

WELLNESS COURT

PROMOTING MENTAL, EMOTIONAL &
PHYSICAL WELL-BEING OF ALL PARTICIPANTS

LORAIN COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

Participant Handbook

LORAIN COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

Wellness Mental Health Court

LORAIN COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

WELLNESS COURT

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Welcome to the Wellness Court

This Handbook has been created to assist you in succeeding in the Lorain County Wellness Court.

You have been accepted into the Lorain County Wellness Court Program. Congratulations! This program is designed to provide you with all the necessary TOOLS to take an active role in your mental health RECOVERY. A person's mental illness can lead to instability, interactions with law enforcement and courts, hospitalization, jail visits and arrests – this program will help you to eliminate these things from your life! You will be provided with many resources and support which will assist you in completing this program. The goal is to provide you with the tools you will need to manage your life and your mental health. You will work with a dedicated team of professionals to stabilize your symptoms, work on skills to successfully stay out of the criminal justice system, and ultimately improve your life!

Remember: your diagnosis **DOES NOT** define who you are!

This Handbook details the goals and objectives of the Wellness Court, and it is written with the purpose of helping you to successfully complete the program requirements. The Handbook is also designed to answer any questions you may have regarding the Wellness Court Treatment Team's expectations of you while you are in the Program. Last, the Handbook identifies your Wellness Court Treatment Team—the individuals who will help you during the program.

This is YOUR Handbook, so please, read it carefully, take notes in it, and keep it in a safe place!

NOW, Let's get started!

Program Goals and Objectives

The Wellness Court is a court-supervised, intensive case management program for individuals who have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness that has contributed to being involved in the criminal justice system. The goal of the program is to help you develop a strong **mental health recovery plan** which can lead to a stable and law-abiding life.

If you choose to participate in the program, you will be required to do the following:

- ✓ Work with a Treatment Team that will help you throughout the program and keep track of your progress;
- ✓ Appear before the Wellness Court Judge at court hearings;
- ✓ Complete (successfully) the four phases of the program; and
- ✓ Stay clean.

You may be wondering, who will be on your Treatment Team....

YOUR TEAM:

- You
- Judge
- Program Manager
- Community Support Services Staff Member
- Prosecutor
- Defense Attorney
- Probation Officer
- Other Providers

You are an important person on your Team! Your success in your recovery is directly related to your performance in the program, and you will be expected to give an account

of your progress during each court session.

The program consists of four phases which must be *completed successfully prior* to graduation. The Wellness Court Program typically takes a minimum of twelve (12) months to complete; however, the recovery process is different for everyone—it is possible the program could take longer than twelve months to complete.

Success is Best!

Remember: Success is *progress in the program and taking responsibility* for your mental health recovery. Sometimes this takes time!

The Process

The program starts with a referral. Referrals can be made by a judge, probation officer, case manager, police officer, pre-trial services, jail staff, attorney or prosecutor. Referrals can also be made at any time: pre-plea, post conviction, post incarceration or as a result of a probation or community control violation.

After a referral is made, the next step is to find out if you are eligible. You will be screened or assessed to find out if you are eligible. Then the Court and coordinator will decide if you can enter the program. If you are accepted into the program, you will appear before the Wellness Court judge to:

- ✓ Give your plea;
- ✓ Complete the program paperwork; and
- ✓ Agree to participate in the program.

The judge will then reserve a sentence of prison or incarceration and you will enter the program. You will be assigned a case worker and treatment providers who will help you succeed in the program. A court date will be scheduled for you to return to court to check on your progress in the program.

Program Eligibility

Before being accepted into Wellness Court, you must meet clinical and legal criteria. Keep in mind, even if you are found eligible, that does NOT create a right to participate in the Wellness Court.

IF YOU are not eligible for the program, fail to appear for your assessment, or otherwise fail to comply prior to acceptance, your case will proceed in front of the judge who was originally assigned to your case.

