

Cherokee County



2026

**Cherokee County
Treatment Accountability Court**

Participant Handbook

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What is a Treatment Accountability Court?

In 2012, agencies in Cherokee County involved with the judicial system began looking for ways to address an increasing number of defendants who were involved with the criminal courts based, in large part, on actions which were related to undiagnosed and/or untreated mental disorders.

As a result of discussions, the Cherokee County Treatment Accountability Court (TAC) was developed to allow defendants with a mental illness to voluntarily address their issues with the goal of becoming responsible for their own health, reducing their negative encounters with law enforcement and the court system, and achieving stability in their life.

The program you are undertaking lasts a minimum of **18 months** and consists of **five** phases. As you advance in the program, you should become increasingly more involved in your own wellness needs through community-based services, including counseling, addiction treatment, and medication management.

If you become engaged in the goals that you help set for yourself as part of this program, upon completion you should have the tools to live a productive life in which you are responsible for your own mental wellness.

These goals will only be accomplished if you are honest with yourself and others and make an effort to succeed. Without honesty and effort, you will not complete this program and will have failed to take advantage of an opportunity that only a few will get.

Admission into the program is limited to Cherokee County residents that are at least 18-years old and have been diagnosed with a severe and persistent mental illness. They must also be assessed to have high needs and a high risk to re-offend.

Mission Statement of the Cherokee County Treatment Accountability Court

The Cherokee County Treatment Accountability Court seeks to utilize community resources to address the mental health and social needs of its participants in order to increase their prospects for achieving long term stability and to promote community and public safety interests that have been adversely impacted by those living with untreated mental illness.

Rules of the Cherokee County Treatment Accountability Court

In order to get the greatest benefit of this Court, you must agree to follow certain rules. While in the program, failure to follow these rules can result in sanctions, including community service, incarceration and termination from the program.

These rules, in general, include:

1. You must **actively participate** in the treatment plan and the case management plan which will be developed with your involvement.
2. You must **attend and be punctual** for all required court sessions, doctor appointments, treatment appointments, community service, and case management appointments, as well as any other appointments which you are directed to attend as a part of the program.
3. You must **NOT** use any illegal drugs, alcohol, unapproved medications or unapproved substances. In order to ensure compliance with this rule, you will be required to continuously submit to random alcohol and drug screens as directed by the court. When you do use a prohibited substance, you will be honest about it **before being confronted**.
4. You must abide by **all** local, state, and federal laws. In the event you are arrested, detained or otherwise have any contact with **ANY** law enforcement agency, you will **immediately** notify the Court Coordinator and Case Manager in writing.
5. You must behave in a **respectful** manner towards fellow court participants, the TAC Team, and staff, as well as all treatment counselors.
6. You must keep the TAC Team and probation informed of your **current** address, phone number, and schedule. You must always have a **working** telephone number with voice mail. All changes in address require written approval of TAC Coordinator or the Court.
7. You must abide by any curfews which are put in place by the TAC Team.
8. You must **dress appropriately** for treatment sessions and court appearances. No tee shirts with inappropriate graphics, sweatpants, yoga pants, shorts, or skirts more than four inches above the knee, hats, or midriffs may be worn to Court. Likewise, all shirts must be neatly tucked into pants and underwear shall not be visible while in Court.
9. You must pay a total participant fee \$1000.00 with a specific portion of this fee being due at a specific time during each of the five phases.
10. Changes may be made to the Cherokee County Treatment Accountability Court program in order to address concerns that arise in the program's operation. You will be notified of any changes ahead of time.

These will be addressed more fully in the pages that follow.

Phases of the Cherokee County Treatment Accountability Court

The Cherokee County Treatment Accountability Court is an 18-month to 36-month program which is divided into five separate phases. Your time in each phase will vary depending on your progress with the established goals set out for each phase. Each participant will progress throughout the program at different rates of time as this is an individualistic program.

In addition to the set goals for each phase, your progress will also be determined by your individualized case management and treatment plans established during each phase.

The following is an outline of the requirements for each phase, completion of which will allow you to move to the next phase and, ultimately, graduate from the program.

Phase I – Stabilization

Time in Phase – a minimum of **thirty (30) days** is required for this phase, although advancement will depend on the progress made by each individual participant.

The initial phase of the program will be used for your stabilization and, if appropriate, detoxification so that any issues can be identified and start to be addressed. Through the treatment plan and the case management plan, the court will work with you to establish goals for you based on the results of any evaluations and your own strengths and weaknesses.

