

HOWARD COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY CHECK LIST

IS YOUR CLIENT APPROPRIATE FOR DRUG COURT?

1. Does your client have a severe substance abuse or addiction problem?
2. Does your client have pending NON-VIOLENT felony charge/s?

If you answered **YES** to the above questions, your client may be eligible for The Howard County Adult Drug Court Program.

PROCEDURE TO HAVE THE CASE REVIEWED FOR DRUG COURT

Step One: Provide the Defendant's name and cause number to Laura Stiner/Superior Court I, at which time you will be provided Consent for Release of Information Form. Obtain your client's signature, and return the signed form to Laura Stiner/Superior Court I. The Court will notify the Prosecuting Attorney of the Defendant's candidacy.

Step Two: If Prosecutor has approved, after the Consent Form is returned, the Defendant will be referred for a Substance Abuse Assessment. If the Defendant is not in jail, the Defendant will be responsible for going to the Alcohol and Drug Program Office in the basement of the Courthouse, **IN PERSON**, to schedule the assessment. If the Defendant is in jail, the assessment will be arranged by A & D and take place at the jail. At the assessment, the Defendant will be provided with a copy of the Participant Manual. It is the **RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DEFENDANT** to read the Participant Manual.

Step Three: Once the Substance Abuse Assessment is submitted and reviewed, the client may then be referred for a Clinical Evaluation. The Defendant will be responsible for going to the referred Treatment Provider **IN PERSON**, to schedule the Clinical Evaluation. If the Defendant is in jail, the evaluation will be arranged by the Treatment Provider who will go to the jail to do the evaluation.

Step Four: Upon completion and filing of the Clinical Evaluation, the Defendant's case will be reviewed, and the Drug Court team will vote on whether or not to invite the Defendant to participate in the Drug Court Program.

LAST:

If your client is accepted into the program, a plea date will be set (usually on Wednesday morning) and the client will begin the first phase of the program. After the plea, counsel will not be required to attend court.

The Drug Court Team may deem the Defendant ineligible at **ANY** time during the assessment process. If the Defendant is not eligible, counsel will be notified and the case will proceed as usual.

You may monitor your client's progress by contacting Laura Stiner/Superior Court I or by attending a Drug Court session any Wednesday at 11:00 A.M.