

Ada County Mental Health Court PROGRAM GUIDE

Revised February 2024

MISSION STATEMENT

The Ada County Mental Health Court's mission is to help participants transform their lives by changing their criminal behavior and addressing their mental health, addiction, and past trauma. Mental Health Court holds participants accountable and supports them in achieving long-term stability with mental health issues, gaining recovery tools, becoming law-abiding citizens and being successful community members.

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Ada County Mental Health Court (or MHC, for short). This program guide is designed to answer questions and provide information about the MHC program. As a participant, you will be expected to follow the instructions given to you by the Judge, Probation Officer, Court Coordinator, Trivium Life Services, and other MHC Team members. You will also be expected to follow your treatment plan you help develop to be successful in maintaining your mental health, managing your mental illness, gaining recovery tools if you have a co-occurring substance abuse disorder, and developing skills to live successfully in the community. This program guide is intended to be a standard guide for MHC participants. All participants are encouraged to share this program guide with family and friends.

PLEASE READ THIS DOCUMENT VERY CAREFULLY.
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING AND UNDERSTANDING ITS
CONTENTS.

**Please contact the Ada County Mental Health Court at (208) 287-7507
for additional information.**

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I. ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH COURTS

Mental Health Courts are a proven alternative to *incarceration* for individuals with mental illness who have been recently convicted of a felony. The emphasis is on treatment, accountability, and intensive monitoring. Participants receive mental health treatment and services, substance abuse treatment, and learn how to think and act in ways that will prevent them from continued involvement in the criminal justice system. Participants make regular appearances before the judge and are monitored closely for program compliance. We operate under the premise that a crime committed by a person with a mental illness is not simply a law enforcement or criminal justice concern but a public health concern. Mental Health Court programs see the court, specifically the judge, as filling a role that goes beyond that of adjudication.

II. ABOUT THE ADA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT

The Ada County Mental Health Court opened in 2005. The MHC program is designed for *qualified* felony offenders who have been diagnosed with a serious and persistent mental illness and who have not been successful in their compliance with treatment in the community. The four-phase program includes treatment by and support from mental health professionals, frequent appearances before the MHC judge, mandatory mental health programming, regular visits with the Probation Officer, substance abuse treatment for participants with co-occurring substance use disorders, and random drug testing.

The first three phases last a minimum of four months each. A participant is eligible to promote when he or she demonstrates to the MHC Team and the Judge that they have accomplished specific tasks and achieved specific goals. Each promotion brings with it additional responsibility.

As the participant moves through the program, they will begin to understand and learn about their mental illness, addiction, and how to control their own life. Once this is accomplished, the participant moves from risk-control to self-risk management.

The entire program length, which is determined by the participant's progress, will not be less than 18 months. After graduation from MHC, each client will remain on supervised probation for a minimum of one year. It is critical for the participant to understand that completion of MHC is a condition of their probation. Failure to successfully complete the program can result in a probation violation.

All participants in MHC are supervised by a felony Probation and Parole Officer and will be required to comply with the rules and requirements of felony probation.

The MHC program is for offenders with a history of diagnosed mental illness. There are individuals with serious mental illness who either do not volunteer for treatment or they are not compliant with the treatment they do receive. These individuals may be homeless, abuse drugs and/or alcohol, and engage in minor criminal behavior. They often have a history of reoccurring hospitalization. Increasingly, those treatment-resistant clients find themselves incarcerated in local jails and state prisons.

III. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible to participate in the MHC program, you must:

1. Have pled guilty to or been found guilty of a felony criminal offense, be placed on supervised probation, and have a minimum of two years left on your supervised probation.
2. Have a current, one or more of the following severe and persistent mental health illnesses: Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder (severe, recurrent). Other diagnosed mental illnesses may also be considered on a case-by-case basis.
3. **Have the capacity to manage the structure of MHC.** You must be able to read at a minimum of a 6th grade reading level, write, and understand information given to you.
4. **Have a criminal history and be identified as having a mental illness in which treatment attempts have been unsuccessful.**

You may be ineligible to participate in the MHC program if you are currently charged with or have been convicted of an offense during the course of which offense or conduct:

1. You carried, possessed or used a firearm or dangerous weapon;
2. The crime resulted in the death of, or serious bodily injury to any person;
3. You used force OR violence against the person of another;
4. You have one or more prior convictions for a felony crime of against the person of another.
 - i. If an applicant has a history of incarceration for violent crime, the facts will be reviewed closely by the Mental Health Court Team and Judge before eligibility is determined.
5. ***You will be excluded from applying for the MHC program if:*** You are currently charged with, have pled guilty to or been found guilty of a felony in which you committed, attempted to commit, conspired to commit, or intended to commit a sex offense or if you are required to register as a sex offender (Idaho Code § 19-5604).

How do you get referred to the Ada County Mental Health Court?

Referral to MHC can be made only by the District Court Judge in your felony case. Following legal, clinical and probation screening, your application for MHC will be submitted to the MHC Team, including the Judge, to determine eligibility. Ultimately, the MHC Judge determines the eligibility of each applicant. If accepted into MHC, your attorney may continue to represent you during your participation in the program, or you will be represented by an attorney assigned to MHC from the Ada County Public Defender's Office.

Guilty Plea and Sentencing

If you have been charged with a new crime, you will be required to enter a guilty plea and be sentenced before participating in MHC. You will not be allowed to withdraw your guilty plea if you are terminated or voluntarily withdraw from the MHC program. If you were already on probation prior to participating in MHC, successful completion of MHC will become a requirement of your probation.

IV. MENTAL HEALTH COURT PROGRAM RULES

As a MHC participant, you are required to abide by the following rules. IT IS CRITICAL TO REMEMBER THAT MHC IS A TEAM BASED COURT AND YOUR PROBATION OFFICER IS AN INTEGRAL MEMBER OF THAT TEAM. THE FOLLOWING RULES ARE **IN ADDITION** TO YOUR TERMS OF PROBATION LISTED IN THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AGREEMENT OF SUPERVISION AND YOUR JUDGEMENT(S) OF CONVICTION:

1. Be honest. Honesty is the key to your success in Mental Health Court. You will at all times be honest with the Judge, YOUR Probation Officer, the Coordinator, and all team members. Lying is a direct violation of Mental Health Court rules.
2. Attend, BE ON TIME, and participate in all treatment and medication management sessions and classes as directed by the MHC team and according to the **Ada County Mental Health Court Rules and Trivium Group Rules**. The class and group rules contract are included at the end of this document.
3. Take all medication as prescribed, including the prescribed dosage and at the prescribed time.
4. Use only one primary care doctor, one dentist, and one pharmacy.
5. Cooperate with the Trivium Life Services Treatment Team to determine a treatment plan and follow and remain compliant with ALL mental health treatment recommendations, including medication management. This can include daily medication monitoring.
6. At all times be respectful, kind, courteous, and nonthreatening to everyone. Violent and/or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Judge.
7. Disclose immediately to a team member any and all use of alcohol, controlled substances and/or prescription medication, if you have used it in a way not prescribed by a qualified health care professional, and the use of other substances prohibited by MHC.
8. Remain free of all illegal drugs and all alcohol. Do not enter any establishment where the sale of alcohol is a major source of income. Alcohol must not be present in your home. Do not take any over-the-counter medication except aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen (Aleve) and acetaminophen (Tylenol) without approval by Trivium Life Services. All prescription medications outside of the medications prescribed by Trivium Life Services, must also be pre-approved. Provide the Treatment Team and your Probation Officer with copies of all prescribed medications. It is possible that your time may be delayed for time spent on a prescribed narcotic or other controlled or potentially addictive substances. This time may not count as time toward graduation, but you will be expected to continue to engage in programming during

suspension. You must declare ALL medications, over the counter and prescription, at all UA test submissions.

