

Tarrant County Specialty Courts Guide 2025



For further information, please go to:



Introduction

Specialty Courts are a problem-solving court approach designed to address the root causes of criminal activity by coordinating efforts of the judiciary, prosecution, defense bar, community supervision, law enforcement, treatment, mental health services, and other service agencies. They differ from traditional courts in that they focus on one type of offense or offender. These specialized dockets offer intensive supervision for people with mental health, substance abuse, or co-occurring disorders. Specialty courts may be pre-adjudication or post-adjudication dockets.

Participants in these programs must meet specific eligibility requirements. This criteria can be based upon prior criminal history, county of residence, or the type of services that are needed for that person. The courts work to address the underlying issues that can contribute to criminal behavior and teach participants the skills needed to address the underlying issues of trauma, mental illness, and substance abuse. The participant is able to avoid incarceration, reduce recidivism, and reintegrate back into the community.

The different types of Specialty Courts acknowledged by the State of Texas are as follows: Family Treatment Courts, Adult Treatment Courts, Veteran's Treatment Courts, Mental Health Courts, Commercially or Sexually Exploited Persons Courts, Public Safety Employees Treatment Courts, and Juvenile Family Treatment Courts.

The first Specialty Court created in Tarrant County was the D.I.R.E.C.T. program. Though it was called something different back then, this Adult Treatment Court remains active today. It was started by Judge L. Clifford Davis in the 1980s.

Special Thanks to:

Hilary Wright

Partner at Hoeller McLaughlin, PLLC



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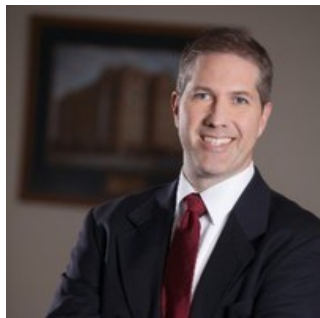
VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Honorable Judge Ruben Gonzalez
432nd District Court

Honorable Judge Charles Vanover
Tarrant County Criminal Court #8



Judge Ruben Gonzalez took the bench in 2009. His career already included as a servicemember with the United States Air Force, an Assistant District Attorney for Tarrant County, and an experienced criminal defense attorney. As a district court judge, he quickly became involved in presiding over Tarrant County's Vet Court.



Judge Charles Vanover was elected to the bench in 2015. Thereafter, he joined Judge Gonzalez in presiding over the Tarrant County Vet Court. Judge Vanover is a Life Member of the Nation Guard Assoc. of Texas, the State Guard Assoc. of the United States, the Texas State Guard Assoc., and the U.S. Army War College Foundation.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to successfully rehabilitate the Justice Involved Veterans (JIV) by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and providing them with the tools they need to lead a productive and law-abiding lifestyle while improving mental health recovery and successful re-entry into the community.

COURT OVERVIEW

The Veterans Treatment Court is a diversion program for JIV who are currently facing prosecution for one or more criminal cases. The program offers offenders a treatment option that is judicially supervised. It is designed to divert JIV out of the traditional criminal justice process and into appropriate rehabilitative alternatives. Once the JIV has been screened, assessed and approved for participation in the program, he/she will promptly begin a treatment regimen that is specific to his/her needs.

ELIGIBILITY

Be a veteran or current member of the United States Armed Forces, including a member of the Reserves, National Guard or State Guard who:

(1) suffers from a brain injury, mental illness, or mental disorder, including post-traumatic stress disorder, or was a victim of military sexual trauma if the injury, illness, disorder, or trauma:

(A) occurred during or resulted from the defendant's military service; and

(B) affected the defendant's criminal conduct at issue in the case; or

2) is a defendant whose participation in a Veterans Treatment Court program, considering the circumstances of the defendant's conduct, personal and social background, and criminal history, is likely to achieve the objective of ensuring public safety through rehabilitation.

