

Jefferson County
Family Dependency Treatment Court

Participant Handbook

Jefferson County Juvenile Court
Jefferson County Department of Job & Family Services

WELCOME

Welcome to the Jefferson County Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC). This handbook details your rights and responsibilities in the Jefferson County Family Dependency Treatment Court. It will answer your questions and provide overall information about the FDTC Program. As a participant, you will be expected to follow the instructions given in Court by the FDTC Magistrate and comply with the treatment plan developed for you by the Jefferson County FDTC Treatment Team.

This Handbook will detail what is expected of you as a FDTC participant. It will review general program information. If you are reading this it means that you have been accepted into FDTC based on a review of your history of drug and or alcohol use and are involved in a Children Services Dependency case. It also means that we are confident that Family Dependency Treatment Court will help you to learn how to make successful choices free of the influence of drugs and alcohol. As a participant, you should expect to participate in this program for a minimum of one year, however, the timeframe remains solely up to you and your efforts. You are also expected to sign a participant agreement which details your rights and responsibilities as a participants in the FDTC.

OVERVIEW

Family Dependency Treatment Court is a collaborative effort between the Jefferson County Juvenile Court, the Jefferson County Department of Job and Family Services, The Village Network, and A Child's Place CASA. By working together, we seek to provide a variety of programs and consistent supervision geared toward supporting and helping you maintain a drug-free life.

The mission of the Jefferson County Family Dependency Treatment Court (FDTC) is to provide a judicially supervised collaboration to ensure families with substance abuse issues have individualized and timely treatment and utilization of community based services; so they achieve recovery and children have a safe, stable and nurturing environment.

Goals of the Program

The ultimate goal of the Family Dependency Treatment Court is to use a non-adversarial approach to address your substance abuse issues in order for you and your children to live together, as a family. More specifically, FDTC will aim to:

- Increase your days of sobriety
- Improve your overall functioning, so that you may re-unify with your family
- Establish a safe, healthy environment for your family
- Provide services and skills you may need to live productively
- Ensure that you have access to necessary resources in the community

Program Components

To successfully complete Family Dependency Treatment Court, you are required to be involved in several activities which will benefit your recovery. As a participant in Jefferson County FDTC, you will be required to:

- Abstain from alcohol and/or drug use
- Engage in substance abuse counseling
- Attend frequent status review hearings
- Meet regularly with case workers and case managers
- Submit to frequent and random drug screens
- Participate in regular and frequent home visits by members of the treatment team
- Attend support meetings
- Obtain employment and/or attend school
- Submit yourself, personal belongings, residence and car to search without warrant
- No violations of the law

The Court awards incentives for compliant behavior and imposes sanctions for negative behavior. Participants who do not comply with the rules may be placed in short-term custody, moved back to the previous phase of FDTC or a variety of other sanctions. They may also be terminated from FDTC. Team members working with FDTC will assist you to be sure you understand what is expected of you.

Program Eligibility

The FDTC is a voluntary program. There are certain criteria, legal and clinical, that you must meet in order to be eligible to participate. Meeting these criteria alone does not give you the right to enter the program. The FDTC Magistrate has the discretion and makes the final decision about whether or not you are eligible for the program.

To qualify for the FDTC, you must meet the following:

Legal Criteria

- Resident of Jefferson County
- At least 18 years of age
- Have children who have been adjudicated dependent, neglected or abused in an existing court case
- Not be a registered sex offender
- Have no past history of violent felony criminal offenses
- Not on probation or parole in another jurisdiction
- No pending felony charges in another jurisdiction
- Not been in a specialty court in the past 2 years

Clinical Criteria

- Substance dependency/abuse and/or mental health issues that impact the ability to parent your child(ren)
- Willingness to participate in treatment
- Have the ability both mentally and physically to fully participate in the program
- Have the developmental capacity to complete the FDTC program

*Any participant, who meets the written clinical and legal eligibility criteria for the FDTC, will not be denied admission to the program based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, citizenship, marital status, veteran's status, or any disability.