9. You MUST contact your Probation Officer and the Treatment Team immediately if a health care provider outside of Mental Health Court gives you a prescription for any medication. You MAY NOT fill any such prescription without the prior consent of your treating psychiatrist, nurse practitioner, or the nursing staff at Trivium Life Services, except in a medical emergency. "Medical Emergency" means a life-threatening situation.
10. Provide the Mental Health Court team with documentation, within 24 business hours, of all medical appointments, emergency, or non-emergency.
11. Attend a minimum of four 12-step support groups per week if directed by the MHC Team. The four meetings will take place from Thursday through Wednesday and must be on different days (you may only count one meeting per day.) ***This will help you establish strong ties in the recovery community and will help you focus on your sobriety beyond graduation.*** You will always carry a Green Card and have it signed as proof of attendance at each meeting. *Verification of 12-step attendance may be required at any time, by any Mental Health Court Team member or employees at the Ada County Treatment Courts drug testing center.*
12. You shall not use vaping devices and vape juices/products, electronic cigarettes, "Spice," "bath salts," products containing CBD, kratom, poppy seeds, kombucha or other probiotic drinks containing alcohol, caffeine pills, remedies or substances, incenses, or other food-like or non-food substances unless they have been approved in advance by your Probation Officer or the MHC Coordinator. Drinking energy drinks are prohibited while in Mental Health Court.
13. Submit to all drug tests requested by any Mental Health Court team member, including but not limited to urinalysis, oral fluid, and/or BAC drug screens. You shall report any failures to produce and all other urinary analysis issues immediately.
14. Always comply with the Ada County Mental Health Court Dress Code, including Mental Health Court appearances, classes, or other activities. The Dress Code contract is included at the end of this document. Why does it matter how you are dressed? Part of MHC is learning how to present yourself at your best in all environments so you can be successful. If you are dressed inappropriately, you may be removed from group or court and your absence will be unexcused.
15. Maintain confidentiality of other MHC participants. Treatment cannot succeed unless all participants maintain the confidentiality of other participants and of information disclosed in treatment.
16. You shall not apply for title loans and/or payday loans or incur any debt without obtaining permission while in MHC.
17. You shall not borrow or loan money or property to or from anyone while in Mental Health Court unless specifically granted permission from the MHC Team.

18. Any employment you obtain must be legitimate, verifiable employment, and pre-approved by MHC. Any side jobs also need to be pre-approved. You shall not panhandle.
19. You shall not form romantic and/or physical relationships between MHC participants. These types of relationships are STRICTLY prohibited. You are also prohibited from entering into a new relationship, physical or romantic, with anyone without obtaining permission MHC.
20. Pay the standard MHC fees as set by the MHC Judge of no more than \$35.00 per month.
21. Follow housing guidelines at your residence, including safe and sober housing, group homes, and any other residential setting.
22. Make call-ins to the Mental Health Court office (208) 287-7508 every morning between 5:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. Listen for your color and take a drug test if your color is called. You then need to send an e-mail to MHCdailycheckin@adacounty.id.gov, informing us what is on your schedule for the day. This e-mail needs to be sent no later than 9 a.m. Phase 1 participants, and anyone else instructed to by the MHC Judge, must send an evening e-mail by 9:00 p.m., **after you are home and will remain home for the night.**
23. Comply with curfew nightly, as directed by the Team, unless you get permission from your Probation Officer in advance to be out past curfew.
24. Meet with the MHC Probation Officer on the same weeks as court appearances and as instructed by your PO.
25. Attend Mental Health Court once per week or less often, as directed.

V. MENTAL HEALTH COURT CONDITIONS OF PROBATION

All Mental Health Court participants are supervised by the Idaho Dept. of Corrections, District 4 Probation & Parole. Participants must comply with all requirements of felony probation including any special conditions set forth at sentencing. These conditions include but are not limited to all terms listed in the most current Idaho Department of Corrections Agreement of Supervision. This agreement is included at the end of this document.

