

GOODHUE COUNTY TREATMENT COURT



PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK 2023

Treatment Court participant:

Welcome to the Goodhue County Treatment Court!

As a member of the GCTC, you will be part of a community-wide effort to reduce chemical dependency and the effects of addiction. We have worked hard to build a program that will support you but will also expect you to work hard in return. The rewards are substantial for those who successfully complete the requirements. We look forward to working with you, answering your questions, and accompanying you on your journey to recovery.

Sincerely,

Douglas Bayley

District Court Judge

Red Wing

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Introduction

The Goodhue County Treatment Court (GCTC) is a problem-solving court dedicated to address substance use and criminal activity. GCTC is an intensive program that coordinates treatment with supervised probation under the guidance of the Treatment Court Judge. GCTC will provide support for individuals struggling with substance use disorders to make the changes necessary to live in recovery.

Mission

The GCTC's mission is to return healthy, law abiding citizens back to the community and their families. This is accomplished through enhancing public safety, ensuring participant accountability, and reducing costs to society by providing a coordinated cost-effective, evidence based, judicially supervised treatment and comprehensive case management program for adult substance offenders in Goodhue County.

GCTC Team

The GCTC Team consists of the following: Treatment Court Judge, Program Coordinator, Prosecutor, Defense Attorney, Treatment Representative, Health and Human Services Representative, Probation Officer, and Law Enforcement Representative. Other supporting team members may include a Mental Health Representative, Community Representatives, and other interested parties. Each year, or addition of new team members, confidentiality agreements must be updated and signed.

Eligibility Requirements

- Age 18 or older and a resident of Goodhue County.
 - Residency defined as having safe, supportive living environment upon completion of treatment programming and/or having a connection with Goodhue County.
- Charged with a substance related offense or offense where substance use is determined to be a factor, or in violation of felony probation.
- Must be screened for participation and obtain approval by the Goodhue County Attorney's Office and GCTC Team.
- Meet with the probation officer and substance use assessor to determine eligibility (LS/CMI score and moderate/severe substance use disorder diagnosis). You must meet criteria for high-risk/high-needs to be eligible.

Program Requirements

- Attend court as directed on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. at the Goodhue County Justice Center on the third floor in Courtroom 3A, if court is being held in another location/courtroom/virtually, participants will be notified as soon as possible.
- Cooperate with all Treatment expectations, which includes but not limited to attendance, length of program, level of care, participation in all activities, etc.
- Cooperate with all Probation expectations.
- Cooperate with all substance testing (more details in testing section).
- Be honest and comply with all phase requirements and expectations, unless noted otherwise through team approval.
- 19-24 month commitment on average, determined by progress. ***Note: not every participant moves through the program in the same timeframe; do not compare your success or struggles with another participant.**
- While in the program, if you plan to relocate, your residency must be approved prior to the relocation. You will not be allowed to reside in a home that has active users or is not conducive to recovery.

Program Compliance

Incentives and sanctions are utilized throughout the GCTC program to gain/maintain compliance and reward positive progress and behaviors. Meeting crucial sobriety milestones and living a life in recovery is the primary goal of GCTC and will be rewarded. However, if concerning behaviors, positive drug screens, or other issues within the program arise, sanctions may be imposed. Sanctions may also be imposed if there are negative remarks or updates from treatment providers, disrespectful behaviors to team or others, not informing the team of ANY type of police contact, losing employment or residency, relapse, etc.

Sanctions are imposed on an individualized basis and may not be the same for all situations or participants. Incentives will be distributed as evenly as possible for all participants, over the progression of the program.

- **Incentives** may include, but are not limited to, verbal praise from the Judge, recognition in court, extended privileges, special requests, and tangible items such as gift cards. Being able to leave early from the court session IS AN INCENTIVE and should never be expected; if you are at work, you must make arrangements in case the request cannot be filled.
 - **Incentives** are given when positive progress is made, which includes phase advancements, creating positive support systems, obtaining GED/Diploma, licenses, employment, etc.