Program Entry and Process

The length of time you will spend in the Family Dependency Treatment Court will be determined by your progress and participation in treatment and recovery. It will be no less than 12 (twelve) months.

The admission process is as follows:

1. You are identified and referred by a Children Services worker.
2. Children Services worker meets with you and your family to explain the program and the process.
3. You will meet the FDTC Program Coordinator and complete the legal eligibility screening, personal information forms, and release of confidential information forms.
4. The FDTC Program Coordinator notifies your FDTC attorney of your case.
5. The FDTC Program Coordinator makes an appointment, and ensures that you have transportation to your appointment at The Village Network.
6. Clinical assessments with diagnosis and treatment recommendations are provided to the treatment team within a certain timeframe (10 business days) of referral.
7. Treatment team meets to determine if you are eligible according to the legal and clinical criteria required. The FDTC Magistrate will have discretion to decide the admission into the FDTC in accordance with the written criteria for the FDTC. The FDTC Magistrate makes the final decision regarding admission into the program.
8. When accepted, you will meet with your FDTC attorney to review and sign the participation agreement, which explains your rights and responsibilities as an FDTC participant.
9. You voluntarily enter the program and are officially ordered into the program by the FDTC Court Magistrate and attend first status review hearing.
10. The Village Network will work with you to develop an individual treatment plan based on your specific needs. You must comply with the treatment plan that is developed.

Treatment

An initial plan will be developed by you and the FDTC therapist at The Village Network following an overall assessment of your difficulties. The Village Network is located at 141 Brady Circle West, Steubenville, Ohio. The phone number is 740-284-1977. The treatment plan will act as a guide for your first phase in FDTC, during which a more permanent treatment plan will be developed by your therapist. This plan will help you set goals, select methods for meeting those goals, and develop target dates for achieving goals.

Treatment Team

The FDTC is designed to assist participants with their Court-ordered treatment plans. As such, there will be multiple interactions each week with various treatment team members. You can expect to have contact with treatment team member(s) each day. These contacts will be made through home visits, office visits, phone calls, and court appearances. These contacts will be announced and unannounced. It is imperative that you continue to inform the treatment team of where you are residing and of your current phone number. Failure to do so will be grounds for sanctions.

Juvenile Court Judge Joseph M. Corabi has designated Magistrate Frank W. Noble, Jr to preside over the Family Dependency Treatment Court. The FDTC Magistrate and treatment team work together to make all decisions regarding your participation in the program. In addition to the magistrate, the treatment team consists of the following members:

Magistrate Frank W. Noble, Jr

The FDTC Magistrate is the leader of the treatment team. He attends all treatment team meetings, monitors treatment progress, and is the decision-maker, especially concerning incentives, sanctions, phase advancement, and successful completion or unsuccessfully termination from the Family Dependency Treatment Court program. You will appear before the Magistrate and discuss your progress at each status review hearing.

Children Services Caseworker

Your caseworker assists the treatment team with monitoring your compliance on the agency case plan. The caseworker will have regular and frequent contact with you throughout your participation in this program. This includes home and office visits. The caseworker is in the best position to notify the Court of any compliance problems on the child protection case plan. The caseworker may also make recommendations for incentives and sanctions, program advancement, and graduation or termination.

Children Services Agency Attorney Amanda Abrams

The Agency Attorney represents Children Services and uses a non-adversarial approach when representing Children Services in FDTC. She may file contempt charges as part of the sanctioning process, if necessary. The Agency Attorney also represents the agency at times when it is necessary for the Court to hear visitation, reunification, or other child protection issues.

Participant Attorney Eric Reszke

You have a right to be represented by an attorney at treatment team meetings and status review hearings. Your participant attorney attends all treatment team and the status review hearings as you are participating in the program. He will be sure that you fully understand the terms of the FDTC program and participant agreement that you will sign at the beginning of the program. The defense counselor provides input on incentives and sanctions, phase advancement, successful completion, or unsuccessful termination. The defense counsel may also assist the participant in advocating for themselves throughout their participation in the Family Dependency Treatment Court program.