VI. ADDITIONAL RULES & RESPONSIBILITIES APPLICABLE TO EACH PHASE

Mental Health Court treatment and participation is phase-based. At the beginning of the program, treatment is very intensive, and accountability and compliance are monitored with very close supervision. As participants progress through phases, they take more personal accountability but are still held to high standards of performance.

Phase 1: Four Months (minimum)

1. Cooperate with the Treatment Team to determine a mental health treatment plan. Remain or become compliant with ALL treatment directives. This could include daily medication monitoring throughout Phase I.

2. Report to your Probation Officer in person weekly.
3. Attend Mental Health Court 101, Symptoms Management, and other classes as directed.
4. If you have a substance use disorder, participate in Facing Addiction group weekly.
5. Participate in a minimum of four self-help meetings each week. This may include Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Dual Recovery Anonymous, or any combination of 12-step based meetings. Keep a green card at all times and record all of your meetings as directed by your Probation Officer. **You can be asked to show your green card at any time and you must have it with you.**
6. Obtain a self-help sponsor within 90 days. Meet with your sponsor at least once a week. This self-help sponsor needs to be affiliated with a recognized recovery or self-help program and needs to have a minimum of five years of sobriety. Any sponsor with less than five years of sobriety need to be pre-approved by the MHC team. The sponsor cannot be a family member or friend.
7. Complete a minimum of one quarter of any court-ordered community service you may have before being eligible to promote to Phase 2.
8. Call the drug testing line every morning between 5:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. ((208) 287-7508) to hear if your color is called for drug testing. You may leave a voicemail or an e-mail to MHCdailycheckin@adacouty.id.gov, informing us what is on your schedule for the day. This e-mail needs to be sent no later than 9 a.m. Go drug test if your color is called at 400 N. Benjamin St. **Send your nightly e-mail check-in any time in the evening as long as it is BEFORE 9:00 p.m., after you are home and will remain home for the night**, to report on what your day was like and whether or not you remained sober.
9. Submit to random drug tests including but not limited to urinalysis, oral fluid, and/or BAC tests as directed by any Mental Health Court team member. Call the drug testing line daily to learn if you are required to test that day and to pledge that you will remain sober.
10. Attend MHC weekly.
11. Follow curfew of 9:00 p.m. nightly.
12. Earn a minimum of 12 rewards before being eligible to promote to Phase 2, provisions in contracts also apply.

Phase 2: Four Months (minimum)

1. Remain or become compliant with ALL treatment directives.
2. Report to your Probation Officer in person at least three times monthly, on the weeks you attend Mental Health Court, or as directed by your Probation Officer.
3. Attend MRT, Skills Development, and other classes as directed.
4. Participate in a minimum of four self-help meetings each week. Always keep a green card and record all of your meetings as directed by your Probation Officer. You can be asked to show your green card at any time, and you must have it with you.
5. Meet with your self-help sponsor at least once per week .
6. Complete a minimum of half of any court-ordered community service you may have before being eligible to promote to Phase 3.

7. Call the drug testing line every morning between 5:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. ((208) 287-7508) to hear if your color is called for drug testing. You then need to leave a voicemail or send an e-mail to MHCdailycheckin@adacounty.id.gov, informing us what is on your schedule for the day. This e-mail needs to be sent no later than 9 a.m. Go drug test if your color is called at 400 N. Benjamin St.
8. Submit to random drug tests, as in earlier phases.
9. Attend MHC at least three times a month or more often, as directed.
10. You may be required to participate in Vocational Rehabilitation for services and begin job search or other activities such as performing community service, as directed.
11. Follow curfew of 10:00 p.m. nightly.
12. Earn a minimum of nine rewards before being eligible to promote to Phase 3, provisions in contracts also apply.

