



Cobb County DUI Court
State Court of Cobb County

General Program Information

What is DUI Court?

DUI Court is a voluntary, post-conviction, treatment-based program for those who have been convicted multiple times for driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or other drugs. The DUI Court program offers enhanced supervision, counseling, and treatment to help participants function in the community with continuing support. The program lasts a minimum of 12 months; however, most participants will require more than 12 months to complete the program, so a sentence of at least 24 months is mandatory.

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must:

- be charged with their 2nd DUI in ten years, 3rd or more in lifetime, or 1st DUI with a history of reckless driving convictions;
- have sufficient charges to support a 24-month sentence;
- be a Cobb County resident;
- be 17 years of age or older;
- show an indication of alcohol/drug abuse or dependence;
- have no prior convictions for violent felonies or current charges (either felony or misdemeanor) involving the use of force against another;
- have no out-of-state warrants; and
- have a valid immigration status with no ICE (immigration) holds.

Benefits of the program include:

- less jail time;
- a reduction in fine(s) by one-half, conditioned upon successful completion of the program;
- community service credit of 200 hours for successfully completing all phases of the program;
- affordable treatment and alcohol/drug testing;
- supervision in meeting license reinstatement requirements; and
- support in achieving sobriety.

Cost

The cost of the program is \$75 per week. This amount includes treatment and alcohol/drug testing. Any additional treatment (such as placement in a residential facility or halfway house) that a participant may require while in the program will be at his or her own expense. Participants who challenge positive test results, which confirm positive, or who are placed on additional monitoring, will be required to pay for services at their own expense.

Phases

DUI Court is divided into five phases that each have a minimum duration; how long a participant is in a particular phase depends on the participant's level of compliance and readiness to progress in the program. In the higher phases, the program requirements lessen. The program is a *minimum* of 52 weeks long and cannot be completed any faster.

Court

In Phases I through III, participants attend court every other Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. Phase IV and V, participants are required to attend DUI Court sessions once monthly. Court usually lasts an hour, and sessions are presided over by Judge Eric Brewton, the DUI Court Judge for the State Court of Cobb County.

Treatment

Each participant accepted into the Cobb County DUI Court program will be required to attend treatment sessions at the DUI Court treatment facility, which is located in Cobb County and is on the Cobb Community Transit bus line. Further information about the exact location of treatment services will be provided to applicants later in the application process.

Group treatment sessions figure prominently into all phases of the program. Group day/times may be subject to change at staff discretion. The current group schedule is as follows:

Phase	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
I - 8 wks	Family groups are offered most Monday's 7:30 to 9 p.m.	7:30 to 9 p.m.		7:30 to 9 p.m.		
II - 12 wks		7:30 to 9 p.m.		7:30 to 9 p.m.		
III - 12 wks				7:30 to 9 p.m.		7:30 to 9 p.m.
IV - 12 wks				7:30 to 9 p.m.		
V - 8 wks						* 6 to 7:30 p.m.

* Phase V group meets on the 2nd and last Fridays of the month. Group schedules are subject to change.

Participants will also attend **individual treatment** sessions as follows: once per week in Phase I, twice per month in Phase II, and once per month in Phases III and IV. Also, participants in Phases I through III of the program attend one **family group** session per month. Participants then attend at least one family group session during Phase IV. The attendance requirement for all treatment sessions may vary based on the participant's individualized treatment plan.

Support Group Meetings

In each phase, participants are required to attend formal community-based support group meetings, such as those offered by Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, SMART Recovery, and/or other organizations. In Phase I, participants attend four meetings per week; in Phases II, III, IV, and V all require three meetings per week. *Participants are also required to find a permanent sponsor and meet with that person on a regular basis.*

Alcohol/Drug Testing

Throughout the program, participants are randomly alcohol and drug tested *at least twice* per week. Participants call in to a drug test line each day to find out whether they are scheduled to test. Testing is conducted at the treatment facility between 4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and between 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Positive or missed tests will result in a jail sanction; repeat positive/missed tests may result in revocation and termination from the program.

Employment/Educational Requirements

All program participants must work full time or be in school full time. Please inquire regarding the acceptability of online courses. Those who are unemployed for any length of time while in the program must show proof that they are actively searching for a job. Community service hours may be imposed for those who do not show acceptable job search proof and/or for those who are not employed by the end of the job search "grace period." The length of this grace period varies depending on the participant's ability to show that he or she is actively searching for a job.

*For more information, or to apply, please contact Darcy Kamau, DUI Court Coordinator.
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