The Village Network Licensed Therapist Jessica Fowler

Your therapist is responsible for the treatment element of the FDTC program. She will conduct treatment assessments, provide clinical diagnoses, and work with you to develop a treatment plan. The therapist will attend the treatment team meetings and status review hearings to provide progress reports and make recommendations regarding rewards and sanctions, program advancement, and completion or termination from the program.

The Village Network Case Manager

Your case manager from The Village Network will provide you with assistance and supportive services throughout your participation in the FDTC program. She will meet with you on a regular basis and assist with transportation, housing, education, employment, obtaining medical care, family issues, domestic violence programming, training, and applying for government assistance. The case manager will also attend treatment team meetings and status review hearings, providing reports and recommendations to the treatment team. She will participate in discussions regarding incentives, sanctions, phase advancement, successful completion, and termination.

Guardian ad Litem Rhonda Stubbs

The Guardian Ad Litem is an independent representative for your child(ren). She will meet with you and your child(ren) regularly, and ensure that their best interests are upheld throughout the dependency case. The Guardian Ad Litem is also important when the Court hears visitation, reunification, or other child protection issues on the regular dependency docket.

FDTC Program Coordinator Mindy Nash

The program coordinator is responsible for the administrative aspects of the program and directly oversees and maintains the daily operation of the FDTC including meeting with any potential participants upon referral and gathering progress reports from treatment and service providers to present to the treatment team. The Coordinator provides compliance monitoring of each participant along with coordinating the random alcohol and drug screens on a daily basis. The Coordinator makes recommendations, as well as presents each case in the Status Hearings.

Family Dependency Treatment Court Hearings

Treatment Team Meetings

Before your regularly scheduled status review hearing, the FDTC Magistrate will be given a report on your progress since last meeting. Treatment team members present this reporting. The report will discuss your drug and/or alcohol testing results, attendance, participation and cooperation in the treatment program employment or other requirements that may have been set.

Treatment Team meetings will take place prior to status review hearings every Friday at 8:45 am at Jefferson County Juvenile Court.

Status Review Hearings

Weekly FDTC status review hearings are held. As a participant, you will be required to appear in Family Dependency Treatment Court on a regular basis. How often you have to appear may depend on what phase you are in.

Phase One:	You will appear once per week
Phase Two:	You will appear every two weeks
Phase Three:	You will appear every two weeks
Phase Four:	You will appear once per month

When you are called by the Court you will stand. The Magistrate may ask you questions about your progress and discuss any specific problems you have been experiencing. The Magistrate will discuss your progress in treatment at The Village Network. He may ask you about any successes you have had or any questions or comments that occur to you. He will also discuss any sanctions. You will remain in the courtroom for the duration of the hearing.

If you are doing well you may be rewarded with various incentives ranging from a congratulations from the Judge to restaurant gift cards. If your progress is not going well, the

Magistrate will discuss this with you and determine future action, which could include a sanction in order to help you remember your goals in the program. Sanctions can be anything from increase program requirements to a sentence to jail.

As a result of your progress, the FDTC Magistrate may give you a Court Order. All Court Orders remain in effect until the Magistrate changes the order.

If you fail to attend a scheduled status review hearing, a sanction may be issued. Status review hearings will take place at Jefferson County Juvenile Court every Friday at 9:00 am.

Phases of Family Dependency Treatment Court

The FDTC lasts a minimum of 12 months and is divided into three phases. You must successfully complete each phase before transitioning to the next phase. Your progression through the program is based on your performance and progress in your treatment and case plans. *Please note that though we have indicated an expected timeframe for each phase, your progression is NOT based solely upon this. Your participation dictates advancement to the next phase.*

PHASE I

Length of Phase 2 - 3 months

- Requirements
- Orientation and overview of FDTC treatment
 - FDTC attendance **weekly**
 - Treatment plan developed
 - Participation in a community-based drug and alcohol program as recommended by the treatment provider
 - Attend all parenting classes and other required treatment
 - Maintain a positive treatment participation reports
 - Submit to drug or alcohol screens as required
 - Engage in satisfactory supervised visits with child(ren)
 - Consistently attend a minimum of two self-help/12-step meetings per week
 - Meet with a case manager weekly to discuss needs and progress
 - Have a minimum of days of continuous sobriety along with program compliance to advance to Level II.