Current case must be pending in Tarrant County.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

DISQUALIFYING DISCHARGES

Characterization of the following military discharges will not be eligible:

- Bad conduct
- Dishonorable
- Other than Honorable

HOW TO APPLY

- Referrals are accepted from a variety of sources, including Justice Involved Veterans (JIVs), law enforcement, jail staff, judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, mental health agencies and family or friends. The applicant's attorney must approve submission of application.
- Following VTC review, eligible applications along with verification of military service and mental health records are submitted to the Criminal District Attorney's Office for Preliminary Approval/Denial.
- If given Preliminary Approval, applicants are scheduled for the VTC Orientation where they will learn program requirements and expectations as well as meet the VTC staff.
- Applicants who volunteer to proceed with their VTC application after attending the VTC Orientation will be scheduled for a comprehensive mental health evaluation with the VTC Mental Health Evaluator.
- Upon receipt of the mental health evaluation, a final summary and recommendation is completed by the program manager and submitted to the Criminal District's Attorney's office for Final Approval/Denial.
- If given Final Approval, applicants are scheduled for admission into the VTC where they will be required to enter a Plea of Guilty.
- The applicant's defense attorney and court of origin receives notice when applications are received, when applications are approved or denied and again when participants are discharged from the VTC.

Court Team:	Courtney Young	Program Manager	817-884-3754	CDYoung@tarrantcountytx.gov
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FELONY ALCOHOL INTERVENTION PROGRAM (F.A.I.P.) ADULT TREATMENT COURT

Honorable Judge Chris Wolfe 213th District Court



The Honorable Judge Chris Wolfe presides over the 213th District Court in Tarrant County, Texas. Judge Wolfe is a graduate of Baylor University and Baylor Law School.

In 2003, Judge Wolfe was sworn in as an Assistant United States Attorney where he prosecuted cases for 15 years. In 2018, he was appointed to the bench by Governor Greg Abbott for the 213th District Court in Tarrant County.

Judge Wolfe began presiding over the Felony Alcohol Intervention Program (FAIP) at the beginning of 2023.

MISSION STATEMENT

To reduce injuries and deaths resulting from alcohol-related motor vehicle crashes, the Tarrant County Felony Alcohol Intervention Program will require convicted repeat offenders to undergo a judicially supervised regimen of intensive supervision and treatment. The goal of the program is to increase successful treatment outcomes for those who are most likely to jeopardize the safety of our community, reduce the costs of repeated crime, and address DWI as a substance abuse issue thereby increasing public safety.

COURT OVERVIEW

The Tarrant County Felony Alcohol Intervention Program (FAIP) is a post adjudication program for the high-risk repeat DWI offender. FAIP is designed to coordinate alcohol abuse intervention with judicial oversight, enhanced supervision and individual accountability. FAIP provides consistent and lengthy structure allowing the offender to benefit from the treatment experience. FAIP is the best vehicle within the criminal justice system for expediting the time between arrest for DWI and entry into treatment. It is designed to divert offenders out of the traditional criminal justice process and into appropriate rehabilitative alternatives. The FAIP probation is four years long and intensity of programming decreases as the participant works through the requirements.

Who IS ELIGIBLE?

- 17 years of age or older
- Charged with an alcohol-related DWI 3rd or More
- Resides in Tarrant County
- U.S. citizen or permanent resident
- Accepted by the FAIP team

Who is NOT ELIGIBLE?

- Pending or prior violent offense
- Previous conviction for intox assault or intoxication manslaughter
- Out of County Residence
- Current parole or out of county probation

FELONY ALCOHOL INTERVENTION PROGRAM (F.A.I.P.)

HOW TO APPLY

Case Filing - Felony DWI cases are filed randomly into one of the 11 district courts handling criminal cases.

Initial Screening - FAIP coordinator reviews each felony DWI case filed in Tarrant County for defendants who meet the initial criteria. Ideally, the review should be initiated within 30 days of the defendant's arrest.

Legal Screening - Assistant Criminal District Attorneys (ACDAs) determine legal eligibility of the defendant and assess the public safety risk of potential participants.

Letter to Defense Attorney - ACDAs email notification to counsel of defendants who have met initial criteria and legal screening, indicating that their client may be eligible for FAIP.

Orientation & Pre-Sentence Interview - The potential participant will attend an orientation session on the requirements of the program. Afterward, an interview is scheduled on the earliest date possible with CSO Fidel Silva. The defendant may attend with his/her defense attorney.

Team Decision - FAIP team votes on admission and suitability at the weekly staffing. ACDAs will notify defense counsel of the decision.

Plea of Guilty - The Coordinator sets a court date for plea of guilty in the 213th District Court. Although case is not transferred, Judge Wolfe supervises the defendant under 42.12 10 (a) on this felony probation.

Clinical Assessment - Post plea, the nature and extent of the participant's diagnosis and clinical needs are determined and clarified.