Phase 3: Four Months (minimum)

1. Remain or become compliant with ALL treatment directives.
2. Report to your Probation Officer in person at least two (2) times per month on the weeks you attend Mental Health Court, or as directed by the Probation Officer.
3. Participate treatment and classes as directed by the MHC Team.
4. Participate in a minimum of four self-help meetings each week. Always keep a green card and record all of your meetings as directed by your Probation Officer. You can be asked to show your green card at any time, and you must have it with you.
5. Meet with your self-help sponsor at least once per week.
6. Complete a minimum of three quarters of any court-ordered community service you may have before being eligible to promote to Phase 4.
7. Call the drug testing line every morning between 5:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. ((208) 287-7508) to hear if your color is called for drug testing. You then need to leave a voicemail or send an e-mail to MHCdailycheckin@adacounty.id.gov, informing us what is on your schedule for the day. This e-mail needs to be sent no later than 9 a.m. Go drug test if your color is called at 400 N. Benjamin St.
8. Submit to random drug tests as in earlier phases.
9. Attend MHC two times a month or more often, as directed.
10. Follow curfew of 11:00 p.m.
11. You may be required to participate in Vocational Rehabilitation for services, work, or be involved in other activities such as performing community service, as directed.
12. Earn a minimum of six rewards before being eligible to promote to Phase 4, provisions in contracts also apply.

Phase 4: Six Months (minimum)

1. Remain or become compliant with ALL treatment directives.
2. Report to your Probation Officer in person at least one (1) time a month on the week you have Mental Health Court, or as directed.

3. Attend Community Transitions group, and any other groups as instructed by the MHC Team.
4. Attend the Mental Health Court Alumni group one (1) time per month or as directed.
5. Participate in a minimum of four self-help meetings each week. Always keep a green card and record all of your meetings as directed by your Probation Officer. You can be asked to show your green card at any time, and you must have it with you. If desired, you may substitute two self-help meetings with community activities and write a brief paragraph about how doing the activity aids in your recovery.
6. Meet with your self-help sponsor at least once per week.
7. Call the drug testing line every morning between 5:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. ((208) 287-7508) to hear if your color is called for drug testing. You then need to leave a voicemail or send an e-mail to MHCdailycheckin@adacounty.id.gov, informing us what is on your schedule for the day. This e-mail needs to be sent no later than 9 a.m. Go drug test if your color is called at 400 N. Benjamin St.
8. Submit to random drug tests as in earlier phases.
9. Attend MHC one time a month or more often, as directed.
10. Follow curfew of midnight.
11. Maintain employment or scheduled volunteer work as directed.
12. Complete a Community Service Project in consultation with MHC Team members.
13. Prepare a statement of goals to present to the Judge in advance of graduation.
14. Prepare a detailed Relapse Prevention Plan with the assistance of a substance abuse counselor from MHC.
15. Prepare a before and after statement to be read at graduation.
16. Be current on all fines, court costs, and MHC fees. Have all court-ordered community service completed.
17. Earn a minimum of five rewards in order to graduate from MHC, provisions in contracts also apply.

VII. COURTROOM BEHAVIOR

You are expected to maintain appropriate behavior at all times in the courtroom and courthouse. This includes:

1. No talking in the courtroom;
2. No sleeping in the courtroom;
3. No eating in the courtroom;
4. No drinks other than water is allowed in the courtroom;
5. No gum, tobacco, or tobacco-like products allowed in the courtroom;
6. No smoking in the courthouse;
7. Be on time and do not leave during the hearing except to use the restroom (emergencies only) You are expected to have used the restroom prior to the court session starting;

8. **Cell phones must be turned off or they will be confiscated.** As your phone must be turned off, absolutely no texting is allowed during court.

VIII. CONFIDENTIALITY

You will be required to sign a release of information which allows your treatment provider(s) to give information to the MHC Team which includes the Judge, Mental Health Court Coordinator, Prosecuting Attorney, Public Defender, Treatment Providers and Probation Officer. Your privacy is respected, and the MHC Team will make every effort to protect your identity.

Confidentiality is also essential to maintain the integrity of group therapy sessions. Nothing that is discussed within the confines of those meetings will leave those meetings. No information pertaining to another client should be discussed outside of group. This confidentiality applies to things said in the courtroom as well. Rule violations, however, should be reported immediately.