During the time you are in the Stabilization Phase, you will be required to:

- Attend all scheduled appointments with a medical professional for purposes of receiving prescription medication and monitoring the effectiveness of that medication;
- Attend on a timely basis and be engaged during all recommended appointments with the treatment provider;
- Obtain and take all prescribed medications;
- Report for all random drug and alcohol screens;
- Attend all court sessions (twice per month), unless otherwise directed by the Court;
- Adhere to a 9:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. curfew, unless otherwise directed by the Court;
- Work toward establishing stable housing;
- Avoid the company of persons likely to adversely impact your progress in the program;
- Meet with the case manager or coordinator within the first week in the program to establish goals for the phase and continue to meet with the case manager at least once a week;
- Meet with your probation officer at least once a month and be subject to random home visits;
- Make progress on goals established in the individualized case management and treatment plans;
- Must not test positive for any prohibited substance or have any sanctions for at least two weeks before moving to the next phase; and
- Must pay a \$50.00 Indigent Defense Fee and \$50.00 toward the program fee to advance to the next phase.

Phase II – Engagement

Time in Phase – a minimum of **one hundred fifty (150) days** is required for this phase, although advancement will depend on the progress made by each individual participant.

The second phase of the program seeks to create positive habits regarding the maintenance of your own mental health by means of continuing case management, medication management, as well as attendance at individual counseling. To the extent it has not already been accomplished, you will also begin to evaluate what skills you have and what you may need in order to meet the requirements of daily living.

During the time that you are in the Engagement Phase, you will be required to:

- Attend all scheduled appointments with a medical professional for purposes of receiving prescription medication and monitoring the effectiveness of that medication;
- Attend on a timely basis and be engaged during all recommended appointments with the treatment provider;
- Continue taking all prescribed medications;
- Continue reporting for all random drug and alcohol screens;
- Attend all court sessions (twice per month), unless otherwise directed by the Court;
- Adhere to a 10:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. curfew, unless otherwise directed by the Court;
- Maintain stable housing;
- Avoid the company of persons likely to adversely impact your progress in the program;
- Continue meeting with the case manager at least once a week;
- Meet with your probation officer at least once a month and be subject to random home visits;
- Make progress on goals established in the case management and treatment plans;
- If not already employed, find employment or work toward obtaining the skills necessary for employment;
- If employment is not possible due to any disabilities, you will make an application for any available public assistance and establish other productive means of utilizing your time;
- Must not test positive for any prohibited substance or have any sanctions for at least thirty (30) days before moving to the next phase; and
- Must pay \$250.00 towards program fee to advance to the next phase.

Phase III – Maintenance

Time in Phase – a minimum of **one hundred eighty (180) days** is required for this phase, although advancement will depend on the progress made by each individual participant.

The third phase of the program seeks to further engage you in developing and participating in your treatment and in establishing a healthy lifestyle considering the individual life goals previously expressed by you as being important. Continued focus will be on treatment, housing and employment.

During the time that you are in the Maintenance Phase, you will be required to:

- Attend all scheduled appointments with a medical professional for purposes of receiving prescription medication and monitoring the effectiveness of that medication;
- Attend on a timely basis and be engaged during all recommended appointments with the treatment provider;
- Continue taking all prescribed medications;
- Continue to reporting for all random drug and alcohol screens;
- Attend all court sessions (twice per month), unless otherwise directed by the Court;
- Adhere to a 11:00 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. curfew, unless otherwise directed by the Court;
- Maintain stable housing;
- Avoid the company of persons likely to adversely impact your progress;
- Continue meeting with the case manager at least once a week;
- Meet with your probation officer at least once a month and be subject to random home visits;
- Make progress on goals established in the case management and treatment plans;
- Maintain employment, if applicable;
- If not employed, continue finding other positive ways to spend your spare time;
- Work with treatment and case management to develop life goals and a long-term plan for recovery before moving to the next phase;
- Unless waived, begin paying any fees restitution established by the Court as well as any other costs that are a part of your sentence;
- Must not test positive for any prohibited substance or have any sanction for at least forty-five (45) days before moving to the next phase; and
- Must pay \$300.00 towards program fee to advance to the next phase.

Phase IV – Transition

Time in Phase – a minimum of **ninety (90) days** is required for this phase, although advancement will depend on the progress made by each individual participant.

The fourth phase of the program seeks to transition you from a closely monitored life to one in which you will become more self-dependent and self-aware of the requirements for living successfully in society and will begin to learn how to set and achieve your own life goals.

