



## WHY DRUG COURT?

Often onlookers say, “Why doesn't he/she just quit?” It would seem the loss of health, employment, self-esteem, family and freedom would be enough reason to quit.

Research shows how alcohol and other drugs have a powerful effect on a person both physically and psychologically. Alcohol and other drug use can cause irreversible changes in brain chemistry. Prolonged use can create an intense belief by the user that he/she will never be able to cope with life without using.

Addiction is a disease that requires intervention to break through the denial, shame, guilt, blaming, and rationalization that perpetuates use and jeopardizes recovery. Drug Court is a program that recognizes the struggle and process of recovery without enabling the addict. Drug Court is a no-nonsense approach to a difficult, life-threatening affliction which is designed to ease them back into society as productive member.



## HOW CAN I HELP DRUG COURT?

Help with the following would enhance program services and would be greatly appreciated.

- ◆ A favorable word about the program to local officials.
- ◆ Employment opportunities for participants of the program.
- ◆ Donations of certificates and frames for presentation at graduation ceremonies.
- ◆ Donation to the Drug Court Alumni program.



For further information about Drug Court or to arrange for a speaker to make a presentation to your organization about Drug Court, contact:

### San Luis Obispo County

#### Drug and Alcohol Services

2180 Johnson Ave.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Phone: 805-781-4753  
Fax: 805-781-1227

#### Probation Department

1730 Bishop Ave.  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Phone: 805-781-5300  
Fax: 805-781-1231

## DRUG ABUSE IMPACTS

*Family*

*Friends*

*Community*

## ADULT DRUG COURT



San Luis Obispo County, California

---

A Comprehensive and Intensive  
Program of Treatment and  
Accountability



## WHAT IS DRUG COURT?

The Drug Court Program is a court supervised, comprehensive treatment program for non-violent defendants. This is a voluntary program which includes: regular court appearances, treatment, drug testing, individual and group counseling, and regular attendance at self-help (NA or AA) or other recovery groups.

The first Drug Court was established in Florida in 1989. Since then, interest in Drug Court has spread globally.

The Drug Court model utilizes collaboration between Drug and Alcohol Services, Probation, and the Court. Drug Court participants appear before the judge on a regular basis and, therefore, have an opportunity to receive encouragement and praise for positive progress as well as timely sanctions for probation violations. In addition to the judge playing a central role, supervision of the participants in the community is intensive and treatment is mandatory and closely monitored.

Many criminal offenses are substance abuse related. Substance abuse attacks and devastates the person as a whole and, thus, has far reaching effects. Drug Court not only treats the individual but also addresses the welfare of the participant's family and of the entire community.



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Any person on formal probation, convicted of a non-violent felony that has primary or underlying substance abuse issues. Participants are court-ordered into the program at the time of sentencing.



### DRUG COURT IS AN EVIDENCE BASED TREATMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY THE SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICES IN COLLABORATION WITH:

Superior Court  
Probation Department  
District Attorney's Office  
Public Defender's Office



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Participants progress through five phases of the program, with the first phase being the most intensive. Completion of formal treatment is designed to be achieved within a minimum of eighteen (18) months.

Abstinence from alcohol and other drugs and achievement of targeted treatment goals allow the participant to progress through subsequent phases.

### TREATMENT

- ◆ Individual and group counseling, 12-step meetings, and relapse prevention
- ◆ Vocational skills
- ◆ Parenting /Family education

### ACCOUNTABILITY

- ◆ Frequent court appearances
- ◆ Frequent and random alcohol and drug testing
- ◆ Increased supervision including unannounced home visits and searches by probation/law enforcement
- ◆ Upon completion of formal treatment, the participant enters into the Extended Care aspect of the program known as our Alumni Group.