



Court of Common Pleas
Nineteenth Judicial District of Pennsylvania
York County Judicial Center
45 North George Street
York, Pennsylvania 17401

Chambers of
Craig T. Trebilcock, Judge

December 11, 2017

RE: Announcement of Heroin Opioid Treatment Court (HOT-C) and revisions to the legacy Drug Court.

Dear Drug Court Stakeholders:

The York County Drug Treatment Court is currently in the process of transitioning to a Heroin/ Opioid Treatment Court. In order to help address the Opioid epidemic in York County, the Court feels the need to prioritize these cases. Therefore, effective January 1, 2018, only individuals with an addiction to opioids will be accepted into the Court. Those currently in the program or pending acceptance into the program will be allowed to enter and complete the program. This change does not impact any other Treatment Court (DUI, Mental Health, Veterans or the Juvenile Courts).

As the HOT-C is being staffed by the same personnel as the legacy drug court, a separate announcement will be made in early 2018 on the acceptance of new applications.

Other initiatives to improve the rehabilitative impact of the Court are currently under consideration and will be announced and implemented as resources permit.

Why is Drug Treatment Court focusing on opioids/heroin? Nationally we are in the middle of an opioid/heroin crisis. York County has specifically seen the deadly effects of this epidemic. We must focus our finite Drug Treatment Court resources at this time to fight this community affliction.

In the future, will Drug Treatment Court allow applicants with addictions to non-opioid/heroin drugs? Yes, the future plan for Drug Treatment Court is to obtain additional resources to allow for expansion of the Court. This will also allow individuals with non-opioid/heroin drug issues to apply for Drug Treatment Court. Efforts are actively under way to obtain those resources and expand Drug Treatment Court within 2018.

Are there any other changes being made to eligibility requirements for Drug Treatment Court in the near future? No, all other eligibility requirements remain the same. Drug Treatment Court remains committed to focusing on high risk/high need individuals in accordance with the governing best practices.

What role does victim input play concerning Drug Treatment Court eligibility? The District Attorney's Office seeks input from victims of crime in determining whether an individual will be eligible for Drug Treatment Court. The position of a crime victim is strongly considered and balanced with all factors for consideration regarding the eligibility of an individual for Drug Treatment Court. All rights afforded to victims pursuant to Title 18 under the Crime Victims Act, 18 P.S. § 11.101, shall be strictly honored and enforced.

Does Drug Treatment Court utilize Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)? Drug Treatment Court is presently developing an MAT program for 2018. Currently, Drug Treatment Court does employ use of opioid antagonists like extended-release naltrexone.

Other Frequently Asked Questions:

What happens to my court costs and fines? Court costs and fines are lowered if a client is in DTC, except for DUI cases, the client will only be charged the mandatory fines.

Will my driver's license be suspended? When a client pleads into DTC and their charges hold a possible suspension their license will not be immediately suspended unless the case involves a DUI. If the client successfully completes the DTC program, including not obtaining new charges and paying all court costs and fines, their charges will be reduced and will typically not involve a license suspension on the reduced charge. If a client does not complete but is discharged and proceeds to sentencing then the license will be suspended if a suspension is part of the original charge.

- i.e. PWID – if a client successfully completes the charge will be reduced to a possession of paraphernalia – no license suspension
- PWID – if a client is discharged and proceeds to sentencing there will be a license suspension

How does the case reduction of charges work? New cases, not PV's, pled into DTC are eligible for reduction upon successful completion of DTC, except any case involving a DUI and the accompanying charges with that DUI case even if it is non-dui related. New charges are eligible for reduction 6 months after graduation as long as all court costs, fines, etc. are paid off and the client has not incurred any new charges above a summary offense. Otherwise when the cases are paid off as long as there are no new charges incurred the new cases that were pled into DTC will be reduced, felonies reduced to misdemeanors and misdemeanors and summaries dismissed.

- i.e. PWID - upon payment of all and no new charges will be reduced to a possession of paraphernalia, DUS along with a non-dui case will be dismissed
- Theft from a motor vehicle with \$30,000 restitution – will be reduced, no matter the amount of time elapsed, as long as everything is paid in full and no new charges incurred since graduation.

What happens to my PV's? PV's are pled into DTC and upon graduation all PV's are closed with the exception of DUI's.

Does the Public Defender's Office represent me once I plead in with a private attorney?

- No. If a private attorney pleads a client into DTC they remain that client's attorney unless they formally withdraw from the case(s).
- If conflict counsel pleads a client into DTC they cannot withdraw from the case and have the Public Defender's Office pick up the case, as there was a conflict with that client within the PD's office.

Please address policy questions to the York Probation Department at AJBillett-Barclay@YorkCountyPA.Gov or to the District Attorney's Office at TJBarker@YorkCountyPA.Gov.

Sincerely yours,


Craig T. Trebilcock, Judge
York County Court of Common Pleas
Heroin Opioid Treatment Court