During the time that you are in the Transition Phase, you will be required to:

- Attend all scheduled appointments with a medical professional for purposes of receiving prescription medication and monitoring the effectiveness of that medication;
- Attend on a timely basis and be engaged during all recommended appointments with the treatment provider;
- Continue taking all prescribed medications;
- Continue reporting for all random drug and alcohol screens;
- Attend one court sessions per month, unless otherwise directed by the Court;
- Adhere to a midnight to 5:30 a.m. curfew, unless otherwise directed by the Court;
- Maintain stable housing;
- Avoid the company of persons likely to adversely impact your progress;
- Meet with the case manager at least twice per month;
- Continue to meet with your probation officer at least once a month and be subject to random home visits;
- Make progress on goals established in the case management and treatment plans;
- Maintain employment, if applicable;
- If not employed, continue finding other positive ways to spend your spare time;
- Make progress on your life goals and long-term recovery plan developed in Phase III;
- Continue paying any fees established by the Court as well as any other costs that are a part of your sentence;
- May begin participation in the TAC Alumni group meetings.
- Must not test positive for any prohibited substance or have any sanction for at least sixty (60) days before moving to the next phase; and
- Must pay \$200.00 towards program fee to advance to the next phase.

Phase V – Aftercare

Time in Phase – a minimum of **ninety (90) days** is required for this phase, although advancement will depend on the progress made by each individual participant.

The final phase of the program seeks to completely transition you from your closely monitored life in the program to one in which you are successfully managing your own mental health needs and living independently in society.

During the time that you are in the Aftercare Phase, you will be required to:

- Attend all scheduled appointments with a medical professional for purposes of receiving prescription medication and monitoring the effectiveness of the medication;
- Attend on a timely basis and be engaged during all recommended appointments with the treatment provider;
- Continue taking all prescribed medications;
- Continue reporting for all random drug and alcohol screens;
- Attend one court sessions per month, unless otherwise directed by the Court;
- Adhere to the curfew set in your probation sentence or other court order, unless otherwise directed by the Court;
- Maintain stable housing;
- Avoid the company of persons likely to adversely impact your progress;
- Meet at least once during this phase with the case manager unless otherwise directed by the Court;
- Continue to meet with your probation officer at least once a month and be subject to random home visits;
- Make progress on goals established in the case management and treatment plans;
- Maintain employment, if applicable;
- If not employed, continue finding other positive ways to spend your spare time;
- Make progress on your life goals and long-term recovery plan developed in Phase IV;
- Submit a Post-Graduation Plan and Exit Survey at least two weeks prior to TAC Completion;
- Attend and participate in an Exit Interview with members of the TAC Team;
- Continue paying any fees established by the Court as well as any other costs that are a part of your sentence (all restitution and attorney fees originally ordered must be paid in full before program completion);
- Must, at minimum, meet with the CCTAC Alumni group or a designated alumnus to receive information about the group, including contact information and upcoming meeting details.
- Must not test positive for any prohibited substance or have any sanction for at least ninety (90) days before TAC Completion; and
- Must pay final installment of \$150.00 towards program fee to complete the program and graduate.

Graduation

Upon successfully completing the court ordered terms of the program you will be considered eligible for TAC graduation. It is possible and likely that you complete the program prior to the formal graduation ceremony. If this is the case, you will not otherwise be required to participate in any program function except for the formal graduation ceremony. Participation in the formal graduation ceremony is mandatory. Failure to participate may result in noncompliance with the courts order and/or your probation, which in turn can subject you to a probation violation warrant/petition or refusal of the Court to sign the dismissal order in the event you entered the program on a Stinson Plea.

Once you have successfully completed the program, you will be required to meet the following requirements:

- Stay in contact and report to your probation officer as directed by them;
- Adhere to all probation conditions and court orders;
- Attend and participate in the formal Graduation Ceremony;
- Ensure the court maintains your accurate contact information;
- Have paid all outstanding court fees, restitution and court fines that have not been otherwise waived or suspended;
- Be current on all probation fees; and
- Attend a Court Status Review if directed by the court.

Graduation Ceremony

The graduation ceremony is the formal conclusion of the program and is a cause for celebration. All participants that complete the program will attend a graduation ceremony where they will be recognized for their accomplishments.

You will be given an opportunity at the graduation ceremony to talk about what the program meant to you, what you have learned from the program, and what your future goals are now that you have completed the program. Each participant is expected to speak at the graduation ceremony but there is no time requirements for this participant response.

After graduation from the program, you will maintain contact with the program for one year so that your progress can be monitored. You may be ordered to appear before the presiding judge for a status review at which time the judge may review relevant information about your case and pass judgement as to merits of a sentence reduction.

The Treatment Accountability Court Team

The Presiding Treatment Accountability Court Judge will make all decisions regarding your participation in the Program with input from the Team. This includes acceptance into the program, imposition of any sanctions, awarding of incentives, termination from the program, and graduation.