Clinical Criteria:

- ❖ You must have been diagnosed with a serious mental illness as diagnosed by a licensed provider and described in the most current edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.
- ❖ You must have the developmental ability as determined by a licensed provider to understand the expectations of the Wellness Court and voluntarily enter into the Wellness Court.
- ❖ Determination by a licensed clinician that You would benefit from participation in the Wellness Court.

In order to determine your clinical eligibility for the program, you will be assessed by a properly licensed and trained professional to discuss your current symptoms and your history of treatment.

As a result, you are required to sign any and all Releases of Information or Exchanges of Information so that all treatment providers can provide information to the members of your Treatment Team. This applies to any and all physicians or doctors who provide care (or have provided care) to you. These releases also allow all of your care providers and

team members to stay updated on your performance (including your attendance, progress, prognosis and participation) in the program.

If any Release of Information and/or Exchange of Information is revoked or destroyed, you may be immediately terminated from the program.

Legal Criteria:

- ❖ You are a Lorain County resident.
- ❖ You are charged with an eligible offense.
- ❖ Your case may be accepted at multiple points during the judicial process including: Pre-Plea, Sentencing, Post-Conviction, or Judicial Release.
- ❖ You must plead **guilty** prior to being accepted into the Wellness Court.

You may be INELIGIBLE for Wellness Court if any of the following apply:

- ❖ You are charged with any sex offense or arson.
- ❖ You are charged with an offense involving a child victim.
- ❖ You have a history of serious or repetitive violence.
- ❖ You are Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity (NGRI) or Incompetent to Stand Trial.
- ❖ You have a history of sex offenses or child victim offenses.
- ❖ You have a history of offenses which were not driven by mental illness.
- ❖ You pose a significant risk of harm to the Wellness Court staff.

Once the clinical and legal criteria are met, the Wellness Court staff will discuss whether you should be placed into the program, and the judge will make the final decision.

Getting started: What do I do now?

Your participation in the program is **voluntary**. If you are found to be eligible for the program and you wish to be accepted, you will appear before the Wellness Court Judge.

At the court appearance, you must do the following:

1. Acknowledge your guilty plea to the Indictment or Community Control Violations.

In order to participate in Wellness Court, you must enter a guilty plea. If you are referred due to a community control violation, you must enter a guilty plea to the violations prior to admittance. You must do this in open court and on the record. You will be sentenced, which will then be **reserved** in order to provide you with the necessary time to complete the Wellness Court Program.

2. Sign the Participation Agreement.

The Participation Agreement is a contract between you and the Wellness Court. You must sign a copy of the Agreement before being accepted into Wellness Court. Before signing, your attorney will review with you each and every part of the Participation Agreement to make sure you understand it. If you have any questions about the Agreement, you may **ask your attorney** to help explain it. Another copy is attached to this Handbook so you may refer to it as you progress through Wellness Court.

*A hallmark of your success in the Program is **personal accountability**. You must take responsibility for your successes and also your failures.*

Program Expectations: What are they?

After you enter a plea of guilty and are officially accepted into the program, you will meet with your assigned Probation Officer. This Probation Officer will tell you of your next Status Review Hearing. Your Probation Officer will also explain the expectations of the program and the consequences if you don't follow through with the program.

You will also meet with a designated case manager. Together, you will complete all the paperwork to enroll in treatment (including signing all additional Releases of Information). You and your case worker will also create an individualized treatment plan that is unique to you and your needs.

While in the program, your Treatment Team will expect you to understand and follow your treatment plan. Your Treatment Team will follow your progress. Your Treatment Team will discuss your progress with the Wellness Court Judge in team meetings which will be held prior to court. You will regularly appear in court before the Wellness Court Judge to discuss your progress.

To help you succeed in Wellness Court, your Treatment Team will follow your progress in the program and suggest rewards and/or incentives. If you are struggling and not complying with the rules of the program, your Treatment Team may also suggest sanctions. Examples of rewards and sanctions will be discussed later in this handbook.