- **Sanctions** may include, but are not limited to, written assignments, increased court appearances, electronic home monitoring (paid for by the participant), Sentencing to Service Program (STS), community work service, curfew, increased support meetings, increased drug testing, and jail time.
 - **Sanctions** are imposed if negative or concerning/problematic behaviors are being observed, there are substance use concerns, or violations of GCTC rules/expectations.
 - **NOTE: Incarceration** may be used as a sanction if there are no other viable options to ensure safety of participant and/or others. This may include relapses and problematic behaviors.

Phases

GCTC consists of 6 phases. The GCTC Team determines when a participant has successfully completed a phase and advances to the next phase.

Phase 1 (minimum 30 days) Orientation – Phase 1 will focus on orientation to the program.

- Attend Court weekly
- Complete goals sheet
- Random drug testing at least 2 x / week
- Probation office visits 2 x / month
- Probation/Coordinator home visits 2 x / month
- Sober support network 1 x / week
- Obtain sponsor/mentor
- Comply with treatment recommendations
- Comply with supervision recommendations
- Any other conditions determined by the team, including requirements of the DOC

Phase 2 (minimum 90 days) Stabilization – Phase 2 will focus on stabilizing participant, including treatment.

- Attend Court weekly
- Random drug testing at least 2 x / week
- Probation office visits 2 x / month
- Probation/Coordinator home visits 2 x / month
- Sober support network 1 x / week
- Consistent contact with sponsor/mentor
- Comply with treatment and mental health recommendations

- Comply with supervision requirements
- Begin searching for/obtain/maintain employment, volunteer work, or CWS as determined by the GCTC Team
- Any other conditions determined by the team, including requirements of the DOC

Phase 3 (minimum 90 days) Treatment and Early skills Development – Phase 3 will focus on regular and consistent engagement in treatment.

- Attend Court weekly/bi-weekly as determined by GCTC
- Random drug testing at least 2 x / week
- Probation office visits 2 x / month
- Probation/Coordinator home visits 2 x / month
- Sober support network 1 x / week
- Consistent contact with sponsor/mentor
- Pro-social activity 1 x / week
- Comply with treatment and mental health recommendations
- Comply with supervision requirements
- Obtain/maintain employment, volunteer work, or CWS as determined by the GCTC Team
- Any other conditions determined by the team, including requirements of the DOC

Phase 4 (minimum 90 days) Transition – Phase 4 will focus on transitioning the participant to becoming more independent in his or her recovery.

- Attend Court bi-weekly/monthly as determined by GCTC
- Random drug testing at least 2 x / week
- Probation office visits 1 x / month
- Probation/Coordinator home visits 1 x / month
- Sober support network 2 x / week
- Pro-social activity 2 x / week
- Consistent contact with sponsor/mentor
- Comply with treatment and mental health recommendations
- Comply with supervision requirements
- Obtain/maintain employment, volunteer work, or CWS as determined by the GCTC Team
- Any other conditions determined by the team, including requirements of the DOC

Phase 5 (minimum 90 days) Independence – Phase 5 will focus on ongoing independence and maintaining recovery.

- Attend Court monthly
- Random drug testing
- Probation office visits 1 x / month
- Probation/Coordinator home visits 1 x / month
- Follow case plan requirements and build relapse prevention plan
- Sober support network 2 x / week
- Pro-social activity 2 x / week
- Comply with and aftercare treatment and mental health recommendations
- Comply with supervision requirements
- Obtain/maintain employment, volunteer work, or CWS as determined by the GCTC Team
- Any other conditions determined by the team, including requirements of the DOC

Phase 6 (minimum 6 months) Maintenance- Phase 6 will focus on ongoing accountability and sustaining healthy recovery after graduation.

- Attend court monthly/bi-monthly as determined by GCTC
- Random drug testing
- Monthly/random probation office and/or home visit
- Maintain compliance with treatment aftercare, mental health, and all probation requirements
- Maintain consistent contact with sponsor/mentor
- Attend at least 3 pro-social support or activities each week
- Utilize relapse prevention plan, updating as needed
- Maintain employment/volunteer work
- Complete an application for graduation, meeting all requirements

Phase Advancement

Participants progress through the phases upon completing all phase requirements, including the designated number of days within that phase. Relapses or failure to comply with any requested substance testing will be considered use and the number of clean days in that phase will reset to zero, restarting the phase. Admissions into treatment programs can occur in any phase.