In addition to the Judge, the TAC Team consists of the following members:

Defense Counsel – Represents and advocates for the participant in court proceedings.

District Attorney – Represents the interest of the State and victims in the court proceedings involving felony charges.

Solicitor – Represents the interest of the State and victims in the court proceedings involving misdemeanor charges.

Coordinator - Responsible for supervising the various elements involved in the operations of the court including managing communication between the various agencies involved in the operation of the court. May assist with case management needs of the participants.

Case Manager – Works with all members of the Court and the participants to monitor the progress of the participants and establish case management goals with the participants. Also works with other agencies to provide services to participants as needed and communicate with other members about your specific needs.

Treatment Provider – Devises and oversees the recommended treatment plan, counseling, group sessions and any other recommended practices.

Probation/Supervision – Monitors the participant's compliance with the requirements of the Court, including terms of probation.

Sheriff – Ensures that the program meets the goals of local law enforcement in regard to protecting the safety of the public.

While these are the team members at the outset, as the program grows, the assigned duties may be modified to address issues that arise, and other team members may be added.

A Day in Treatment Accountability Court

A court day in the Cherokee County Treatment Accountability Court consists of two separate parts: staffing and court review.

Staffing

Staffing is done prior to each court session and involves all the members of the TAC Team. During staffing, the Team will review each participant's progress in a non-public setting. These discussions will cover topics such as drug test results, participation in counseling, attendance, treatment, medication compliance, employment, housing, and any other topic that may be useful in determining the participant's progress in the program. Based on these discussions, the Team may consider responses to the participant's progress, including incentives or sanctions. Staffing is also the time when the Team will consider the admission of new participants into the program.

Court Review

As a Treatment Accountability Court participant, you are required to appear before the Presiding Judge for court reviews on a regular basis. The number of times you must appear in court per month depends on what phase you are in at the time. Failure to appear may result in a warrant being issued for your arrest and detention in jail. All participants will be provided with a court calendar upon entry of the program. If the date or time of a court review session is changed after the calendar is published, the Coordinator or Case Manager will notify you in writing. If you have questions about your court appearances and appointments, you may contact the Coordinator or Case Manager of the program.

IMPORTANT: Unless otherwise directed, court is held twice per month on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 2B.

Confidentiality Requirements in the Treatment Accountability Court

State and Federal Laws require that your privacy and treatment information be protected and not disclosed except by your permission or with a proper court order. Throughout your participation in the program, the members of the Team will be considering confidential information regarding your treatment, including, but not limited to, your mental health diagnoses, substance abuse treatment, and medications.

The staff of this program realizes the importance in keeping this information confidential within the program itself and utilizing it only for purposes of advancing your needs within the program. Except in an emergency in which there is a credible threat of serious injury or death to you or to another person, this information will not be shared with anyone outside of the TAC Team.

In order to participate in the program, you will be required to sign a waiver to allow your information to be shared among the Team Members so that a meaningful discussion can be had regarding your progress in the program during the staffing session in your case. If you do not consent to this disclosure, you may not continue to be a part of the program.

During the court session, some general information may be disclosed as part of the proceedings, especially regarding arrests and failed or missed drug screens. However, the Team will seek to limit this information to only that necessary to address any concerns the Team may have with your progress in the program.

Drugs and Alcohol

One of the goals of the Treatment Accountability Court is to assist you in obtaining and taking the medication necessary for your own mental stability. The Court also seeks to assist you in avoiding substances which you should **NOT** be taking, including illegal drugs, non-prescribed legal medications, and alcohol.

Prescribed Medications

Taking your prescribed medications is a particularly important part of becoming accountable for your own mental health. It is extremely important that you take, as prescribed, the medications your psychiatrist prescribes to you. The Judge and Team recognizes that many medications have very unpleasant side effects, that many medications do not work the same for everyone, and that it can be difficult for a doctor and a patient to find the best combination of medications for you. For most participants in the program, medications will nonetheless be essential for managing symptoms of illness and living successfully in the community.

If you have complaints about your medications, you must tell your psychiatrist and the Court Coordinator and/or the Case Manager. Your psychiatrist may be able to adjust the dosage, prescribe a different medication or prescribe additional medications to treat side effects. If you continue to have complaints or feel that your concerns are not being addressed, you must inform the Team and the Judge. If you refuse or repeatedly fail to take your medications as prescribed, you will be sanctioned.

At your first meeting with the Coordinator and/or Case Manager, you will be provided a list of medications which you may not take while in the program. At that time, you must provide a list of all medications you are currently taking. Any changes in your medications while participating in the program must be approved by the Court.