The Treatment Team will use the following to monitor your progress in the program:

- Program Phases
- Program Rule
- Incentives and Graduated Sanctions



Program Phases

When you progress in the program, you will move from one phase to the next.

REMEMBER: YOUR PROGRESS THROUGH EACH PHASE IS RELATED TO YOUR PERFORMANCE, NOT PRESET TIMELINES.

WELLNESS COURT IS DIVIDED INTO FOUR PHASES.

PHASE I

The Orientation Phase:

The goal of this phase is to help you understand all aspects of the Wellness Court. This phase orients you to the expectations and requirements of the Wellness Court. This phase will also include a series of assessments to determine your individual needs, and your Treatment Plan will be developed.

During this phase, you will be expected to:

- Sign all releases of information required.
- Be assessed for different needs – housing, educational, employment, mental health, and substance abuse.
- Help create your treatment plan and plan for medication compliance.
- Meet with services providers and address any transportation issues.
- Meet with your case manager.
- Attend treatment.
- Meet with your probation officer.
- Determine frequency of random drug and alcohol screenings.
- Appear weekly before the Judge at status review hearings.
- Follow all rules of the Wellness Court, probation, and the law.

Your needs are unique to you – no two treatment plans are the same. The goal of this phase is to ensure that you understand all parts of the program. If you do not understand something, ask a question – it is important that you understand what is expected of you.

PHASE II

The Stabilization Phase:

The primary goal of this phase is to stabilize you and attain consistent compliance with the requirements of the Wellness Court.

During this phase, you will be expected to:

- Follow through with treatment plan.
- Attend all treatment services, counseling and/or group therapy sessions.
- Meet all court obligations, including developing a plan for payment of fines, costs, fees and restitution, if applicable.
- Continue meeting with Case Manager and Probation Officer as required.
- Be compliant with your medications.
- Do not use drugs or alcohol.
- Submit to all random drug and alcohol screenings as required.
- Appear before the Judge at review hearings at least twice monthly.
- Abide by all rules of the Wellness Court, probation, and the law.

During Phase II, you will be connected with numerous services to help you lead a psychiatrically stable and crime-free life.

PHASE III

The Community Reintegration:

After obtaining stability in the previous phase, you may progress to the Community Reintegration Phase. This phase is intended to address the issues that compelled your involvement in the criminal justice system.

During this phase, you will be expected to:

- Ensure probation requirements are met.
- Follow through with treatment plan.
- Attend all treatment services, counseling and/or group therapy sessions.

- Continue meeting with Case Manager and Probation Officer as required.
- Be compliant with your medications.
- Do not use drugs or alcohol.
- Submit to all random drug and alcohol screenings as required.
- Identify long-term goals and implementation plan.
- Begin solidifying support network and recovery support system.
- Improve familial relationships.
- Begin to develop plans for employment, education, and social activities.
- Make referrals to ancillary services not yet addressed.
- Maintain stable housing and discuss permanent housing options.
- Appear before the Judge at review hearings at least once monthly.
- Abide by all rules of the Wellness Court, probation, and the law.

Before completing Phase III, it is necessary that you demonstrate improved relationships, financial stability, continued sobriety, medication compliance and overall progress in the program.

PHASE IV

The Maintenance Phase:

This phase is focused on continued structure and discipline as developed throughout the Wellness Court. To arrive at this phase, you must have successfully complied with your psychiatric treatment requirements, obtained stable housing, actively pursued employment and/or volunteering, participated in educational opportunities, developed a support system, abstained from using illegal substances, and avoided any additional involvement with the criminal justice system.

While in the Maintenance Phase, you will be expected to:

- Continue meeting with Case Manager and Probation Officer as required.
- Be compliant with your medications.
- Do not use drugs or alcohol.

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- Submit to all random drug and alcohol screenings as required.
- Complete probation obligations, including payment of financial obligations.
- Show stability in housing, income, and support activities.
- Develop a plan for future success.
- Prepare for graduation.
- Appear before the judge at review hearings at least every six weeks.
- Abide by all rules of the Wellness Court, probation, and the law.