Court Team:	Michelle Ortega	FAIP coordinator	817-884-3321	M_Ortega@tarrantcountytx.gov
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REACHING INDEPENDENCE THROUGH SELF-EMPOWERMENT (R.I.S.E.) COMMERCIALY OR SEXUALLY EXPLOITED PERSONS COURT

Honorable Judge Randi Hartin Tarrant County Criminal Court # 6



After graduating from the University of North Texas, Judge Randi Hartin began her career in education. After graduating from law school, Judge Hartin joined the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office before leaving to practice criminal defense and family law.

Judge Randi Hartin took the bench to preside over Tarrant County Criminal Court # 6 in 2022. Although she already oversees one Specialty Court in Tarrant County, she agreed in 2024 to preside over the RISE program as well.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Reaching Independence through Self-Empowerment (RISE) Program is to identify vulnerable women with extensive histories of prostitution or prostitution-related offenses, expedite them through the criminal justice system and help them achieve abstinence from all mood altering substances, mental stability, permanent housing and educational/work opportunities that provide them with the legal means to maintain a healthy, productive lifestyle. The vision of the RISE program is that every woman reaches her full potential and lives a healthy, productive, drug free and non-criminal lifestyle.

COURT OVERVIEW

The RISE program seeks to identify women who have a history of experiencing significant trauma in their past which has contributed to their involvement in the criminal justice system. This involvement commonly results in charges of prostitution, controlled substance violations and theft. With consent of an individual's attorney, the person is contacted by a member of the RISE staff. Program prospects are then evaluated through use of validated assessment instruments and a clinical interview. The goal is to identify individuals who possess the greatest likelihood of achieving positive lifestyle change through participation in counseling and treatment. If selected, the person is offered admission. If the person chooses to participate, she will enter a plea of guilty and receive a probated or deferred sentence with the requirement that she enter and successfully complete the RISE program. An individual treatment program is designed to meet the individual's needs.

The RISE program is designed to remove participants from the criminal justice system and restore them to a crime-free, substance abuse-free, and mentally stable lifestyle. It is critical to the mission that the participants desire this change and are willing to make the sacrifice necessary to achieve and sustain it.

REACHING INDEPENDENCE THROUGH SELF-EMPOWERMENT (R.I.S.E.)

ELIGIBILITY

- Female only
- High-Risk, High-Needs
- Have complex trauma that stems from trafficking, sexual assault, prostitution, and/or substance abuse
- Arrested for a felony or misdemeanor prostitution case or any non-violent felony
- Tarrant County resident
- No serious health issues that will limit participation in the program

HOW TO APPLY

- Potential participants can be referred by an attorney, court personnel, partnering organizations and concerned citizens to the Program Manager.
- Program Manager will interview prospective participant, and determine whether the individual meets minimum criteria as a potential candidate for intervention.
- Assessments by Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD) Assessment Unit will be given.
- Interview by case manager to determine individual's willingness to participate in the program, as well as, explanation of program expectations.
- Based on interviews and assessment, program will offer conditional acceptance.
- The individual will enter a plea to the appropriate court to be granted admission into the program and the case will be assigned to the RISE program until completion or discharge from the program.
- After all intake documents are complete, the participant will begin a treatment program that is based on their assessment.

Court Team:	Lauren Raby	Program Manager	817-531-5601	LTRaby@tarrantcountytexas.gov
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	Naomy Franco	RISE CSO		NFranco@tarrantcountytexas.gov

TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES TREATMENT COURT

Honorable Judge Charles Vanover Tarrant County Criminal Court #8



After graduating from Texas A&M University, Judge Charles “Chuck” Vanover, returned to Tarrant County to become a police officer. For 11 years, he served the community and obtained his Master Peace Officer certification as well as becoming a certified firefighter and EMT. He then went to law School at Texas Wesleyan University (now Texas A&M Law School).

Judge Vanover was elected to the bench in 2015. Thereafter, he presided over the Tarrant County Public Safety Employee’s Treatment Court, which is a first of its kind in the United States of America. As a former first responder, he easily relates to the issues facing these members of our community.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to ensure public safety through successful rehabilitation of the defendant by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and provide them with the tools they need to lead a productive and law-abiding lifestyle while improving mental health recovery and successful re-entry into the community.

COURT OVERVIEW

The Public Safety Employees Treatment Court (PSETC) offers a treatment option that is judicially supervised. The program is designed to divert eligible public safety employees out of the traditional criminal justice process and into appropriate rehabilitative alternatives. After eligible defendants have been screened, assessed and approved for participation into the program, he/she will promptly begin a treatment regimen that is specific to his/her needs.