If you are prescribed a medication while in the program, you must notify the Coordinator and/or Case Manager prior to having the prescription filled and must have appropriate documentation from the prescribing physician regarding the necessity of the medication.

It is important to note that many common products including hairspray, perfume, mouthwash, and medications contain alcohol. If at any time an alcohol test is performed on your sample and is returned with a positive result, this will be considered a sanctionable offense.

PLEASE CALL THE COORDINATOR OR CASE MANAGER IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT ANY PRODUCT PRIOR TO USE!

Drug Screens

You will be randomly tested for drug and alcohol use at least twice a week throughout your entire participation in the program. It is a requirement that each person submit a valid, non-diluted test when directed to do so either as a routine process or upon the request of any Court Team Member. The best way to ensure that a test will not come back diluted is to drink a minimal amount of liquid in the two

hours prior to a screening. Water loading or drinking excessive amounts of water or other liquids before a drug screen, will likely result in a dilute sample and is a sanctionable offense.

If you test positive for a prohibited substance, you may request that this positive test be confirmed by an independent laboratory. **If this independent test confirms the original test, then you will be responsible for paying the cost of this confirmation test and you will be sanctioned at a higher level than you would for simply failing a test.**

If you have used prohibited substances, you have an obligation to be honest with the Team about it. While you will still be sanctioned for any use, the sanction will be less severe than if you test positive for a prohibited substance without notifying the Team beforehand that it may be positive. This may be done by providing the Coordinator or the Case Manager with an admission of use form.

Drug testing will take place at the Cherokee County Drug Screening Lab located on the ground floor of the Historic Courthouse in downtown Canton. Testing takes place every day between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Upon admission to the program, you will be provided with instructions on how to determine whether you are scheduled to be tested on a given day. A same sex attendant observes all drug testing. If you arrive too late to be tested on a date you are required to be tested, it will be considered a missed test, and you will be sanctioned accordingly.

Hospital and Physician Visits

While the Court recognizes that emergency situations will arise that require medical attention, except as may be otherwise directed participants in the Treatment Accountability Court Program are still required to avoid any form of narcotic pain medications for the period of time they remain in the program, except as medically recommended and Court approved. Each participant will be provided with a form that is to be given to any physician that provides treatment. This form will explain these restrictions so that an alternative medication may be given instead of one that is not approved for use while in the program.

Vaping/E-Cigarette Policy

Vaping and e-cigarettes have become very common but are also subject to abuse based on the fact that they are frequently used to ingest substances other than tobacco, such as CBD oil, cannabis oil, hemp oil, etc.

In order to eliminate the possibility that vapes, e-cigarettes, jewels, or other oil delivery products, are being used for purposes not consistent with this program, all participants are prohibited from using such products while they are participating in the Treatment Accountability Court program.

Any participant caught possessing or using vapes, e-cigarettes, jewels, or other products which serve that same purpose, will be sanctioned, and will have the vaping device confiscated until completion of the program.

Rules for Living

Your participation in the Treatment Accountability Court program will require some adjustments to your current living habits. Following the rules below will promote the best environment for you to succeed in the program.

Housing

You are expected to establish and maintain stable housing within Cherokee County at a location that is safe and clean. The home should not be occupied by other residents that are convicted felons, currently out on bond for felony offenses or who would act as an undesirable influence on you. Likewise, the home must be clear of any illegal substances, alcohol, or weapons. The Court will work with you to achieve the goal of stable and appropriate housing once admitted to the program. In the event your housing situation changes, you must immediately notify the court and probation with any change in address.

While participating in the Treatment Accountability Court program, you will be subject to random visits by a compliance officer to ensure that your housing is appropriate and to verify that you are there when you are supposed to be there.

People

It is a sad fact that many people end up in trouble based in large part on the company they keep. To ensure success, you are expected to avoid people who, based on their history or habits, would adversely impact your success in the program. This includes friends and family members that are on felony probation, as well as locations where felons typically meet or congregate.

Employment

Each Participant who is not disabled or a full-time student is expected to work. If you are not employed when entering the program, you are expected to seek work beginning in Phase II. The Team will work with you on meeting this goal.

If you are unable to work, then the Team will work with you to apply for any available assistance and to find other means of spending your time that benefits your community.

In the event you are employed, you are not permitted to change your employment without first speaking with the Coordinator or the Case Manager. In addition, you may not work for a family member or other participant unless permitted by the Team.