This phase focuses on continued structure and discipline developed throughout the program.

THE TREATMENT TEAM WILL CONSIDER ALL OF THE FOLLOWING BEFORE SUGGESTING GRADUATION:

- ✓ Have you completed your community service hours?
- ✓ Have you stayed clean from drugs and alcohol, (negative urine drug screens for a substantial period of time)?
- ✓ Have you attended your psychiatric appointments?
- ✓ Have you consistently taken your medication?
- ✓ Are you able to identify and manage your symptoms?
- ✓ Are your thoughts and attitude positive?
- ✓ Do you have stable employment or income?
- ✓ Have you taken responsibility for behavior?
- ✓ Can you identify and eliminate criminal thinking patterns?
- ✓ Have you paid your fines, court costs, restitution, supervision fees and/or treatment costs?
- ✓ Have you completed a **future** Treatment Plan to continue after completing Wellness Court?
- ✓ Have you created a relapse prevention plan?
- ✓ Have you created a vocational and/or educational plan?
- ✓ Do you have any new arrests or convictions?
- ✓ Can you show stability in the community?

BEFORE BEING CONSIDERED FOR GRADUATION, YOU MUST:

- Complete an application for graduation.
- Write an essay stating the reasons you feel you should be considered for graduation.
- Submit a Future Treatment Plan.

After completing the four phases of the program, you may submit an application for graduation.

Then:

1. The Treatment Team will discuss your eligibility.
2. If the Treatment Team is in agreement, you will then be nominated for graduation.
3. The Wellness Court Judge will make a final determination as to your graduation.

GRADUATION, WHAT WILL THE TEAM CONSIDER?

- ❖ Any Treatment Team member may nominate a participant for graduation.
- ❖ Treatment Team will discuss your progress in the Program.
- ❖ Your application, essay and future treatment plan will be reviewed.
- ❖ Judge makes the final decision if you will graduate.

If approved for graduation, a **graduation ceremony** will be scheduled. You are welcome to invite family, friends, supporters, sponsors, co-workers and treatment providers to your graduation. Other participants of the Wellness Court are also encouraged to attend. Graduation is a time to recognize your success, and it is a time to celebrate!

Program Rules

While in the program, you will be expected to follow certain rules:

1. Stay in contact with your probation officer, case manager and all treatment providers, especially if you move or change phone numbers.
2. Attend court hearings as required.
3. Provide paperwork to your case worker—including attendance at meetings, therapy, group, counseling and appointments.
4. Stay clean of drugs and alcohol and submit urine screens as instructed.
5. Comply with medication and report any and all prescribed medications. Also, provide verification if requested and sign appropriate Release of Information forms.
6. Attend meetings, group or individual counseling, and/or therapy sessions.
7. Be on time, dressed appropriately, clean, sober and courteous at hearings, meetings and all appointments.
8. Do not associate with persons who abuse drugs and/or alcohol.
9. Do not visit places where alcoholic beverages are served for consumption.
10. Do not leave the State of Ohio without permission.
11. Follow your treatment plan.

IF YOU FOLLOW THE ABOVE RULES, IT CAN LEAD TO INCENTIVES AND REWARDS, IF YOU DON'T, THERE MAY BE SANCTIONS.

REMAINING DRUG AND ALCOHOL FREE IS A RULE YOU MUST FOLLOW

Drug & Alcohol Testing: While you are in the Program, you are expected to be drug and alcohol free and an individualized testing plan will be created for you. You shall submit to regular, random and observed alcohol and drug screens while in Wellness Court.

Upon entering the program, a participant will be interviewed and questioned about all recent drug and/or alcohol use, including the date and approximate time of use, the

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amount and type of substance used, method of ingestion, and any other relevant information required by staff. You will be required to sign a release of information allowing the testing agency to share all test results with the Wellness Court Treatment Team. When first entering the program, you will submit a full screen urine sample to establish a baseline for the presence of drug metabolites in your system. You will NOT be sanctioned for the results of this initial urinalysis. But, if you relapse and test positive for drugs or alcohol, you may receive increased treatment, or a sanction determined by the Wellness Court Judge.