PHASE II

Length of Phase Minimum of 90 days

- Requirements
- FDTC attendance **every two weeks**
 - Compliance with Children Services case plan
 - Submit to drug or alcohol screens as required
 - Excellent attendance at The Village Network
 - Attendance at AA/NA meetings or other approved self help programs
 - Attending school or work regularly
 - Work to obtain stable housing
 - Have 90 days clean and sober along with treatment compliance to advance to Phase III

PHASE III

Length of Phase Minimum of 90 days

- Requirements
- FDTC Attendance ***every two weeks***
 - Acquisition of sufficient housing
 - Meet with caseworkers during off court weeks for case plan reviews
 - Continue positive visits with children
 - Continue to follow treatment plan
 - Attend a minimum of two, self-help/12-step meetings a week
 - Attend any parenting or other recommended treatment services.
 - Begin working to obtain employment
 - Prior to graduation, the participant are required to develop a relapse prevention plan that addresses sobriety and resources available to them after graduation from the program
 - Have 180 days clean and sober to advance to aftercare

Aftercare Phase

Length of Phase Minimum of 90 days

- Requirements
- Attend FDTC ***once per month***
 - Continue with requirements of Phases I, II, and III
 - Maintain sobriety
 - Maintain sufficient housing
 - Attend one to two self-help/12 Step meetings per week
 - Maintain a sober support system
 - Maintain weekly contact with FDTC Program Coordinator and caseworkers

Treatment Participation

You must be able to comply with your treatment plan and function appropriately in group and individual counseling sessions (remain awake and alert to participate cooperatively with group activities, etc.) You are expected to fully participate in a manner that is beneficial to yourself and is not a distraction to other participants. Failure to do so will result in judicial intervention and sanctions from the FDTC Program.

If you are too ill to attend counseling sessions, you must call your therapist at The Village Network. All medically excused absences require a written doctor's note. If an original dentist or doctor's note or discharge summary is required it must indicate the date and time you were required to be absent from program activities due to illness.

If a physician orders you on home or bed rest, you must ask the physician to indicate on the note or discharge summary the length of time you are being required to be absent from program activities. Regular medical and dental appointments not of an emergency nature must be scheduled at a time other than those in which FDTC Program activities are scheduled.

Failure to comply with these procedures may result in sanctions and/or discharge from the FDTC Program.

Incentives

Upon the recommendation of the FDTC Treatment Team, participants may be given rewards or incentives for compliant behavior. Common rewards may be:

- Encouragement and praise from the FDTC judge
- Ceremonies and tokens of progress, including advancement in specialized docket phases
- Reducing the frequency of home visits and/or contacts
- Fewer required court appearances
- Increasing or expanding your privileges
- Gifts of inspirational items, including books, pictures, and framed quotes
- Gift cards for restaurants, movie theaters, recreational activities, or personal care services
- Assistance with obtaining clothing for job interviews
- Graduating from the Family Dependency Treatment Court

Sanctions

In an effort to be held accountable, if you do not do what is required by the FDTC, the following sanctions may be imposed:

- Warnings and admonishment from the FDTC judge
- Increased number of drug or alcohol screens and court appearances
- Refusal of specific requests, such as permission to travel
- Increased supervision contacts and monitoring
- Individualized sanctions, such as writing essays, reading books, or performing other activities to reflect upon unacceptable behavior
- Jail
- Termination from the Family Dependency Treatment Court

Remember, as you progress through FDTC, your actions speak louder than words!