Home Visits/Job Verification

As a participant in the Treatment Accountability Court, you specifically agree to submit to a search of your person, residence, papers, bodily substances, and/or effects at any time of the day or night and without a search warrant or probable cause. This may be done at the request of your probation officer,

law enforcement, or Court Staff/Treatment Provider in situations where there is a reason to believe that you are violating your probation or one or more of the conditions of Court, or the law.

Information received from these searches or illicit items found can be used against you in any court proceedings and will likely result in your arrest and/or can be used against you for purposes of imposing sanctions on you by the Court or possibly terminating you from the program.

While in the program, you will be required to have periodic visits with your probation officer, either in their office or in your home. In addition, in order to ensure you are compliant with the expectations of the program, including any curfew restrictions, the Court will use compliance officers to randomly perform visits to your home.

Each participant may also have their employment verified by either unannounced job site visits or by a Team Member contacting your employer.

Transportation

You are responsible for finding transportation to all activities required of this program. If you believe that you may have transportation issues, this must be discussed with the Coordinator or Case Manager. Missing or being late for a required activity in this program due to a transportation issue is **not acceptable**.

Travel, Leave and Other requests

Travel Leave Requests

As a participant in this program, you may not leave Cherokee County for any reason without first filing a written leave request and obtaining permission from the Team and the Probation Office.

During the first 90 days of the program, travel leave will generally only be granted for emergencies.

Written travel leave request forms may be obtained from the Coordinator or the Case Manager. Written leave requests must be submitted to the Coordinator or Case Manager at least **two (2) weeks** prior to the anticipated date of departure so that the Team may consider them.

Emergency travel leave requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

If you are able to find a job but it is in another county, the Court may grant an ongoing travel leave request. The Court will require confirmation of the out-of-county employment prior to granting the travel leave.

Any written travel leave request will be reviewed and approved by TAC Team. You will be notified of approval or denial of your request by the Coordinator, the Case Manager, or Judge.

If travel leave is requested, it is your responsibility to find a location to be tested for drugs or alcohol use in the event you are required to be tested.

Medical Leave

If you need to be away from the program for an extended time due to a medical treatment issue, you will need to provide that information to the Coordinator and/or the Case Manager at least two weeks in advance of the requested medical leave so that the information can be verified with the treating physician. You would still be required to avoid any narcotic medications unless otherwise authorized by the TAC Team. During the time that you are out on medical leave, you may still be required to be tested for drugs and alcohol, and you will be required to contact the Coordinator and/or the Case Manager at least once a week, and you will still be subject to random home visits.

Maternity Leave

If you are pregnant while in the program, you may be allowed maternity leave for two weeks following the birth of your child. During this time of leave, you will not be required to undergo any counseling or be subject to random drug and alcohol screens. However, you are required to contact the Coordinator and/or the Case Manager at least once a week. During the third and fourth week of the leave, you will be subject to random screens but will still be excused from any other participation. After the fourth week, you will return to the normal TAC schedule. During maternity leave, you will still be subject to random home visits.

Relationships with other participants

Social contact with any accountability court participant or group of participants of the opposite sex or same sexual orientation outside of treatment, court, or court-ordered activities is strictly prohibited unless approved in writing by the TAC Coordinator, TAC Case Manager or by the Court. This includes in person contact (one-on-one or in a group setting outside of the program), phone contact, electronic or internet contact, social media contact, written contact, or any other form of communication.

Any type of sexual involvement of any kind with any other accountability court participant is strictly prohibited. You shall not engage in or attempt to engage in any romantic or sexual relationship with any other accountability court participant. If this does occur, you and the other participant may be terminated from the program(s).

In the event you are or have ever engaged in a romantic or sexual relationship with another current participant of an accountability court you are to immediately notify the Court Coordinator, Court Case Manager or the Court.

Accountability court participants may not be employed by another participant or report directly or indirectly to another participant, whether paid or unpaid, unless approved in writing by the TAC Coordinator or by the Court..

Accountability court participants may not provide transportation to any accountability court participant, aside from program related activities, unless approved by a court team member. Accountability court participants may provide transportation to program requirements with prior permission from a team member. In the event transportation is provided after traditional office hours permission may be granted with proper notice of the TAC Case Manager.

Accountability court participants may not loan one another money, clothing, or other personal items; perform work-related services for any other participant; or sell/buy anything from one another unless approved in writing by the TAC Coordinator or by the Court.

Contact with other agencies

All contact with other government agencies, including but not limited to law enforcement, child support recovery, and Department of Family and Children Services, must be reported to the Coordinator and/or the Case Manager, and Probation within 24 hours of the contact.

