

**RULE XXVI**  
**Specialized Docket – Drug Court**

**A. ESTABLISHMENT OF DRUG COURT DOCKET**

The Pike County Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, does hereby intend to create a specialized docket (specifically a drug court docket) pursuant to the requirements of the Sup. R. 36.20 – 36.29. The goals of the drug court docket are as follows:

1. To ensure treatment completion and integration of treatment knowledge into the youth's lifestyle, with a long-term goal of abstinence from drugs and alcohol.
2. To reduce delinquency.
3. To improve academic performance and attendance.
4. To enhance family functioning and reduce family conflict.
5. To improve vocational readiness.
6. To link youth to community resources that will assist youth in sustaining health lifestyles.
7. To link youth with prosocial activities and opportunities within our community's resources.
8. To provide you with opportunities for success in aftercare.

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The certified start date of the program was December 12, 2025.

## **B. PLACEMENT IN DRUG COURT**

A person is considered for the program by:

1. Referral and screening process;
2. Juveniles may be referred to the Drug Court Coordinator through their contact with the Juvenile Court. These referrals most often come from the court's Probation Department or Intake/Diversion Department. Other possible referral sources are prosecutors, defense counsel, guardian ad litem, counselors, and Judge.

A referral source shall provide relevant information to justify the referral. This information can include, but is not limited to:

1. Pre-sentence investigation/OYAS results;
2. Any/all drug or alcohol test results;
3. History of prior offenses;
4. Any/all mental health and/or drug and alcohol assessments;
5. Contact information for the juvenile and family.

The Treatment Team will discuss the candidate and make a recommendation regarding acceptance into the program. The Drug Court Judge has discretion to decide the admission into Treatment Court in

accordance with written eligibility criteria. Once deemed an appropriate candidate for the program, a juvenile will be scheduled for an initial Drug Court hearing within two weeks.

Participants will be placed on probation as soon as possible to monitor compliance with court requirements. Participants will receive a participant handbook and other program materials at their initial hearing. This information is reviewed with the program coordinator, probation officer, parent/guardian, and/or defense counsel.

There is no right or guarantee that a participant will be accepted into the program simply because they have been referred or meet acceptance criteria. If a participant is determined to not be eligible for the program, then the case will be handled in a traditional manner.

Juvenile Drug Court is a voluntary program. No participant can be forced to sign the Participation Agreement and/or participate in the program. However, once the Drug Court Participant Agreement has been ordered (typically in the initial court hearing), participants will be required to complete the program.

### **C. CLINICAL ASSESSMENT**

A clinical assessment is required of all Juvenile Drug Court candidates to confirm the participant meets the docket's clinical criteria. Assessments can be completed by any local Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services approved provider.

If the candidate has not already done so, he/she will be asked to contact a treatment provider for assessment and treatment recommendations. Participants who have not already done so will be required to complete their intake/assessment with a treatment provider within two (2) weeks of the initial referral to determine clinical eligibility for participation in the program.

All participants and their guardians are expected to sign releases of information for court staff to communicate openly with any treatment/service providers. These releases of information allow for the exchange of collateral information to ensure the accurate exchange of information amongst relevant parties throughout the Drug Court case.

## **D. TREATMENT SERVICES**

As part of Drug Court, participants will be referred promptly to appropriate services for assessments. They will then be expected to engage in counseling if recommended by the treatment provider. The referral will include documentation and other collateral information to aid in the accuracy of the assessment.

Drug Court provides prompt access to a continuum of services that include but are not limited to aid in the accuracy of the assessment. Drug Court provides prompt access to a continuum of services that include, but are not limited to individual therapy, group therapy, family therapy, educational groups, and case management services.

Participants will be placed in appropriate services as soon as possible and will be under reporting supervision to monitor compliance with court requirements, including counseling. The Drug Court Coordinator will maintain a record of all current and updated treatment and case plans with all relevant providers.

Participants will work with their providers to develop a treatment plan that is individualized to their needs. This includes coordination of mental health and AOD services for participants with co-occurring disorders. Treatment providers that work closely with the docket offer services that incorporate evidence-based strategies. These providers also receive training and education in gender-responsive and culturally appropriate services.

## **E. TREATMENT PROVIDER REQUIREMENTS**

All screenings and assessments for treatment determinations shall be provided by programs or persons who are appropriately licensed and trained to deliver such services according to the standards of the profession. Treatment providers the work frequently with Drug Court have signed a Memorandum of Understanding that describes their responsibilities to the docket.