ELIGIBILITY

Defendant must be employed or have prior employment as a peace officer, firefighter, detention officer, county jailer, or emergency medical services employee of this state or a political subdivision of this state who:

(1) Suffers from a brain injury, mental illness, or mental disorder, including post-traumatic stress disorder, that:

(A) occurred during or resulted from the defendant's duties as a public safety employee; and

(B) affected the defendant's criminal conduct at issue in the case; or

(2) is a defendant whose participation in a public safety employees treatment court program, considering the circumstances of the defendant's conduct, personal and social background, and criminal history, is likely to achieve the objective of ensuring public safety through rehabilitation.

Applicant must live or work in Tarrant County.

TARRANT COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES TREATMENT COURT



HOW TO APPLY

Once a referral is received, the Public Safety Employees Treatment Court (PSETC) office reviews it to ensure the minimum criterium are met.

Following PSETC review, eligible applications along with verification of military service and mental health records are submitted to the Criminal District Attorney's Office for Preliminary Approval/Denial.

If given Preliminary Approval, applicants are scheduled for the PSETC Orientation where they will learn program requirements and expectations as well as meet the PSETC staff.

Applicants who volunteer to proceed with their PSETC application after attending the PSETC Orientation will be scheduled for a comprehensive mental health evaluation with the PSETC Mental Health Evaluator.

Upon receipt of the mental health evaluation, a final summary and recommendation is completed by the program manager and submitted to the Criminal District's Attorney's office for Final Approval/Denial.

If given Final Approval, applicants are scheduled for admission into the PSETC where they will be required to enter a Plea of Guilty.

The applicant's defense attorney and court of origin receives notice when applications are received, when applications are approved or denied and again when participants are discharged from the PSETC.

All applications seeking a dismissal are reviewed by the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's office.

Court Team:	Courtney Young	Program Manager	817-884-3754	CDYoung@tarrantcountytexas.gov
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	Ashley Griffith	Case Manager		ANGriffith@tarrantcountytexas.gov

DRUG IMPACT REHABILITATION ENHANCED COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT (D.I.R.E.C.T.)

ADULT TREATMENT COURT

Honorable Judge Steven Jumes 485th District Court



Judge Jumes began his legal career as a prosecutor with the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office. He then became an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Texas. After working as a criminal defense attorney, Judge Jumes was appointed by the governor to the bench in August of 2022. The next year, he was elected as the presiding judge of the 485th District Court. In addition to presiding over this felony court docket, Judge Jumes oversees the Tarrant County DIRECT program.

MISSION STATEMENT

The goal of DIRECT is to help participants achieve and maintain a positive, drug and alcohol-free lifestyle while engaging in prosocial behaviors. The DIRECT Court team consists of several key members who will work closely together to help the participant achieve these goals.

COURT OVERVIEW

The DIRECT Court Program is a post-plea felony probation offered through CSCD, not a diversion program. Potential participants must meet both legal and clinical criteria in order to transfer their case into the DIRECT Court Program.

The DIRECT Court Program offers offenders intensive treatment with intensive supervision which is judicially supervised. Following a substance abuse evaluation, the participants enter into a highly-structured treatment program tailored to meet individual needs.

Participants enter into treatment and are required to attend all therapeutic rehabilitative activities. Attendance is monitored by Community Supervision Officers assigned to the DIRECT Court Program. Urinalysis drug testing and hair testing are conducted at regular, frequent intervals. Sanctions are imposed for violations of program guidelines and conditions of supervision.

Community Supervision Officers assigned to the DIRECT Court Program meet with the participants regularly in the office and conduct field visits. Participants are required to attend court sessions monthly in their assigned DIRECT Court.

DRUG IMPACT REHABILITATION ENHANCED COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT (D.I.R.E.C.T.)

