

General Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility criteria is determined by the local Adult Drug Treatment Court Advisory Committee.

Minimum Considerations:

- Adult Drug Treatment Court Dockets primarily target non-violent offenders with substance use disorder(s).
- Persons with a prior conviction or adjudication of not innocent for a violent offense (as defined in Va. Code §17.1-805 or §19.2-297.1) within the preceding ten years are not eligible to participate.
- Candidates are assessed for high risk/high needs using a validated risk-needs assessment and clinical assessment tools.
- Participation in a drug treatment court is voluntary and requires a written agreement among the defendant, the Commonwealth, and concurrence of the Court.



National Best Practice Standards

Standard 1: Target Population

Candidates are evaluated for admission to the Drug Court using evidence-based assessment tools and procedures.

Standard 2: Equity and Inclusion

Standard 3: Roles and Responsibilities of the Judge

Standard 4: Incentives, Sanctions, & Therapeutic Adjustments

Consequences for participants' behavior are predictable, fair, consistent, and administered with evidence-based principles of effective behavior modification.

Standard 5: Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Participants receive substance use disorder treatment based on a standardized assessment of their treatment needs.

Standard 6: Complementary Treatment & Social Services

Standard 7: Drug and Alcohol Testing

Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.

Standard 8: Multidisciplinary Team

Standard 9: Census and Caseloads

The Drug Court serves as many eligible individuals as practicable while maintaining continuous fidelity to best practice standards.

Standard 10: Monitoring and Evaluation

The Drug Court routinely monitors its adherence to best practice standards and employs scientifically valid and reliable procedures to evaluate its effectiveness.



Virginia Adult Drug Treatment Court Dockets

According to Code of Virginia § 18.2-254.1 - Drug Treatment Court Act

Drug treatment courts are specialized court dockets within the existing structure of Virginia's court system offering judicial monitoring of intensive treatment and strict supervision of addicts in drug and drug-related cases. Local officials must complete a recognized planning process before establishing a drug treatment court program.

Adult Drug Treatment Court Dockets **WORK**

Adult Drug Treatment Court dockets save Virginia taxpayers \$19, 234 per adult participant compared to traditional case processing.



In 2019, Adult Drug Treatment Court dockets saved the Commonwealth of Virginia nearly \$11 million.



Since 2009, Virginia's Adult Drug Treatment Court dockets have seen increases in the number of active participants.

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Adult Drug Treatment Court dockets are approved to operate in Virginia.

Graduates of Adult Drug Treatment Court dockets are less likely to be rearrested or reconvicted when compared to those who are terminated.

<http://www.courts.state.va.us/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/dtc/>

How does it work and what are the benefits?

Through voluntary admission, eligible defendants are invited to participate in the Drug Treatment Court docket following a specialized screening and assessment. For those who submit to the terms and conditions of community-based supervision, a team of program and treatment professionals work together to develop service plans and supervise participants.

Preliminary research demonstrates that Adult Drug Treatment Court Docket participants tend to have lower rates of criminal activity and increased linkages to treatment services when compared to defendants who go through the traditional court system.

<https://rga.lis.virginia.gov/Published/2019/RD527/PDF>

Drug Court Dockets divert offenders from incarceration thereby offering several potential benefits:

- ⇒ Drug Court Dockets *reduce prison costs* by reducing the inmate population and freeing up expensive jail and prison space for more serious offenders.
- ⇒ *Recidivism* rates of drug court docket participants as a whole far out perform the comparison group - "the business as usual alternative" (jail, and/or prison, probation)
- ⇒ Drug Court Dockets *provide needed services* such as substance use disorder and mental health treatment that may not be available in jail or prison.

Application Process

Authorization Process - A circuit or district court which intends to establish a Drug Treatment Court must petition the Supreme Court of Virginia for authorization before beginning operation of a Drug Treatment Court docket or in the instance of an existing Drug Treatment Court, continuing its operation.

http://www.courts.state.va.us/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/dtc/procedures/dtc_applic_to_establish.pdf

The link above is to the Application to Establish A Drug Treatment Court Docket Program:

- Application
 - Jurisdiction Name
 - Name of Judge
 - Name of Coordinator
 - Proposed Start Date

<http://www.courts.state.va.us/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/dtc/home.html>

The link above provides information about Drug Treatment Court Dockets:

- Virginia Drug Treatment Court Standards
- Directory of Virginia Drug Treatment Court Dockets
- Evaluation Reports
- Informational Videos
- Resources and Reference Materials