Other legal obligations

If you have other legal obligations which you are required to meet, such as completion of a parenting plan with DFCS or child support obligations, it will be your responsibility to keep the Coordinator and/or the Case Manager informed of these obligations so that they may be monitored by the Team. Failure to abide by any other court order will be considered a TAC violation and will subject the participant to sanctions.

Infectious disease

It is the policy of this program that if a participant poses a risk to the general public due to the presence of an infectious disease, the local health department will be notified immediately.

Court fees

In order to complete the TAC program, you will be required to pay a program fee of \$1000.00, unless waived by the Court. There are specific payments required in each phase in order to progress to the next phase. You must pay at least \$100.00 during Phase I to advance to Phase II, at least \$250.00 during Phase II to advance to Phase III, at least \$300.00 during Phase III to advance to Phase IV, at least \$200.00 during Phase IV to advance to Phase V, and the balance (\$150.00) of the program fee must be paid prior to TAC completion. If you fail to fully pay the program fee, you will be unable to graduate from the program.

Once you enter Phase III, you are also responsible for paying any probation fees, court fines and, if applicable, restitution unless otherwise ordered by the Court. All of these fees must be paid in full prior to completion of the TAC program unless specifically waived or suspended by the Court.

Rules for Court

Attendance in court is an important part of your participation in this program. In order to make this part of the program meaningful to all participants as well as to respect the dignity of the proceedings, you are required to abide by the rules that follow.

Punctuality

You are expected to be at the courthouse and outside the courtroom at least 30 minutes prior to the start of court on the days when you are required to attend court. You are expected to be seated on the first two rows at or before the time court is scheduled to begin. Once court begins, the doors to the courtroom will be locked and if you are not in the courtroom at that time, you will be considered absent and subject to sanctions as if you missed court.

If you do not appear for court at all, a bench warrant may be issued to take you into custody until the next court date.

Appearance

You are expected to dress for court in an appropriate manner. For all participants, this will mean that you must not wear any clothing that is torn, see through, skimpy (including any shorts or skirts more than four inches above the knee), or that has any image which depicts or promotes drug or alcohol use, violence, weapons, or gang membership. All clothing should be clean. All shirts must be neatly tucked in. Participants shall not wear sweatpants, yoga pants, short shorts, skirts or dresses (defined as more than four inches above the knee), or tops that show the midriff.

You are prohibited from wearing hats, hoodies, sunglasses, or bandanas in the courtroom. Head coverings will only be permitted for religious reasons.

If you are coming to court straight from work where you may become dirty, you are expected to bring a change of clothes with you so that you may change in the bathroom ahead of the time for court.

You are expected to maintain adequate hygiene, including regular bathing, use of deodorant, and attention to dental needs.

If you appear in court in a condition that is deemed inappropriate, you will be asked to change.

Participation

While in court, you are expected to participate. This will mean responding to questions and being truthful about your experiences.

Cell phones and other electronic devices.

During court, your cell phone and any other electronic device should be off. Court staff will collect your cell phone and electronic device prior to the beginning of court. You will not be allowed to keep your

cell phone or electronic device on your person during the court review unless you have received prior permission from a TAC Team Member. If your cell phone goes off during court, it will be taken by court staff. If you are seen using any electronic device, court staff will also take it.

Behavior during court

While court is in session, you are required to pay attention to what is going on even if you are not standing before the Court for your specific court review. This means that you should not be doing anything other than listening and responding if spoken to. Once court begins, conversations with anyone other than court staff are not permitted.

When a participant is given praise or an incentive by the Court, you may (and should) encourage that participant with applause.

Participants should use the restroom prior to coming into the courtroom for the court review. Participants should only leave the court review for emergency situations and only after obtaining permission from a TAC Team Member.

Rules for Treatment and Case Management

Like court appearances, your participation in treatment and case management are key factors in ensuring your success.

The treatment is designed to address mental health issues and responsible decision making. Depending on your specific challenges, you may also be required to attend substance abuse counseling, self-help groups (AA, NA, SOS, etc.).

The treatment will consist of both group sessions and individual sessions. It will also include appointments with a physician to prescribe and monitor the effectiveness of medication. While the frequency of treatment will vary based on phase progression and individual needs of the participant, in the first two phases of the program expect to be attending some treatment, case management, or court, at least three to four days a week.

Because treatment in this program is an extension of the Court, the following rules will apply:

Tardiness

You are required to be **ON TIME** for **ALL** activities associated with this program, which includes any treatment and case management sessions. The following excuses, which are not intended to be exhaustive, are **NOT ACCEPTABLE** for being late to any activity associated with the Treatment Accountability Court program: drug testing, over-sleeping, car troubles, illness (except when excused by a physician), and failure to secure transportation ahead of time. If you are more than 15 minutes late for any activity, you will be sanctioned as if you missed that activity. Habitual tardiness may result in more significant action being taken by the Court, including termination.