Please note that Mental Health Court is an OPEN proceeding and members of the public are permitted to attend at any time. Observers are welcome, but they are encouraged to recognize the extremely personal nature of matters that are discussed in Mental Health Court and to use discretion when talking about the proceedings.

IX. FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Fees

MHC participant fee in the amount of \$35.00 per month is assessed to each participant. The terms and conditions of this fee are determined by the Judge in consultation with the MHC Team.

Cost of Supervision

The Department of Correction assesses a monthly supervision fee of no more than \$30.00 per month, payable to IDOC. Payment methods include money order, kiosk payment or online payment methods. Ask you PO for further instructions on payment methods.

Restitution

If restitution has been ordered in your case, you must make monthly payments to the clerk of the court through the Mental Health Court office.

You may not be permitted to graduate until your court costs and fees, Cost of Supervision and Mental Health Court fees are paid in full.

X. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to graduate, you must accomplish the following:

1. A minimum of six months of continuous sobriety from prescription drug abuse, illicit drugs and/or alcohol, and no drug testing issues (i.e. missed, leaked, diluted, high creatinine, positive drug tests, unless excused by the MHC Judge.)
2. Six months of employment or scheduled community service as directed by the MHC Team.

3. Successful completion of all court-ordered treatment.
4. Maintain sponsor contact as directed.
5. Regular self-help meeting attendance as directed.
6. Completion of all specialized probation terms.
7. Completion of high school diploma or GED, unless an exception is determined by the MHC team.
8. Payment of fines, restitution and treatment fees.

At graduation, your family, friends, employers, counselors, sponsors, and others you would like to invite are welcome to share in this joyous and life affirming occasion.

XI. AFTER GRADUATION

After graduation, MHC graduates will remain on supervised probation, and Alumni group participation is required for a minimum of one year. The Alumni group meets once per month to allow alumni to check in about the progress and sobriety after MHC. It is supervised by the treatment team and may be used to facilitate mentor/mentee relationships between alumni and current MHC participants. You will also be required to meet with your therapist for a minimum of six months following graduation. If you struggle on supervision; relapse or commit a new crime, which does not result in a formal probation violation, your probation officer may direct you to attend alumni group for a set period of time after you have completed your one year of required participation.

Idaho Code 19-2604 states that the Court may “terminate the sentence or set aside the plea of guilty or conviction of the defendant, and finally dismiss the case and discharge the defendant” for graduates of treatment courts. **It is critical to work with your attorney before you enter Mental Health Court to understand how 19-2604 might apply to your case.**

After one year of supervised probation, application can be made to the Court for a discharge of the felony or amendment of the judgment to a misdemeanor. If this request is granted, probation can be terminated, and a charge(s) could be either dismissed or reduced to a misdemeanor and civil rights could be restored, except for the right to purchase, possess or carry on your person firearms or weapons.

The right to keep and bear arms is a federal right that is governed by federal law. You may wish to ask your attorney about further steps that could be taken to restore that right to you.

A discharge or reduction of your case to a misdemeanor can be delayed for many reasons, including *but not limited to*:

1. Failure to pay restitution.
2. Relapse with alcohol or other drug(s).
3. Contact with law enforcement or other violations of probation.

There are some crimes, including but not limited to Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants, that may be reduced to a misdemeanor but not dismissed entirely. This Court has determined that it is not compatible with the public interest to completely dismiss a DUI for these reasons. Other crimes or charges that fall into this category and ALL cases are considered individually.

XII. FAQ'S (FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS)

What if I have a serious medical condition?

In general, if you have a serious medical condition, you will not be excluded from MHC. You must be willing to fully disclose your condition and medical care to the treatment providers and team. If you are taking a prescribed medication for your condition, you must continue to do so. Although we can likely be flexible and work around your condition, you must be able to engage in and complete treatment.

Can I use prescription medication?

As a general rule, MHC participants are expected to be drug free, including the unauthorized use of prescription medication.