**F. THE LEGAL AND CLINICAL ELIGIBILITY OF THE PROGRAM ARE AS FOLLOWS**

**1. Legal Eligibility:**

- a) Youth must be between 13 and 17 years of age upon entry in the program. Drug Court may accept younger participants under special circumstances.
- b) Youth must be classified as a non-violent offender.
- c) Initial offense may include, but is not limited to, OVI, under-age consumption and possession.
- d) Youth has failed more than one drug test.
- e) Youth has been referred to drug and alcohol treatment and has failed to attend treatment sessions or has failed to comply with treatment.
- f) Youth may be currently on probation or may be placed into Drug Court at the time of adjudication and disposition.
- g) Have the capacity to understand the requirements of Drug Court and the consequences.

**2. Clinical Eligibility:**

- a) Youth who meets diagnostic criteria for any substance abuse or dependence diagnosis.
- b) Have a responsible adult support person available and willing to attend counseling and to appear to Drug Court proceedings with the juvenile.
- c) Be willing to contract for and participate in a drug/alcohol and/or mental health treatment plan.
- d) Be willing to take medication if prescribed.
- e) Be willing to participate in the Juvenile Drug Court process including:

- Attending all required court appearances
- Submitting to random urine analyses, mouth swabs and breathalyzer testing
- Comply with all other program requirements and/or orders of the Judge

### 3. Disqualifying Factors:

Disqualifying factors are subject to the discretion of the admissions committee but specifically, certain offenses of a violent nature prevent a youth from being eligible for the Drug Court Program. These include but are not limited to:

- a) Terrorism
- b) Felony homicide
- c) Kidnapping, abduction, extortion
- d) Aggravated robbery
- e) Selling/dealing drugs
- f) Aggravated burglary
- g) Aggravated riot/ Inciting to violence
- h) Carrying a concealed weapon
- i) Underage purchase of a firearm
- j) Continued violent behavior

## **G. CASE ASSIGNMENT**

This is a one judge court, and all assignments will be held by the sitting judge or judge serving as retired assigned judge or another common

pleas judge in this county who is properly qualified to take cases in Pike County Common Pleas Court, Juvenile Division.

## **H. DRUG COURT DOCKET CASE MANAGEMENT**

A brief summary of the Drug Court Plan is as follows:

1. The goal of the Drug Court is to reduce recidivism, promote recovery, and improve public safety by addressing the underlying issues of substance abuse.
2. The Court hereby specifically incorporates herein by reference as if specifically rewritten the specialized dockets program and handbook.
3. The Court hereby specifically incorporates herein by reference as if specifically rewritten the participant handbook which is attached and the participant's agreement which is incorporated herein by reference as if specifically rewritten.

## **I. TERMINATION FROM THE DRUG COURT DOCKET**

The termination criteria for this specialized docket are as follows:

1. Unsuccessful termination:
  - a) Continued non-compliance
  - b) Bind-over or arrest on a felony charge in juvenile court or adult court
  - c) Drug Court Team determines it is not in the best interest of the child to continue in the Drug Court Program or Drug Court Team feels other participants may be at risk
2. Neutral discharge:
  - a) Juvenile has extended physical or mental illness

- b) Juvenile moves outside of Pike County, Ohio
  - c) Other factors (as determined by Drug Court Team) can result in a neutral discharge
3. Suspension Status: The Judge can suspend participation in the program for those participants who are:
- a) Placed in a residential or foster care placement and cannot be transported for status review hearings
4. Special Notes:
- a) The specialized docket judge has discretion to decide the admission into the specialized docket in accordance with the specialized docket written eligibility criteria.
  - b) The specialized docket judge has discretion to decide termination from the specialized docket in accordance with the specialized docket written criteria.
  - c) The written legal and clinical eligibility and termination criteria do not create a right to participation in the specialized docket.
5. In the event the participant is terminated from the program, this case will be temporarily closed, and its disposition will be one of the following:
- a) Placed on community control
  - b) Placed in the Juvenile Detention Center
  - c) Sent to the Hocking Valley Community Rehabilitation Center
  - d) Placed in the custody of the Department of Youth Services
  - e) Released from the Program and its case terminated
  - f) Such other disposition as determined by the Judge to be consistent with the Ohio Revised Code