All urine screens will be collected in accordance with the Lorain County Adult Probation Department Policies and Procedures, and participants will be observed by a staff member when submitting the tests. Each sample will be collected by a staff member and must register the correct temperature.

Failing to submit a screen, refusing to submit a screen, tampering with or diluting a screen, and/or submitting another individual's screen **shall all be deemed as positive** and may result in a sanction up to the Judge's discretion. Urine drug screen confirmation tests shall be available for those participants who deny usage, provided the participant pays for the confirmation test. If the specimen is confirmed as negative, the confirmation test fee shall be waived.

If you are taking a medication which might result in a positive urine screen, you must provide a written letter to the court from the physician outlining: 1) acknowledgement of your participation in the Wellness Court program, and 2) an analysis of the need for the medication balanced against the possible risks. Unless this information is provided to the Court, any positive urine screen resulting from a prescribed medication will result in sanctions.

Court Hearings: You are expected to be on time, dressed appropriately and ready for all court/status review hearings. At these hearings you will be expected to speak directly to the judge and discuss your goals, accomplishments, and challenges while in the program.

FAILURE TO SHOW FOR A SCHEDULED COURT HEARING MAY RESULT IN THE ISSUANCE OF A BENCH WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST OR OTHER SANCTION.

You will be given a calendar when you are accepted into the program. It is required that you keep it up to date and maintained, and you may be asked to show it to the Judge during your court hearings.

You are welcome to bring family, friends, payee, sponsors and/or bosses to your court hearings. Emotional and moral support from others is a very important part of your recovery. Your attorney is also welcome to attend court hearings and Treatment Team meetings but only as they relate to you.

Cost: While there is no fee required to be accepted into the program, there may be costs which will be charged against you, such as:

- A Fine
- Court Costs
- Supervision Fees
- Restitution – if applicable
- Fees associated with electronic monitoring, house arrest, SCRAM, GPS
- Fees associated with dropping urine screens

Upon successful completion of the program, the judge has the discretion to waive your fines, court costs and/or supervision fees. Restitution cannot, under any circumstances, be waived.

Your Rights: You have certain rights while you are participating in the Wellness Court.

You have the right to:

- ✓ Participate voluntarily.
- ✓ Have all legal consequences explained to you by your attorney prior to entering the program.
- ✓ Participate in developing and carrying out your treatment plan.
- ✓ Have an attorney represent you at team meetings and during court appearances.
- ✓ Available treatment services throughout the program.

This list of rights is not exhaustive. Any questions about additional rights should be directed to your attorney, case worker or probation officer.

Incentives and Sanctions

While in the Program, you must comply with all rules and program expectations. Rewards and sanctions may be used to give you encouragement while in the program. If you do not follow the rules, the Treatment Team may suggest a sanction; meanwhile, if you are progressing positively in the program, the Treatment Team may suggest a reward or incentive.

REWARDS AND INCENTIVES:

Rewards and incentives are offered to those who are doing well in the program, and they are individualized according to your achievements and milestones during the program.

Incentives for the Wellness Court may be given for the following types of behaviors:

- ✓ Attending Status Review Hearings as scheduled and on time.
- ✓ Attending required treatment appointments.
- ✓ Maintaining close and productive contact with case management.
- ✓ Reaching individual treatment objectives.

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- ✓ Abstaining from alcohol and drugs, as evidenced by negative alcohol and drug screenings.
- ✓ Securing stable housing.
- ✓ Accomplishing milestones identified by the Treatment Team and according to each participant's individual treatment plan.
- ✓ Advancing through the Wellness Court Phases.