If your doctor prescribes medication, you must bring the prescription to the Treatment Team for review by the psychiatrist. You also must notify your Probation Officer when you get a prescription from a certified medical or dental professional. You are required to sign a release of information so that the MHC Team can verify your treatment and the prescription. While in MHC, you must use ONE doctor or ONE dentist and ONE pharmacy, unless otherwise approved by the MHC Judge. We also require that you notify the medical professional of your addiction and that you request non-narcotic, non-addictive medications be considered in your treatment.

What happens once I am in the program?

You will be required to participate fully in the program to graduate from MHC. This will include but is not limited to random drug testing, court appearances, paying fees and fines, verifying self-help meetings, participating in group education, mental health treatment, and ongoing contact with your Probation Officer.

What if I want to travel outside of Ada County?

If you want to travel outside Ada County, you must submit a travel request form **two weeks** before the date you would like to leave. You must get permission from your Probation Officer, the Treatment Team, and the Coordinator *before you leave the county*. As a condition of travel, your Probation Officer may require you to submit to a drug test prior to leaving and immediately upon return. You may be required to find a lab at your destination, have it approved by MHC and pay for the cost of your testing while out of town. Another condition may be that a treatment group is not missed. You may be required to attend self-help meetings while you are out of Ada County and to show proof that you attended.

What happens if I don't follow Mental Health Court rules?

If you do not comply with Mental Health Court rules, including treatment, probation conditions, or attendance at mandatory meetings, the Court may have a variety of responses. These responses are intended to support you and help you learn new skills and gain new tools to help avoid making decisions that have negative consequences in the community. Possible responses include but are not limited to:

1. Writing assignments
2. Community service hours
3. Additional court appearances
4. Restricted curfew or house arrest
5. Demotion to a prior phase
6. Delayed promotion to the next phase
7. Participation, at your expense, in the Sheriff's Labor Detail ("SLD") program
8. Jail time
9. Termination from the program

And may also include treatment responses including but not limited to:

1. Additional treatment contacts
2. Additional self-help meetings

How do drug tests work?

You will be required to participate in random drug testing to monitor your abstinence from substances of abuse, like alcohol, marijuana, opiates, and more. When urinalysis is used, a same-sex employee at the testing facility will collect a specimen from you. All drug test results are reported to the MHC Team. Positive drug tests, evidence that urine samples have been tampered with, dilute specimens that cannot be assessed, specimens with high creatinine levels, refusal to provide a sample, or missed drug tests can be grounds for sanctions from the judge.

Poppy seeds are a concentrated form of opium and should not be eaten. Some "power drinks" contain pseudoephedrine and are not to be taken. Your recovery is important. Staying away from these items will not only give you clean tests, but it will also keep substances out of your system which may trigger old addictions.

You must be very careful **not** to ingest:

1. Alcohol
2. Kombucha or other probiotic drinks containing trace alcohol
3. Poppy seeds in any form (muffins, bread, bagels, etc.)
4. Flushing agents
5. "Natural" or herbal remedies
6. CBD or other THC/marijuana derived products
7. "Power" or "energy" drinks (Red Bull and others)
8. All over-the-counter medications (such as Nyquil and including nasal sprays) without **prior** approval from the coordinator and/or treatment team.
9. "Metabolife", caffeine pills or other over the counter diet aids/supplements.
10. "Spice" or similar substances
11. Controlled substances, including those that can be prescribed by a certified health care professional.

12. Vapes, vaping products, and electronic cigarettes are prohibited while in MHC.

The best rule to follow regarding what you can and cannot take or use is simple: **Take no medications or herbal supplements, prescribed or over the counter, without first obtaining permission** from your Probation Officer or the Coordinator. If you aren't sure whether you can use or consume something, DON'T.

What if I relapse?

Relapses occur, but that just means you have more work to do. It does not necessarily mean, however, that you will be terminated from the program. The MHC Team understands that addiction is a devastating disease, and we ask that you are honest and tell us if you use so we

can help support you in your journey toward sobriety.