Participants are responsible for filling out an application prior to phase advancement. Determination of successful advancement will be made by the GCTC Team prior to court.

***Note:** if the eligible phase date does not fall on your scheduled court date, it will be discussed upon your next session; unless prior discussion is made to appear at on said date.

Program Completion

Upon your successful completion of all expectations and requirements of the GCTC Program, you will complete the program, or graduate. Graduation is recognized as a very important event. Your loved ones will be invited to join you at a special ceremony as the Treatment Court congratulates you for successfully completing Treatment Court and achieving your goal to establishing a life in recovery. All participants are required to attend graduation ceremonies. If it is not your scheduled week to attend court you may be requested to move your required day to attend a graduation.

Participants will receive a certificate of completion and all the benefits of the sentencing agreement. Failure to complete the program will result in the participant returning to the originating court for possible imposition of the underlying sentence (see below for termination details).

Termination

Participation in the GCTC is a privilege and comes with many benefits. However, failure to comply with all requirements and expectations of the GCTC program, treatment, mental health, or other areas, may result in termination. If termination is decided, the participant will be given a new court date to discuss the underlying sentencing conditions and will be represented appropriately.

Reasons for termination include but are not limited to:

- Noncompliance with GCTC program, probation, or treatment rules/guidelines/expectations
- Obtaining a new felony level offense

Treatment

An alcohol and drug assessment will be completed before you start Treatment Court to determine your treatment needs, however, if an assessment has been completed recently, that may also be utilized. During your time in Treatment Court you will be expected to follow through with the treatment plan developed with the provider, which includes length of programming, attendance, rules, individual and group activities, and the appropriate step-down process. The team will communicate with your treatment provider to make sure your treatment needs are being met. If there is a need for an increase in treatment, you will be expected to comply with all recommendations.

Drug Testing Protocol

Drug testing will be random (minimum of 2x/week) and may include testing at home, employment, court, probation office, or any other area as requested by testers. If circumstances arise that you are unable to fulfill testing requirements at a certain time, you must notify drug testers immediately as you have **ONE HOUR** to respond to their requests for testing. Failure to respond may result in a positive test. If proper communication is had prior to the request, it will be up to the testers if you are able to reschedule. You must also inform the coordinator or DOC agent as soon as possible.

Any failure to complete a requested test will be considered use and your clean day count for treatment court purposes will restart, this includes restarting phase in which missed test or positive result occurred. No call, no show, will result in a positive test. You are expected to be honest and admit all substance use. This is part of your responsibility if you are residing outside of the area in which testers can easily access you; you must contact them to fulfill this requirement.

Positive drug tests are treated on an individualized basis determined by substance, frequency, and duration of use. Use of any non-prescribed substance, including synthetics, CBD or THC products, etc., may result in possible increase or reengagement in treatment services, detoxification services, phase restart, incarceration, and/or other sanctions as determined by the GCTC team. **YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT GOES INTO YOUR BODY.**

Rules of Court

1. Arrive on time.
2. Be honest.
3. Any absences (even emergencies) must be approved by the Treatment Court Coordinator and/or probation officer. If a virtual appearance is needed, this must also be approved prior to the court session.
4. No electronic devices, hats, or coats in the courtroom.
5. Respect everyone involved in the court process.
6. **You must remain in the court session until finished with ALL participants;** being able to leave early (Zoom or in-person) should never be automatically expected, this is earned.

Community and Peer Support Groups

You will be required to attend community support groups while in Treatment Court. Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous are examples of community support groups.

The goal is for you to build a sober support network which will remain in place once you have graduated from Treatment Court. Attendance may need to be verified by a signature from the individual chairing the meeting. You will be required to obtain a sponsor/mentor and maintain frequent contact with that individual.

Drug Court participants meet once a month with the Coordinator and other participants throughout their time in Treatment Court. This is an opportunity for participants to share their experiences with each other and to share information with the coordinator.

Supervision

You will be expected to comply with ALL directions of your supervising agent during your time in Treatment Court. Violations of your supervision will be considered as a part of your progress/regression in Treatment Court.

Employment/Volunteer

You will be required to maintain employment or volunteer services while you are in Treatment Court. If you are unemployed upon starting Treatment Court, you will be required to apply for jobs. This is an important aspect in maintaining a life of recovery.