ELIGIBILITY

- on community supervision for a felony drug offense or offense directly related to drugs
- Have a serious substance abuse issue with a need for intensive treatment
- Possess the motivation to seek treatment
- Offense may not involve carrying, possessing, or using a deadly weapon; using force against another; the death or serious injury to another
- May not be a sex offender or charges with a sex offense
- May not have holds in other jurisdictions
- Must live in Tarrant County, Texas
- May not be on parole

HOW TO APPLY

- Defense counsel talks to CSCD about an applicant
- CSCD then refers to ACDAs for eligibility review
- CSCD interviews the applicant
- Applicant does an Open Plea to Judge Jumes
- Applicant goes through orientation and is placed into phase 1 of the program

Court Team:	Michelle Ortega	Program Manager	817-884-2647	M_ortega@tarrantcountytx.gov
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FIRST OFFENDER DRUG PROGRAM (F.O.D.P.) ADULT TREATMENT COURT

Honorable Judge Julie Lugo
372nd District Court



A native of Tarrant County, Judge Lugo grew up in Bedford. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Texas at Dallas with a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice. She earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence from Texas Tech University School of Law in Lubbock, graduating magna cum laude. Before being elected to the bench in 2023, Judge Lugo was a prosecutor with the Tarrant County District Attorney’s office for over 10 years. In addition to presiding over this felony docket, she oversees Tarrant County’s FODP Court.

MISSION STATEMENT

To improve the overall quality and efficiency of the criminal courts by diverting low risk/low needs first-time drug offenders to a court-supervised program that will enhance public safety, reduce crime, hold offenders accountable, increase sobriety among drug offenders, reduce costs to our community, and ultimately reduce congestion in the criminal court dockets.

COURT OVERVIEW

The Tarrant County First Offender Drug Program offers non-violent offenders an opportunity to address and correct a mistake. Participants are required to enter a guilty plea to the Judge, who will postpone sentencing pending completion of the program. If successful, the participant is allowed to withdraw their plea and the case will be dismissed. If not, the case will proceed to sentencing based upon the original plea.

ELIGIBILITY

- Charged with a drug offense either misdemeanor or felony up to 3rd degree
- No prior convictions or adjudications other than Class C misdemeanor
- Proof of education (either diploma or enrollment)

HOW TO APPLY

- Interested persons fill out an application and email it to CDA—FODP@tarrantcountytexas.gov
- Once approved, the participant will plead into the program
- The case will be given a dismissal date by the coordinator and the program will go until that time
- 180 days for a felony case and 90 days for a misdemeanor case

FIRST OFFENDER DRUG PROGRAM (F.O.D.P.)

THE FOLLOWING OFFENSES MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR FODP:

1. Possession of Controlled Substance, under 1 gram
2. Possession of Controlled Substance, 1-4 grams
3. Possession of Controlled Substance under 2 ounce
4. Possession of Marihuana under 2 ounces
5. Possession of Marihuana, 2-4 ounces
6. Drug Free Zone, Controlled Substance under 28 grams
7. Drug Free Zone, Marihuana 2-4ounces
8. Forging or Altering Prescription
9. Possession of Dangerous Drug
10. Attempt of any above listed offense

Court Team: Demethria Gobin Case Manager 817-212-7513 DCGobin@tarrantcountytexas.gov
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SUPERVISION WITH INTENSIVE ENFORCEMENT (S.W.I.F.T.) ADULT TREATMENT COURT

**Honorable Judge Elizabeth Beach
Tarrant County Criminal District Court #1**



Judge Elizabeth Beach graduated with her law degree from the University of Texas at Austin Law School. Thereafter she practiced criminal law both in Dallas and Tarrant counties. As a prosecutor, she was tough on crime and stood up for those who had been victimized. Judge Beach was appointed to preside over Tarrant County District Court #1 in 2013. On top of presiding over this felony docket, she presides over Tarrant County’s SWIFT Court.

MISSION STATEMENT

To hold the participants accountable for their actions and choices in order to ensure compliance with the rules and a path to a brighter future.

COURT OVERVIEW

The Tarrant County SWIFT program is a post-plea, intensive probation program that gives high-risk, high-need offenders an opportunity to change — and immediate sanctions for probation violations. The program is aimed at motivating noncompliant probationers to follow the rules.

SWIFT, or Supervision With Intensive enFORCEMENT, uses a progressive sanction model to initiate change in the behavior of probationers. Typically, a probationer outside of the SWIFT program may have a number of minor violations before being revoked. SWIFT is different because each minor violation is addressed immediately. For instance, a SWIFT probationer may spend a weekend in jail for their first dirty UA. A second violation for the same thing may result in a week in jail. These sanctions are generally imposed the day after the violation is reported, instead of weeks or months later.

ELIGIBILITY

- The target population is felony probationers assessed by the TRAS risk assessment tool, who are scored at least a moderate or high risk.
- Currently in violation of existing conditions of community supervision.
- SWIFT recommendation as a result of the initial TRAS risk assessment, or
- Referred to SWIFT upon reinstatement at a revocation hearing.