Examples of possible incentives include, but are not limited to the following:

- Encouragement and praise from the Judge.
- Gifts or inspirational items.
- Certificates of accomplishment.
- Encouragement and gifts to increase participation in positive activities.
- Assistance with purchasing necessities, clothes, or household items.
- Gift cards.
- Movement within the Wellness Court or phase advancement.
- Decreasing frequency of Status Review Hearings.
- Decreasing frequency of probation visits.
- Reduction in fines and court costs.
- Increasing or expanding other privileges.

ALL REWARDS ARE SUBJECT TO THE JUDGE'S DISCRETION.

SANCTIONS

Immediate, graduated, and individualized sanctions govern Wellness Court responses to your non-compliance. Graduated sanctions are used to help the participant conform behavior to program requirements. Sanctions are crafted in an individualized and creative manner, as well as in a progressive manner based on the infraction. Sanctions are issued when there is non-compliance with program protocol, probation rules, or the treatment plan.

The following are common types of infractions that may result in the use of sanctions:

- ✓ Failure to attend court appearances and treatment appointments
- ✓ Failure to follow Wellness Court rules.
- ✓ Failure to keep scheduled appointments with probation officer, case manager, or any other treatment team member.
- ✓ Non-compliance with any other requirements of treatment plan.
- ✓ Non-compliance with random alcohol and drug screens or testing positive for alcohol and drugs.
- ✓ Failure to improve troublesome behaviors.
- ✓ Failure to meet employment or vocational goals.
- ✓ Failure to keep other appointments as scheduled, such as those for public benefits, health care benefits, housing assistance, etc.

The following are examples of sanctions that may be utilized by the program:

- Warning and admonishments from the Judge.
- Appearing later on the docket.
- Increasing frequency of alcohol and drug testing.
- Increasing frequency of court appearances.
- Refusing specific requests, such as permission to travel.
- Denying additional or expanded privileges or rescinding privileges previously granted.
- Increasing supervision contacts and monitoring.
- Preparation of essays, reading books, or performing other activities to reflect upon unacceptable behavior.
- Imposition of suspended fines and costs.
- Requiring community service or work programs.
- Electronic monitoring/House arrest.
- Implementing or increasing curfew.
- Requiring an alcohol monitor.
- Brief jail stays.

- Escalating periods of jail or out-of-home placement.
- Filing of community control violation.
- Termination from the Wellness Court.

ALL SANCTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO THE JUDGE'S DISCRETION.

If the Wellness Court Treatment Team is recommending a sanction, you have the right to request that your attorney is present at the Treatment Team Meeting and the Status Review Hearing in which the sanction is addressed.

The Treatment Team

The Wellness Court Treatment Team consists of individuals who will work together to help you achieve the most success while in the program. They will meet regularly and discuss your progress and based on your progress will make recommendations as to rewards, incentives, sanctions, phase movement, successful completion and termination. Your Treatment Team will assist you throughout your time in the Program, and they are committed to helping you achieve success! Your TEAM consists of the following members:

[Fill in the blanks below with the names of your treatment team members.]

Wellness Court Judge: Judge James Miraldi

- Treatment Team leader
- Final decision-making authority regarding admissions, incentives, rewards, sanctions and terminations
- Holds status review hearings to discuss participant progress

Program Coordinator/Probation Officer: _____

- Monitors compliance with supervision plan.

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- Conducts random alcohol and drug tests and reports the results of tests to the treatment team.
- Monitors sanctions.
- Conducts home visits.
- Attends Treatment Team meetings and Status Review Hearings.
- Informs the treatment team whether participant is in compliance with the implemented treatment plan, supervision plan, and court orders.
- During treatment team meetings, provides progress reports and recommendations.
- Conducts the preliminary legal eligibility screening in conjunction with the prosecutor.
- Assists the participant in all phases, including the Orientation Phase.
- Gathers progress reports from treatment and service providers to present to the treatment team.
- Monitors and reports participant non-compliance with sanctions.
- Meets with participants regularly to discuss individualized program goals and progress while the participant is in Wellness Court.
- Participates in discussions regarding incentives, sanctions, phase advancement, successful completion, and termination.

