

CHANGE  
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# Adult Drug Court

Sobriety  
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## How Drug Court Works

The Court will offer eligible participants an opportunity to participate in **Pinellas County Adult Drug Court**. Participants who elect to contest their criminal charge or refuse drug treatment can opt out of Adult Drug Court - the participant's case is then transferred to their original felony division for adjudication.

Participants who are interested in Adult Drug Court and/or drug treatment are first referred to complete a Substance Abuse Assessment / Evaluation by a licensed treatment provider, who will make a treatment recommendation to the Court. These treatment recommendations can range from basic outpatient treatment to residential/inpatient treatment.

Participants who accept admission into Adult Drug Court after receiving their evaluation results are ordered to the appropriate outpatient or residential treatment program as determined by the Court based on the results of their evaluation. Participants are either ordered to treatment through Pre-Trial Intervention, offered by the State Attorney's office, or by entering a plea for a Withhold of Adjudication. See more information below.

During their time in Adult Drug Court, participants are required to obtain and maintain lawful employment. Persons who are disabled or full time students may request an employment exemption. The Court may also require a participant to obtain a valid driver's license, enroll in GED classes, attend sober support meetings and/or complete community service hours as part of completing their treatment program.

## Outpatient Treatment Levels

- **OP2** - Basic Outpatient Program. Minimum of 12 weeks (24 sessions).
- **OP3** - Intensive Outpatient Program. Minimum of 12 weeks (48 sessions).

## Residential Treatment Levels

- **Residential** - 8 to 18 months Residential treatment followed by Aftercare.
- **Veteran's Treatment** - Treatment for eligible military members and family.

## Offered Federal Grant Programs

Adult Drug Court offers Federal-funded grant programs that target specific populations such as Veterans, those afflicted with specific drug addictions, and victims of trauma. *Please request more information from the Court or your attorney as program availability is subject to change due to changes in funding.*

Participants are encouraged to establish and maintain a support group to assist them after they have completed treatment.

## Strategy: Rewards and Sanctions

Frequent Judicial Reviews (or hearings) enable the Court and Drug Court team to closely monitor a participant's progress in treatment and the results of drug screening. Participants report monthly to the Drug Court Judge with input on progress from treatment providers and DOC officers. Based on success or setbacks, the Drug Court Judge either *rewards* compliance or *sanctions* non-compliance.

Rewards may include, but are not limited to:

- acknowledgement in open court,
- earning permission to travel out of the county or out of the state,
- less frequent court appearances,
- early termination of supervision
- successful completion of Drug Court.

Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- court reprimand,
- increased drug testing,
- extension in treatment,
- more frequent court appearances,
- added special conditions to probation, incarceration, and/or
- removal from Drug Court.

## Eligibility Criteria

Eligibility for Adult Drug Court is determined at the time of filing of an Information by the State Attorney.

### Pre-Trial Intervention

Application and acceptance into and/or removal from the **Pre-Trial Intervention** program are at the sole discretion of the State Attorney. If the defendant's application is rejected or the defendant is removed from PTI, the defendant may elect to enter a plea to the charge and remain in Drug court or transfer the case to another felony division for adjudication.

## Post-Plea

Those not eligible for **Pre-Trial Intervention** may qualify for Drug Court probation with the following charges:

- Drug Possession (893.13 Florida Statutes) excluding trafficking amounts
- Purchase of Drugs
- Property crimes or other non-violent offenses where the victim agrees and other third degree felonies where the facts indicate the offense was drug related or influenced.

General disqualifiers for admission into Drug Court include:

- habitual/violent felony offenders violent
- persons previously convicted of a violent felony offense
- persons convicted, regardless of adjudication, of arson;
- persons in violation of conditions of controlled release or parole;
- current charge(s) that have resulted in serious personal injury to victim(s);
- those with history of sales of controlled substance indicating profiteering.

## Adult Drug Court

The cooperative effort known as Pinellas County Adult Drug Court is a hallmark of the Sixth Judicial Circuit. It is a court-supervised, comprehensive drug treatment court for non-violent felony defendants. This is a voluntary program that involves frequent appearances before the Drug Court Judge, substance abuse treatment and frequent, random drug testing.

Successful completion of the Adult Drug Court treatment plan will result in the dismissal of charges against defendants entering the program through Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI).

For persons entering the program as a condition of probation (Post-Plea), successful completion may result in adjudication being withheld and/or a reduced length of probation.

All participants are required to make frequent court appearances, known as Judicial Reviews. Participants will appear before the Drug Court Judge every 30 to 45 days.

Drug Court is a 24 month program. After one year, persons who have completed treatment and remain drug free, and complete all conditions of their PTI or probation may petition the court for early termination.

## Administrative Office of the Courts Pinellas County Adult Drug Court

### A Community Partnership

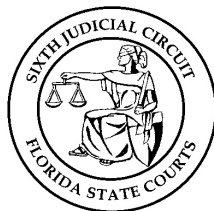
- Sixth Judicial Circuit
- State Attorney's Office
- Public Defender's Office
- Pinellas County Sheriff's Office
- Florida Dept. of Corrections
- Local law enforcement agencies
- Community-based providers
- Concerned citizens

For additional information about the  
Pinellas County Adult Drug Court,  
call or write:

Administrative Office of the Courts  
Adult Drug Court Program  
14250 49<sup>th</sup> Street North, Room 4D  
Clearwater, FL 33762

Phone: (727) 453-7401  
Fax: (727) 464-6506

[www.jud6.org/ContactInformation/  
AdultDrugCourt.html](http://www.jud6.org/ContactInformation/AdultDrugCourt.html)



## Pinellas County Adult Drug Court



## Participant Information Brochure