

MISSION STATEMENT

Scott County District Court, in the First Judicial District of Minnesota, will provide a post plea treatment court program to reduce addiction and criminal behavior among non-violent adult offenders residing in the county. Scott County Treatment Court aims to break the cycle of crime and addiction by providing high risk and high need offenders a multidisciplinary strategic response consisting of treatment, wraparound services, support and legal accountability. This is done with the expectation that recidivism will be lowered, overdose deaths prevented, the collateral damage against families and communities will be reduced, the costs to the criminal justice system and community will be decreased and addicts in the criminal justice system will be able to become productive, responsible members of their families and community.



Presiding over Scott County Treatment Court:

Honorable Christian S. Wilton

&

Honorable Caroline Lennon

**For more information about Scott County
Treatment Court, please contact our
Treatment Court Coordinator:**

Heidi Kastama

Scott County Community Corrections

Probation Officer

(952) 496-8373

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It is the policy of the Scott County Treatment Court that no person will be discriminated against on the basis of: race, color, creed, religion, national origin, gender, marital status, status in regard to public assistance, disability, sexual orientation or age.



SCOTT COUNTY TREATMENT COURT

Administered by
Scott County Community
Corrections

Judicial Oversight by
First Judicial District of
Minnesota

**Saving Costs,
Saving Lives**

Scott County

Treatment Court

What is Treatment Court?

The Scott County Treatment Court program is an alternative sentencing approach to non-violent offenders serving a probation sentence who are at high risk for recidivism and addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. Defendants found eligible for this specialized court docket are given the opportunity to voluntarily participate in a highly structured, closely monitored, treatment based probation.

In this model, professionals from across the criminal justice system collaborate to ensure that participants have the structure, support and accountability they need. This is accomplished by these professionals meeting prior to every treatment court hearing to discuss participant progress and any incentives or sanctions. This includes the judge, prosecutor, probation, treatment and law enforcement. This collaboration ensures participants stay in treatment long enough to get the help they need.

Who joins Treatment Court?

Non-violent felony offenders addicted to alcohol or other drugs who are ready to make a serious change in their lives.

Offenders must enter a guilty plea or admit to a probation violation on felony controlled substance crimes or any other non-violent criminal offense where alcohol or drugs were a substantial factor. DWI felonies are not eligible.

Who cannot participate?

Those whose current charge(s) involve violence, specifically using or possessing a firearm, using force against a person or if death or serious injury took place. Those who have been previously convicted of a violent felony are also ineligible.

What are the conditions of

Treatment Court?

- ⇒ Frequent court hearings
- ⇒ Frequent probation contact
- ⇒ Frequent, observed, random drug testing
- ⇒ Long-term, intensive chemical dependency treatment
- ⇒ Cognitive skills programming
- ⇒ A curfew and random home checks
- ⇒ Screening and services for mental health
- ⇒ Recovery Support Group involvement
- ⇒ Referrals for assistance with housing, education, job placement or training and other services as deemed necessary
- ⇒ Immediate incentives recognizing achievements
- ⇒ Immediate sanctions and treatment responses to get participants back on track

"We know that the incarceration of drug offenders alone does not necessarily break the cycle of drug-related criminal activity and we must be responsive to the needs of local communities to effectively address this ongoing problem. I will continue to support comprehensive efforts to combat illegal drug use and drug-related crime and look for ways to protect our communities from the horrors wrought by drug abuse, and applaud the dedication of Kentucky's drug court judges, prosecutors, and supervision professionals."

- U.S. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-KY

Does Treatment Court work?

We sure think so! Here's what the research shows:

- ⇒ Nationwide, 75% of Drug (Treatment) Court graduates remain arrest-free at least two years after leaving the program.
- ⇒ The most rigorous and conservative scientific "meta-analyses" have all concluded that Drug (Treatment) Courts significantly reduce crime as much as 45% more than other sentencing options.
- ⇒ Nationwide, for every \$1.00 invested in Drug (Treatment) Court, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36 in avoided criminal justice costs alone.
- ⇒ When considering other cost offsets such as savings from reduced victimization and healthcare service utilization, studies have shown benefits range up to \$27 for every \$1 invested.
- ⇒ Drug (Treatment) Courts are six times more likely to keep offenders in treatment long enough for them to get better.

National Association of Drug Court Professionals

"This issue touches every family and every community in one way or another. There are millions of Americans – including myself – who are in successful long-term recovery from a substance use disorder. This policy supports each and every one of us and demonstrates a real commitment to a smarter, more humane approach to drug policy in the 21st century."

- Michael Botticelli, Acting Director, National Drug Control Policy, discussing drug courts