If you are unable to work, it will be required for you to gain structured activity in your daily life through volunteer work or community work service (CWS). The GCTC team will work with the participant to find viable options for completing this requirement in the program.

*Note: If you lose a job or do not have employment at the time of phase advancement, you may not be able to move on to the next phase until it is obtained. You may also be required to fulfill CWS hours until employment is obtained. These decisions are made on an individualized basis and approved through the GCTC team.

Drug Court Fees

You will be required to pay a Treatment Court fee of \$300. These fees will be collected prior to phase advancement unless other arrangements are made. Each phase is accompanied by a \$75 fee, with the first 2 phases waived due to being in treatment and obtaining employment. You may use incentives to reduce equal value of phase fees. Other opportunities to reduce fines are available throughout the program such as Adopt-A-Highway road cleanup, positive progress, recognition, homework completions, etc.

If the participant is unable to financially meet these expectations, arrangements may be made through community work services or other options determined by the GCTC team.

Conclusion

The goal of the Treatment Court program is to help you build and maintain a life without mood-altering chemicals. The Judge and the Treatment Court Team are here to guide and assist you but the final responsibility is yours. To succeed, you must be willing to work with the Treatment Court Team to make the changes necessary to maintain a healthy life in recovery.

Grievance

If you have a grievance you would like to report regarding a GCTC team member, you may contact the treatment court coordinator, Jessica Schumacher, at 651-764-5028 or at Jessica.Schumacher@co.goodhue.mn.us. If your grievance involves the coordinator, you may give your complaint to The GCTC Judge.

Please be advised that all offenders on probation, parole, or supervised release, along with their parents, guardians, custodians, or their representatives, may initiate a written grievance to attempt to resolve conflict or obtain clarification of policy and procedures.

An individual described above may submit a written grievance within five business days of the incident that brought the participant to feel they had been treated unfairly. The grievance is to apply only to the offender submitting the grievance and may only grieve incidents that affect or impact them individually. Offenders may not make a “class action” grievance or grieve an incident that impacts another offender(s).

Upon receipt of the grievance, the coordinator or designee will respond in writing within five business days.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who do I call if I have an emergency? Do not miss your court appearance. Call court administration at 651-267-4800, Treatment Court Coordinator at 651-764-5028 and do not hang up the phone until you have talked personally with the Coordinator or a member of the Judge’s staff.

What if I can’t successfully do a drug test? The test will be considered a positive test and your clean time will restart. The GCTC Judge will determine any appropriate sanction.

Will my medical information be confidential? You have signed releases that the information will be shared with GCTC team members for treatment court purposes only. The Judge may discuss concerns generally in court, but it will be up to you what you share publicly.

What if I need a prescription? Make sure to inform your doctor you are in Treatment Court and take the “note to prescribers” with you, if you wish. Disclose all prescription use to your probation officer, treatment counselor, and coordinator.

What if I have an infectious disease? Inform your treatment provider, and probation officer.

What if I need transportation? Ask your probation officer, treatment counselor, or coordinator, for ideas and referrals.

Important Phone Numbers

Goodhue County Court Administration	651-267-4817
GCTC Coordinator, Jessica Schumacher	651-764-5028
GCTC Prosecutor, Steven O’Keefe	651-267-4950
GCTC Defense Attorney, Michael McDonough	
GCTC HHS Representative, Sam LaSchomb	651-385-6170
GCTC Treatment Representative, Midwest Recovery	651-846-9010
GCTC Probation Officer (Amanda Mrozek)	651-380-9000
GCTC Law Enforcement Representative	
Collins Voxland – Goodhue County Sheriff	
Mark Mandelkow – Red Wing Police Department	

I acknowledge that I received the Goodhue County Treatment Court (GCTC) Participant Handbook, understand the expectations, agree to all the terms and conditions, and acknowledge that I am bound by any updates or changes made to the Handbook at the discretion of the GCTC Team, with approval of the GCTC Judge. I am also bound by my probation agreement, participant contract, and treatment contract.

****NOTE: This handbook is subject to change at any time; participants will be notified of impactful changes.**

Participant Signature

Date

GCTC Witness

Date