How Many Sanctions Can I Get Before Being Terminated From FDTC?

The treatment team knows that slips and relapses can be part of the disease of addiction. However, there are legal time constraints that the Court must follow in dependency cases. This means that you will not get unlimited chances to change your behavior and succeed in the FDTC program. When you run out of chances, you risk losing your parental rights to your children.

Termination from FDTC

New arrests or a violation of any aspect of your treatment plan may result in your being terminated from the FDTC program. Other violations which may result in the Magistrate issuing sanctions include:

- Dishonesty to FDTC Treatment Team members
- Positive or diluted urine drug screen
- Failure to submit for a drug or alcohol screen
- Unexcused absence and/or absences from a counseling session or support group
- Failure to follow treatment conduct rules
- Failure to attend scheduled status hearings without an acceptable reason
- Failure to comply with treatment or case plan recommendations
- Violent or abusive treatment with any member of the FDTC, treatment centers, or support groups
- Charged with a violent offense or a new felony
- Failure to comply with directives given by the Court, FDTC team member, or other treatment provider

The FDTC Magistrate will have discretion to decide termination the FDTC in accordance with the written criteria for the FDTC. The FDTC Magistrate makes the final decision regarding termination from program.

Drug Testing Policy and Expectations

You will be expected to submit to a drug screen or drug test at least two (2) times each week. These tests will be administered by the program coordinator, treatment provider, or any juvenile court employee, as directed by the FDTC Magistrate or Juvenile Judge. Drug and alcohol screens and tests will be random, frequent, and observed. All drug testing plans are individualized and based on your needs to include your primary substance of dependency, as well as a range of other substances.

Your drug screens will happen on a random basis as determined by random.org in order to ensure the true random nature of every drug screen. You will be assigned a color at upon entry in the FDTC program. Each month, the FDTC will randomly assign colors to each day of the month, with each color appearing at least twice each week. You will be notified of a required test through a combination of telephone calls and/or announced and unannounced home visits.

At your initial appearance at FDTC, you will be required to submit to a drug screen to use as a baseline, and will not receive a sanction. Moving forward, you will be expected to produce negative drug screens and tests.

The following acts will be treated as positive tests and immediately sanctioned:

- Failing to submit to a drug or alcohol test
- Submitting an adulterated sample
- Submitting another individual's sample
- Diluting the sample

* Failing to test positive for doctor-prescribed medication will be terms for sanctions. If you are prescribed a medication, you must take it as such.*

Always contact the treatment team if you have questions about your drug screens.

Medical and Dental Needs

Medication Use

As a participant in the FDTC Program you agree to inform any healthcare (medical, dental or psychiatric) provider from whom you receive treatment that you are undergoing treatment for substance abuse. If you are required to take psychoactive (mind-mood altering, or intoxicating medications) you must do so only under the care and according to the direction of a fully licensed physician. Such medications include, but are not limited to:

- Narcotics (Codeine, Oxycodone, Hydrocodone, Morphine, Demerol, Darvocet, Methadone, etc.)
- Sedatives (Valium, Librium, Xanax, Ativan, Barbiturates, etc.)
- Muscle Relaxants (Soma, etc.)
- Stimulants (ephedrine-based drugs, herbal preparations, etc.)
- Over-the-counter medications containing ephedrine or alcohol

You are expected to provide a copy of your prescription(s) to the treatment team. You will inform the team of any changes in your medication regimen.

You must present your prescribing physician, dentist or psychiatrist/psychologist with the Physician's Narcotics Waiver about your use of these medications and your involvement with the FDTC Program.

If one of your urine samples tests positive for a medication you did not inform the treatment team that you were taking, it is considered a positive test and will be treated as a relapse.

Marijuana

If you are prescribed medical marijuana, you must do so only under the care and according to the direction of a fully licensed physician. You are expected to provide a copy of your prescription(s) to the treatment team.

Successful Completion

To be eligible for graduation from FDTC, you must, at a minimum, have actively participated in FDTC for twelve (12) months, have successfully completed each of the phases of FDTC, and have a specific plan for after-care and continuing sobriety and recovery.

