE ALCOHOL FREE.

3 of our core values we follow are:

1. Show Up
2. Try Hard
3. Be honest

## Fees

Fees will be collected at every court date. Participant fees will be used to purchase incentives for the program along with any other needed items.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Resident of Pennington County

No violent criminal history

Be charged with a 1st, 2nd, 3rd Degree DWI

Voluntarily commits to participate in DWI Court

Diagnosed as having a chemical dependency

## BENEFITS

Incarceration is reduced at least half

Assists participants in leading an alcohol and drug free lifestyle

Integrates community treatment and other resources within the court system

Reduces recidivism thereby enhancing public safety

## LOCATION

Court will be held every other Monday at: 8:00 a.m.

In the:

Pennington County Judicial Center  
101 Main Ave  
Thief River Falls, Minnesota 56701