Treatment Case Manager: _____

- Develops treatment plan in accordance with the written policies of this program.
- Provides documentation on a participant's progress in treatment and compliance with treatment plans, including treatment attendance and results of alcohol and drug tests.
- Attends Treatment Team meetings and Status Review Hearings.
- During Treatment Team meetings, gives treatment updates and makes recommendations regarding treatment needs.
- Participates in discussions regarding incentives, sanctions, phase advancement, successful completion and termination.

Prosecutor: _____

- Identifies eligible participants for the specialized docket in accordance with the specialized docket written eligibility criteria.
- Shall communicate with the Program Coordinator/Probation Officer regarding issues related to Intervention in Lieu and legal eligibility for Wellness Court.
- Attends Treatment Team meetings and Status Review Hearings.
- Provides input regarding incentives, sanctions, phase advancement, successful completion, and termination.
- The Wellness Court promotes a non-adversarial approach while recognizing that the prosecutor has a distinct role in pursuing justice, protecting public safety, and protecting victim's rights.

Defense Attorney: _____

- Identifies potentially eligible participants and makes referrals to Wellness Court.
- Attends treatment team meetings and status review hearings.
- Explains rights (including the waiver of rights) to you.
- Provides you with overview of the program requirements and consequences for non-compliance in the program.
- Ensures your constitutional rights are being preserved.

Remember: You are the most important person when it comes to your success in the program. Your Treatment Team is here to help you, but you are the one who must do the work!

Successful Completion:

Successful completion of the program is the goal! Typically, successful completion requires the following:

- ✓ Completing community service hours.
- ✓ Paying all outstanding financial obligations.
- ✓ Demonstrating a period of abstinence from alcohol and drugs.
- ✓ Demonstrating consistent attendance at all meetings, counseling sessions, appointments and treatment.
- ✓ Becoming an active member in your own recovery.
- ✓ Successfully completing all treatment and programming.
- ✓ Displaying a change in thinking, attitudes, beliefs, confidence and self-sufficiency.
- ✓ Establishing medication compliance and a plan to remain compliant.

Once you have demonstrated successful completion of the program, a Treatment Team member may nominate you for graduation. You will then be required to complete an Application for Graduation including an essay portion and a future treatment plan. The Treatment Team will discuss your eligibility for graduation and make a recommendation, and the Judge will have the final decision.

If graduation is recommended and approved by the judge, a graduation ceremony will be scheduled. You will be permitted to invite friends, family and others to attend the ceremony. Other participants in the program are also welcome to attend and celebrate.

Termination: What does it mean?

There are two (2) different ways you can be terminated from the Wellness Court:

Unsuccessful Termination:

An unsuccessful termination occurs if you are found to be in non-compliance with the terms and conditions of the program. Typically, this happens when there is a probation or community control violation for:

- ✓ continued non-compliance with program rules;
- ✓ failure to comply with treatment;
- ✓ new criminal conviction; and/or
- ✓ continued use of illegal substances.

Before you can be unsuccessfully terminated from the Wellness Court, a hearing before the Wellness Court Judge will be held to determine if you violated the terms and conditions of the program. At that time, your probation/community control may be revoked, and other sanctions will be imposed which may include the imposition of the reserved sentence.

Neutral Discharge:

The following actions or events may lead to neutral discharge from the Wellness Court:

- ✓ A serious medical condition resulting in your inability to participate in the Wellness Court and adhere to the requirements of the Wellness Court.
- ✓ A serious mental health condition resulting in your inability to comply with the requirements of the Wellness Court.
- ✓ Death.
- ✓ Any other factor(s) that may keep you from meeting the requirements for successful completion.

Before you can be neutrally discharged from the Wellness Court, a hearing before the Wellness Court Judge will be held to determine your status.

The Wellness Court Judge maintains the final decision to determine whether you will be terminated from the program.