



Definitions of Adult Court Types

Adult Drug Court

A specially designed criminal court calendar or docket, the purposes of which are to achieve a reduction in criminal recidivism and substance use and increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation for adults with substance use disorders charged with drug-related offenses. Interventions include early, continuous, and intensive judicially supervised treatment, mandatory periodic drug and alcohol testing, community supervision, and the use of appropriate sanctions, incentives, and habilitation services (Huddleston et al., 2004).

DUI/DWI Court

A DUI/DWI court is typically a post-conviction court docket dedicated to changing the behavior of persons with serious substance use disorders or high blood alcohol concentration (BAC) levels arrested for driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol (DUI) or driving while impaired (DWI). The goal of the DUI/DWI court is to protect public safety while addressing the root causes of recidivist impaired driving. DUI/DWI courts utilize a team of criminal justice professionals (including prosecutors, defense attorneys, probation officers, and law enforcement) along with substance use disorder treatment professionals to systematically change participant behavior. Like drug courts, DUI/DWI courts involve extensive interactions between the judge and participant to hold the participant accountable for compliance with court, supervision, and treatment conditions (Huddleston et al., 2004).

Hybrid Adult Drug Court /DUI/DWI

Hybrid adult drug/DUI/DWI court is a program that enrolls both adult drug court and DUI/DWI participants in one program.

Co-Occurring Disorder Court

Co-occurring disorders courts are specialized criminal court dockets or calendars that serve individuals diagnosed with both a moderate-to-severe substance use disorder and a severe and persistent mental illness, such as bipolar disorder (manic depression), major depression, or schizophrenia. The programs do more than simply treat dually diagnosed disorders. Mental illness and substance use disorders are often reciprocally aggravating conditions, meaning that continued symptoms of one disorder are likely to precipitate relapse in the other disorder. For example, a formerly depressed person who continues to misuse drugs is likely to experience a resurgence of depressive symptoms. Conversely, a person recovering from a substance use disorder who continues to suffer from depression is at serious risk for relapsing to drug abuse. For this reason, co-occurring disorders courts treat mental health and substance use disorders concurrently, as opposed to consecutively. Whenever possible, both disorders are treated in the same facility by the same professional(s) using an evidence-based integrated treatment model that focuses on the mutually aggravating effects of the two conditions. Participants also receive unhindered access to medical and psychiatric practitioners qualified to prescribe and monitor response to psychotropic and addiction medications (Steadman et al., 2013).

Family Treatment Court

A family treatment court is a juvenile or family court docket for cases of child abuse or neglect in which parental substance use is a contributing factor. Judges, attorneys, child protection services, and treatment personnel unite with the goal of providing safe, nurturing, and permanent homes for children while simultaneously providing parents with the necessary support and services they need to become drug and alcohol abstinent. Family treatment courts aid parents or guardians to regain control of their lives and promote long-term stabilized recovery to enhance the possibility of family reunification within mandatory legal timeframes (Huddleston et al., 2005).



Mental Health/Wellness Court

Modeled after drug courts and developed in response to the overrepresentation of people with mental health disorders in the criminal justice system, mental health courts divert certain defendants suffering from severe and persistent mental illness into judicially supervised, community-based treatment. Participants are invited to participate following a specialized screening and assessment process, and they may choose to decline participation. For those who agree to the terms and conditions of community-based supervision, a team of court and mental health professionals work together to develop treatment plans and supervise participants in the community. Participants appear at regular status hearings, during which incentives are offered to reward adherence to court conditions, sanctions for nonadherence are handed down, and treatment plans and other conditions are periodically reviewed for appropriateness (Council of State Governments, 2005).

Opioid Court

Opioid intervention courts are rapid response programs that use immediate screening and treatment engagement, intensive judicial monitoring, and recovery support services to prevent opioid overdose and save lives. By helping to stabilize individuals who are at immediate risk of overdose death, opioid courts offer support to individuals in crisis and set participants on the path to long-term recovery and a better quality of life.

Reentry Drug Court

Reentry drug courts use the adult drug court model, as defined in the 10 Key Components of Drug Courts, to facilitate reintegration of inmates with serious substance use disorders into the community upon their release from local or state correctional facilities. These are distinct from reentry courts (defined below), which do not necessarily utilize the drug court model or focus on drug or alcohol use disorders, but often do work with similar populations. The participant is involved in regular judicial monitoring, intensive treatment, community supervision, and drug and alcohol testing. Participants are provided with specialized ancillary services required for successful reentry into the community (Tauber & Huddleston, 1999).

Veterans Treatment Court

Veterans treatment courts apply a hybrid integration of drug court and mental health court principles to serve military veterans and sometimes active-duty military personnel suffering from service-related injury or illness, such as posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), reactive depression, and co-occurring substance use disorders. They promote sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response that involves collaboration with the traditional partners found in drug courts and mental health courts, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs health care networks, Veterans Benefits Administration, state departments of veterans affairs, volunteer veteran mentors, and organizations that support veterans and their families (Office of National Drug Control Policy, 2010). VTCs view veterans as persons with special needs who cannot be served adequately in conventional drug courts, mental health courts, or other veterans' treatment programs. Traumatic exposure during combat, difficulty reintegrating into civil society after discharge, and the unique socialization processes of military culture require veteran-specific services to be delivered in separate court-based programs by current or former veterans who are familiar with combat and military lifestyle.



Definitions of Juvenile Court Types

Juvenile Drug Court

A juvenile drug court is a specialized docket within the juvenile or family court system to which selected delinquency cases—and in some instances, status offense cases—are referred for handling by a designated judge. The youths referred to this docket are identified as having problems with alcohol and/or other drugs. The juvenile drug court judge maintains close oversight of each case through regular status hearings with the parties and their guardians. The judge both leads and works as a member of a team composed of representatives from treatment, juvenile justice, social and mental health services, school and vocational training programs, law enforcement, probation, prosecution, and defense counsel. Over the course of a year or more, the team meets frequently (often weekly), determining how best to address the substance use and related problems of the youth and his or her family that have brought the youth into contact with the juvenile justice system (NDCI & National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, 2003).

Co-Occurring Disorder Court

See definition for co-occurring disorder court in the previous section; this program is for juveniles.

Mental Health/Wellness Court

See definition for mental health/wellness in the previous section; this program is for juveniles.

Reentry Drug Court

See definition for reentry drug court in the previous section; this program is for juveniles.