What if I know that another MHC client is breaking the program rules?

Participants of the MHC should maintain group accountability by reporting any rule violations. If one participant knows that another participant is breaking the rules and doesn't report it, both clients could be in trouble. Letting the Team know if your friends are struggling will help your friends get support. When a friend is struggling and you keep it to yourself, you take away opportunities for your friend to receive important help and support from others.

What benefits are there if I graduate from MHC?

After graduation and a minimum one-year probationary period, which can be extended if restitution is still owed or any violations occur, the defendant can petition the Court to dismiss the felony charge or reduce the case to a misdemeanor and to be released from probation. Additionally, participants gain many new skills to support their recovery from mental illness and help maintain their sobriety. Participants and their friends and families can benefit from MHC for many years—even a lifetime!

What are grounds for termination from Mental Health Court?

You can choose to leave the program at any time. Choosing to quit MHC, which is a term and condition of your probation, can have severe consequences. In most cases the original sentence will be imposed. The MHC Judge can remove you from the program for things like not following MHC or Probation rules, getting new criminal charges, ongoing drug testing problems, or among other things. A relapse is not necessarily grounds for termination, but lack of progress over time is a serious problem. If you cannot make progress to meet your treatment goals, you could be removed from MHC. There are several grounds for possible termination. These include:

1. Corrupting, threatening, bullying, or negatively influencing another MHC participant.
2. Tampering with a UA sample, using the urine of someone else for your own, or allowing someone else to use your urine for their sample.
3. Possession of alcohol, drugs, or paraphernalia at your residence, in your car, or on your person.
4. Attending a treatment group under the influence.

5. Possession of a weapon in your residence, car, or on your person.
6. New charges, in particular violent or sexual crimes.
7. Negative behavior toward all MHC Team staff, including all treatment staff.

What happens if I'm terminated from MHC?

If you're terminated from MHC you will appear before the assigned District Judge for possible imposition of sentence and service of the remainder of your sentence in the state penitentiary.

XIII. AMENDMENTS

XIV. CONCLUSION

Mental Health Court is designed to promote your success, self-sufficiency, and participation in the community as a productive and responsible citizen. The Judge, Probation Officer, and all MHC Team members are here to support you, but the hardest working person in MHC must be you. The rewards and responsibilities for your success belong to YOU alone!

We hope this program guide has been helpful and answered most of your questions. If you have additional questions or concerns about the MHC program, please feel free to contact the MHC Probation Officer, the MHC coordinator, or your defense attorney.

XV. MHC TEAM MEMBERS

Mental Health Court Judge: Honorable Patrick Miller

Ada County Mental Health Court

Coordinator: Alice Shriver (208) 287-7507 – Office, (208) 515-0900 - Cell
Administrative Assistant: Jean Wilson (208) 287-7538 - Office
200 W. Front St., Room 4106, Boise ID 83702
Fax (208) 287-7549

Dept. of Correction/District 4 Probation & Parole

Probation Officer Patty Sproat (208) 327-7008 ext. 5178
10221 Emerald Street, Boise ID 83704

Trivium Life Services Treatment Team:

12553 W. Explorer Dr. Boise, Idaho 83713, (208) 376-7083
Sarah ext. 1112
Office: 208-376-7083 ext. 1132 (Business hours M-Th)

Ada County Sheriff's Office: (208) 577-3410

7200 Barrister Dr. Boise, ID 83704
Mental Health Court Liaisons:
Deputy Keber
Deputy Yorita

Idaho Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Located inside the Probation Office: (208) 327-7008 ext. 5174.
10221 Emerald Street, Boise ID 83704

Your attorney:

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ Fax Number: _____

Address: _____

XVI. This signature page is for all participants who have been accepted into and have been ordered to complete the Ada County Mental Health Court program after sentencing.

I, _____, have received a copy of the Ada County Mental Health Court Program Guide, reviewed its requirements, and I agree to follow its conditions as amended.

Signed on this _____ day of _____, 2024.

Defendant

Mental Health Court Coordinator