SUPERVISION WITH INTENSIVE ENFORCEMENT (S.W.I.F.T.) ADULT TREATMENT COURT

Honorable Judge Elizabeth Beach
Tarrant County Criminal District Court #1

HOW TO APPLY

- Referrals to SWIFT are based on the recommendation of a Presentence Investigation (PSI)
- They can also be referred by a Judge during a revocation procedure in the original court
- Potential participants are reviewed by Dulce Lopez
- An amendment of the conditions of probation is signed by the participant
- Probationers attend a “Warning Hearing” on the first of the month

Court Team:	Michelle Ortega	Supervisor	817-884-2647	MNOrtega@tarrantcountytx.gov
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	Dulce Lopez	Sr. Ct. CSO		DLopez@tarrantcountytx.gov



MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION COURT MENTAL HEALTH COURT

Honorable Judge David Cook
Tarrant County Criminal Court #1

Honorable Judge Deborah Nehkom
Tarrant County Criminal Court #4



Judge David Cook took the bench in 2015 after 20 years of practicing criminal law. The respect that his fellow judges have for him is evident as they trust him to handle many administrative matters on their behalf. He has represented them before the Commissioner's Court on several occasions. Judge Cook presides over a general jurisdiction misdemeanor court as well as sharing the responsibility of presiding over Tarrant County's Mental Health Diversion Court.



Judge Deborah Nehkom has been on the bench for 15 years. She has proudly served Tarrant County by running her docket efficiently and effectively. In addition to overseeing her misdemeanor docket, she presides along with Judge Cook over Tarrant County's Mental Health Diversion Court.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Tarrant County Mental Health Diversion Court is to advocate for incarcerated persons with mental illness and to provide access to mental health treatment, community resources, and support to reduce their involvement in the criminal justice system.

With advocacy and support, the Mental Health Diversion Court helps participants improve mental health stability and self-sufficiency, strive to reach their full potential, and live a law-abiding life. The Mental Health Diversion Court protects the community by providing a continuum of care that holds individuals accountable and establishes long-term recovery.

COURT OVERVIEW

The Tarrant County Mental Health Diversion Court program is completed on average between nine months and two years. The terms of the program will be determined by the participants needs and progress throughout treatment. Participants are required to enter a guilty plea to be admitted into the program. If the program is completed successfully, the participant's case is dismissed and expunged.

MENTAL HEALTH DIVERSION COURT

Who IS ELIGIBLE?

18 years of age or older
Active misdemeanor or un-indicted felony case
Diagnosis of at least one priority/non-priority population
Record of MH diagnosis and any treatment within 5 years

Who is NOT ELIGIBLE?

Charged with assault involving family violence
Charged with an offense listed in CCP 17.032
Out of County Residence

DIAGNOSES ACCEPTED

Major Depressive Disorder
Bipolar Disorder
Schizophrenia
Schizoaffective Disorder
Anxiety Disorder

HOW TO APPLY

- Applications are submitted to ACDAS for qualification review
- Mental Health records are obtained and diagnoses are confirmed
- Applications are staffed in court with the magistrate
- Approved applicants will plead guilty and sentencing will be deferred for the term of the program

Court Team:	Pam Cole	MHDC Coordinator	PLCole@tarrantcountytx.gov
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	Ron Wright	MHDC ACDA	FMWright@tarrantcountytx.gov
	Lindsay Truly	MHDC DC	Lindsay@hoellermclaughlin.com
	mentalhealth-diversion@tarrantcountytx.gov		

YOUNG OFFENDER DIVERSION ALTERNATIVE (Y.O.D.A) ADULT TREATMENT COURT

Honorable Judge Bradley Clark
Tarrant County Criminal Court #5

Honorable Judge Randi Hartin
Tarrant County Criminal Court #6



Judge Bradley Clark is a Fort Worth, Texas native. He graduated from The University of Texas at Arlington and went to law school at Baylor University. In addition to presiding over a domestic violence misdemeanor court, he takes great pride in the YODA program run in his court. Judge Clark has long been one to help the community. Presiding over YODA allows him to give back to the younger offenders that come through the doors of the Tim Curry Criminal Justice Center.



After graduating from the University of North Texas, Judge Randi Hartin began her career in education. After graduating from law school, Judge Hartin joined the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office before leaving to practice criminal defense and family law.