In determining whether you should graduate from FDTC, the treatment team will consider each your current circumstances, including:

- A demonstrated period of abstinence from alcohol and drugs, evidenced by submitting negative alcohol and drug screens, a minimum of 90 days prior to completion
- Attends and is an active member in a sober support group
- Displays a change in thinking, attitude, and beliefs
- Successfully completes treatment or programming, as recommended and ordered
- Maintains consistent employment
- Demonstrates the ability to identify and eliminate unsafe thinking pattern
- Has demonstrated stability in the community

Graduation

Upon your successful completion of a treatment program and satisfaction of all other court requirements including continued sobriety, you will have a graduation from the Jefferson County Family Dependency Treatment Court program. Graduation is recognized as a very important event. There will be a special ceremony as the FDTC Team congratulates you for successfully completing the FDTC program and achieving your goal of establishing a drug and/or alcohol free life.

Once you graduate from FDTC, you will no longer be supervised by the treatment team and will not be required to appear in Family Dependency Treatment Court. In some situations, however, the Department of Job and Family Services may continue to provide support and services to you and your family. Upon graduation, you may be offered the opportunity to continue in a mentoring role with others. You could remain involved with FDTC on a volunteer basis and have the opportunity to help other FDTC participants.

Confidentiality

State and federal laws require that your identity and privacy be protected. In response to these regulations, the FDTC has developed policies and procedures that guard your privacy. You will be asked to sign Consent for Disclosure of Confidential Substance Abuse Information. This disclosure of information is for the sole purpose of hearings and reports concerning your specific FDTC case.

General Program Rules

Attendance: Be on time for all treatment and court activities. Arrive to status review hearings fifteen minutes prior to scheduled hearings. Absences will be reported to the court during your status review appearances. You will be required to provide reasonable excuses for your absences, and the Court will have the authority to issue sanctions as necessary and appropriate.

Appropriate Dress and Hygiene: Dress appropriately for all program activities, including treatment. Do not wear clothing with logos or pictures that advertise or promote alcohol or drug use, or paraphernalia. Do not wear shorts, tank tops, midriff shirts, or miniskirts....and please be sure to pull up your pants.

Weapons: Neither you nor anyone who comes with you may bring any kind of weapon to any FDTC activity.

Appropriate Language and Behavior: Refrain from the use of profanity racist, sexist, homophobic, sexually provocative, or other offensive comments during court proceedings and treatment activities. The Court will not tolerate insults, rude physical gestures, aggression or other inappropriate behavior.

Releases: As a participant of this program, you will need to sign forms allowing the release and exchange of information among the agencies working the treatment team.

No alcohol or Illegal Drugs: You must agree to abstain from using or ingesting any and all alcohol and illegal drugs.

Drug Testing: Submit to regular and random drug and alcohol screens. The team will inform you of the process and explanation about how the drug testing program works.

Follow all Recommendations of Your Treatment Provider(s): You are expected to participate in treatment, not simply attend.

Attend and Be on Time to Treatment Sessions: If you run late or cannot attend a treatment session, you must call your treatment provider. When you report to the Court, you may be asked to provide documentation in order to explain the absence. Any missed sessions due to illness will require a doctor's note.

Doctor Prescribed Medication: During Phase I, or as ordered by the Court, you will give your treating physicians/dentists the Physician Waiver and inform them that you are a participant in the Jefferson County FDTC and may not take narcotic, addictive medications or medication containing alcohol unless it is the only medical option.

Notice of Current Address: All participants must keep the FDTC team informed of your current address and telephone number.

Resources

Jefferson County Juvenile Court
(740) 283-8557

Jefferson County Department of Job and
Family Services
(740) 282-0961

The Village Network
(740) 284-1977

A Child's Place CASA
(330) 737-4444

Urban Mission Ministries
(740) 282-8010

Jefferson County Community Action Council
(740) 282-0971