Absences

You are expected to show up for **EACH ACTIVITY** you are required to attend. The following excuses, which are not intended to be exhaustive, are **NOT ACCEPTABLE** for missing a required activity: car trouble, over-sleeping, illness (except when excused by a physician), failure to secure transportation, and work conflicts. If a real emergency does arise, the you are to contact both the Coordinator and/or the Case Manager and the Treatment Provider for that particular activity to let them know about the situation so he or she may, if appropriate, excuse you from the activity. This contact should happen no less than three (3) hours ahead of the activity except in circumstances where such notice is not possible. Unless excused, failure to attend any activity will result in a sanction and multiple missed activities will result in more significant actions being taken by the Court, including termination.

Because individual counseling is done on an appointment basis, if you fail to show up for any individual session without adequate notice to the counselor, you will be required to pay the fee individual session.

Being Distracted or Being a Distraction

You are expected to be focused, attentive, and respectful when participating in any activity associated with the Treatment Accountability Court program. This includes groups, individual counseling, case management and court. Therefore, you should avoid playing with your phone, having side conversations, acting disruptive or engaging in any other activity which would adversely impact other's ability to meaningfully participate. If you are unable to abide by this rule, you may be asked to leave and will be sanctioned as if you missed that activity.

Failing to be Prepared

Often, you will be asked to do homework or other tasks in preparation for an activity associated with this program, including group counseling. The expectation is that this work will be done **PRIOR** to attendance at the activity. Failure to be prepared will result in a sanction and failure to be prepared on a consistent basis may result in heightened sanctions.

Breaks

At the direction of the person conducting a group meeting, you may be allowed a break. However, this break will be limited to five minutes and consistent failure to return from break in a timely manner will be sanctioned as if the participant was late for group.

Meaningful Participation

Everyone that participates in this program has something to offer to their fellow participants. However, that requires you to take these activities seriously and put thought into your interactions with the group leader and other participants. Consistent failure to participate in any program activity actively and respectfully will be addressed in court.

Sanctions, Incentives and Termination from the Program

Incentives

Incentives are used to recognize and reward participation and progress. The program's desire is to focus on the positive strides you are making. Upon the recommendation of the Team, you may be given incentives for compliant behavior. Some incentives may include but are not limited to verbal praise, recognition, gift certificates, and food items. You can also suggest to the treatment provider and the Coordinator and/or the Case Manager any additional ways that we can motivate you in this program.

Sanctions

The Presiding Judge may impose sanctions if you violate the rules and regulations of the program. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, community service, increased program requirements, homework assignments, incarceration, and termination from the program. The Judge reserves the right to impose sanctions on a case-by-case basis, appropriate to your particular program violation. Participants should not expect all sanctions for similar violations to be the same for all participants.

Termination

Continued participation in this program requires you to follow the program's rules. You will be considered out of compliance if, among other violations, you are unable to remain clean and sober; if you fail to attend and participate in treatment sessions; if you make threats of violence against peers; if you alter or tamper with drug screens; if you commit a new criminal offense; if you fail to take medications as prescribed; if you accumulate a number of program violations; if you are absent from the program for more than thirty (30) days, or if you fail to cooperate with the case manager or treatment provider. Violence or threats of violence against any Team Member or the court staff will result in automatic termination.

The Team wants you to succeed in this program, and we consider termination a last resort. Because of this, the Team will address serious concerns by increased monitoring. However, because the program has limited resources to be spent on participants who are not committed to or capable of meeting the goals of the program, if increased monitoring is not effective in bringing you into compliance, you will be considered for termination from the program.

Inclement Weather Policy

Closure

In the event the Justice Center is closed due to inclement weather, the lab will also be closed, and participants will be unable to test. If such a closure happens, each participant is required to report to the lab the first day that the Justice Center reopens between the normal testing hours (between 6:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.) The burden will be on each participant to know when the Justice Center is open and closed due to inclement weather. Failing to report for this screen will be considered a missed test and sanctioned accordingly.

Delayed Opening

In the event the Justice Center delays opening, the lab will also delay opening. If a participant is called to test the day on which a delayed opening occurs, they must report to the lab within four hours of the lab opening in order to be tested.

Groups

In the event the Justice Center is closed due to inclement weather, any group that meets in the Justice Center will be cancelled. Any group that meets outside of the Justice Center will be cancelled at the direction of the person conducting that particular group.