She took the bench to preside over Tarrant County Criminal Court # 6 in 2022. The following year, this became a second dedicated domestic violence court for the county. Judge Hartin takes pride in working with the young offenders in Y.O.D.A. to help educate them and set them on a path to success.

MISSION STATEMENT

The intentions of the alternative type pre-trial diversion program called Y.O.D.A., and the subsections of Y.O.D.A., are to provide counseling and case management to young adult offenders who have been arrested for assaults against non-intimate family members. Subsections of Y.O.D.A. provide provisions for other assaults, non-partner related, to be considered for admittance. Through counseling and case management, the programs will help defendants develop solutions and skills to address the factors and circumstances that led to the arresting incident. In this endeavor, they will establish goals for which they will make noticeable efforts towards accomplishing and will demonstrate accountability for their actions.

DWI MISDEMEANOR COURT ADULT TREATMENT COURT

**Honorable Judge Deborah Nekhom
Tarrant County Criminal Court #4**



Judge Deborah Nekhom has been on the bench for 15 years. She has proudly served Tarrant County by running her docket efficiently and effectively. In addition to presiding over this misdemeanor docket, she handles the misdemeanor DWI Specialty Court. This problem-solving court addresses the needs of high-risk, high-needs offenders of drunk or drugged driving offenses.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Tarrant County Misdemeanor DWI Court strives to reduce recidivism, promote public safety, and reduce collateral damage by enhancing community supervision with increased judicial monitoring, drug/alcohol treatment, and a team-based approach to aide in the rehabilitation and accountability of an offender.

COURT OVERVIEW

The Misdemeanor DWI Court program is a post-plea misdemeanor probation offered through CSCD, not a diversion program. Potential participants must meet both legal and clinical criteria in order to transfer their case into the Misdemeanor DWI Court Program. While DWI-Misdemeanor Repetitions and DWI W/Intox-BAC O/0.15 are the primary offenses accepted into the program, Driving While Intoxicated (Class B) is also accepted on a case-by-case basis. Non-alcohol DWI's are also considered for this program.

The Misdemeanor DWI Court Program offers offenders outpatient treatment (inpatient treatment if necessary) with intensive supervision that is judicially supervised. Following a substance abuse evaluation, the participants enter into outpatient treatment that is specific to DWI offenders.

Participants enter into treatment and are required to attend all therapeutic rehabilitative activities. Attendance is monitored by Community Supervision Officers assigned to the Misdemeanor DWI Court program. Urinalysis drug testing is conducted at regular, frequent intervals and includes testing for alcohol. If driving, an ignition interlock device is required and during periods of not driving, alternative alcohol monitoring is required. Sanctions are imposed for violations of program guidelines and conditions of supervision.

Community Supervision Officers assigned to the Misdemeanor DWI Court Program meet with the participants regularly in the office and conduct field visits. Participants are required to attend court sessions monthly.

DWI MISDEMEANOR COURT



ELIGIBILITY

- Commitment to successfully adhere to and complete program
- Have a legitimate need as assessed by a certified counselor and the commitment to faithfully attend/complete recommended treatment
- Misdemeanor DWI offenses only
- No pending felony cases
- Not on parole
- Must be a resident of Tarrant or a contiguous county
- If on a current probation for a misdemeanor DWI offense, have at least two recent violations

HOW TO APPLY

- Attorneys refer the case to Misdemeanor DWI Court after speaking with Judge Nehkom
- Case is transferred to CCC #4 to plea, be screened, and assessed for admission
- Conditions are set based on needs of the participant

Court Team: Michelle Ortega DWIC coordinator 817-884-3042 M_Ortega@tarrantcountytx.gov
Lorri Wilson Initial Screener LCWilson@tarrantcountytx.gov

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DIVERSION PROGRAM ADULT TREATMENT COURT

Honorable Judge Bradley Clark
Tarrant County Criminal Court #5

Honorable Judge Randi Hartin
Tarrant County Criminal Court #6



Judge Bradley Clark is a Fort Worth, Texas native. He graduated from The University of Texas at Arlington and went to law school at Baylor University. In addition to presiding over a domestic violence misdemeanor court, he devotes time to Tarrant County's Domestic Violence Diversion Program. Judge Clark has long been one to help this part of our community. Part of his career in criminal law includes being one of the first Assistant District Attorneys assigned to the newly created Family Violence Prosecution Team. His dedication to ending intimate partner violence is evident in his work with this population.



After graduating from the University of North Texas, Judge Randi Hartin began her career in education. After graduating from law school, Judge Hartin joined the Tarrant County District Attorney's Office before leaving to practice criminal defense and family law.

Judge Randi Hartin took the bench to preside over Tarrant County Criminal Court #6 in 2022. The following year, this became a second dedicated domestic violence court for the county. Judge Hartin takes pride in working with offenders of intimate partner violence, helping to educate and lower recidivism for the better of the community.

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Tarrant County Domestic Violence Diversion Program to reduce the trauma associated with intimate partner violence by offering the defendant immediate, effective counseling and support. To provide swift court intervention into the domestic violence case and lessen the negative effects/aspects of the criminal justice system for the victim.

COURT OVERVIEW

The Domestic Violence Diversion Program, which targets domestic violence, or violence between intimate partners. Selected defendants charged with family violence in Tarrant County are placed into the pre-trial diversion court which monitors the defendant's progress in a non-adversarial manner, and is in lieu of traditional case processing. Defendants are selected for program participation after undergoing a comprehensive screening and assessment process and meeting the following eligibility criteria:

This court is unique because it combines the judicial function with case management, victim assistance and an assessment process. The project includes services specifically dedicated to preventing, identifying and responding to violent crimes as they relate to domestic violence.

DEFINITIONS

<i>10-Key Components</i>	The core framework for most types of problem-solving court programs; The National Association of Drug Court Professionals' (NADCP) Standards Committee developed a manual on specialty courts which sets forth ten key elements of a successful specialty court.
<i>Assessment</i>	A way of diagnosing and determining treatment.
<i>Best Practices</i>	Are the foundation which all specialty courts should operate https://www.allrise.org/standards/adult-drug-court-best-practice-standards/
<i>Deferred Adjudication</i>	A form of sentence, whereby the court finds that the evidence is sufficient to find the defendant guilty of the offense, but defers that finding and places that person on community supervision. Upon successful completion of the terms and conditions of that probation, the defendant may have the case dismissed.
<i>Evidenced Based Practices</i>	Practices that have a definable outcome; are measurable; and are defined according to practical realities, such as recidivism.
<i>Incentives</i>	Are used to reinforce positive behaviors, such as meeting treatment goals, or completing a length of time with no violations.
<i>Pretrial Diversion</i>	An alternative to prosecution which diverts certain offenders from traditional criminal justice processing into a program of supervision and services. Participants who successfully complete the program will not be charged or, if charged, will have the charges dismissed.
<i>Problem-Solving Courts</i>	Take a public health approach using a specialized model in which the judiciary, prosecution, defense bar, probation, law enforcement, mental health, social service, and treatment communities work together to help addicted offenders into long-term recovery.
<i>Sanctions</i>	Are used to decrease undesired behaviors, such as engaging in crime or drug abuse or failing to follow the rules of the Specialty Court.
<i>Screening</i>	Used to identify possible signs or symptoms that may determine a need for an evaluation and treatment.
<i>Specialty Court</i>	Specialty Courts provide specialized direct services (usually substance use or mental health treatment) to participants as an alternative to incarceration in criminal cases or to address child protection issues in civil or family cases.
<i>Treatment Court</i>	Another name for Specialty Court
<i>Therapeutic Jurisprudence</i>	A concept founded by David Wexler, a law professor from the University of Arizona (Therapeutic Jurisprudence, 2009). The concept described an integration of criminal justice law and mental health law allowing for the rendering of humanistic sentencing strategies that would allow treatment in lieu of incarceration.

THE 10 KEY COMPONENTS OF SPECIALTY COURTS

Key Component #1:

Drug courts integrate alcohol and other drug treatment services with justice system case processing

Key Component #2:

Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights

Key Component #3:

Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the drug court program

Key Component #4:

Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services

Key Component #5:

Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing

Key Component #6:

A coordinated strategy governs drug court responses to participants' compliance

Key Component #7:

Ongoing judicial interaction with each drug court participant is essential

Key Component #8:

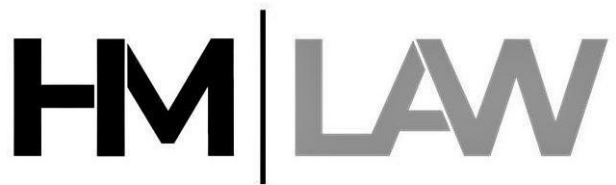
Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness

Key Component #9:

Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective drug court planning, implementation, and operations

Key Component #10:

Forging partnerships among drug courts, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances drug court program effectiveness



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