

# Jasper County Family Treatment Court



## PARENT HANDBOOK

Created September 2022  
Modified April 5, 2023

CONTACT INFORMATION

My Children's Division Case Worker is: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My Service Coordinator is: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My Deputy Juvenile Officer is: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My Treatment Program is: \_\_\_\_\_

My Treatment Counselor is: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

My Lawyer is: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Drug Screening

DRUG TESTING

See drug testing section for more information.

TOMO Drug Testing Number:

TOMO Drug Testing Location: 705 Illinois Ave, Suite 12A Joplin, MO 64801.

# WELCOME

***Welcome to the Jasper County Family Treatment Court (FTC) program.*** We congratulate you on your decision to participate in this program. This handbook will answer your questions about FTC and provide an overview of what to expect. As a participant, you are expected to work on your court-ordered treatment and case plans and follow directions given to you by the Family Treatment Court Commissioner (judge) and Team.

Share this handbook with your family and close friends so they will know about the hard work you are doing to be clean and sober and a more responsible parent. Their support will be very important in your recovery.

## WHAT IS FAMILY TREATMENT COURT?

Family Treatment Court links child protection services, substance abuse treatment, and the juvenile court to give the services needed to restore parents' sobriety and provide for the safety and well-being of their children. This program is for you and your children.

Reunification with your children is not a guarantee because you are in this program or even if you graduate from it. However, by participating in this program, your chances for reunification are greater.

Program length is determined by each person's progress. Our focus is to assist you in being free from drug and alcohol use and parenting your children in a healthy way. The program helps you do this with substance abuse treatment, supervision, frequent court appearances, and random drug testing. Don't compare yourself with anyone else in the family treatment court. Your plan is designed just for you and will take as long as we need to get you and your children together in a safe, sober, loving home of your own.

Your job will be to understand that your children's lives have been affected by your use of drugs and/or alcohol. Because of this, you need to make some changes in your life. You will be asked to go to substance abuse treatment. This is to help you and your family. We hope your goals and our goals are the same: to be a better parent, to make sure your children are healthy, safe, and well-cared for, and to stop using drugs and alcohol.

This program is made up of many different people and agencies who work as a team to help you and your family. Your team includes your Service Coordinator, Children's Division case worker, Guardian ad Litem (a lawyer for your child), treatment providers, juvenile officers, and the Commissioner (judge).

## WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE FAMILY TREATMENT COURT?

**Family Treatment Court offers the best opportunity for you to get your family back together quicker and permanently.** By joining the Family Treatment Court, you are saying that you love your children and are willing to work hard to get them back in your home to take care of them. The Court believes that you can succeed on your journey to a clean and sober life and reunification with your child(ren). Working together, we hope to reunify you with your kids – sooner and long-term.

We believe that if you trust our process, we are confident that you will see positive changes in your life – you will become clean and sober; have improved health and a stable lifestyle; obtain or improve your employment and/or further your education; develop new and positive relationships with family and friends; rejoin your community as a productive member; and find happiness in your recovery and your new life. Our goal is to help you stop using drugs in order to achieve safety and permanency for you children. The plan is for you to graduate from the program at the completion of your trial home visit, and have your case closed.

## WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO GET MY KIDS BACK?

Simply put – you will have to (re)learn how to parent sober. We know that being a good parent is more than just being drug and alcohol free so you will also be taught skills to help you provide a safe, stable environment and interact with your kids in a positive manner. Your team will help you (re)learn how to do that – it will involve substance abuse treatment, drug testing, employment, and parenting classes to improve life for you and your family. We understand that it may not be easy and we will be there with you through the process. At the beginning – just:

- Show up
- Engage as directed
- Be honest

## WHAT HAPPENS IF I QUIT OR GET KICKED OUT OF THE PROGRAM?

If you choose to quit the program or are terminated from the program, your children's permanency plan could be changed to termination of your parental rights or an alternative planned permanent living arrangement for your child. Missouri law provides that your Juvenile judge may consider the reason(s) you were terminated from Family Treatment Court.

You can be terminated from the Family Treatment Court due to the following reasons:

- Continued failure to engage in treatment or program requirements, or
- Assaultive, threatening, or abusive behavior toward any staff or other participants, or
- New allegations of serious physical abuse or sexual abuse of a child, or
- New criminal charges.

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Family Treatment Court is divided into five different parts, called “phases.” Each phase has its own goals and requirements tailored to your individual needs and progress. As you progress through the phases, you will be able to spend more and more time with your children.

### Phases of the Jasper County Family Treatment Court<sup>1</sup>

	Phase 1 (Step In)	Phase 2 (Small Steps)	Phase 3 (Step Forward)	Phase 4 (Step Firm)	Phase 5 (Step Up)
Minimum Length	30 days	1-2 months	2 months	3 months	4-6 months
Court Appearances	Twice a month or as directed	Twice a month or as directed	Twice a month or as directed	Once a month or as directed	Once a month or as directed
Case Worker Meeting	Weekly or as directed	Week of court or as directed	Twice monthly or as directed	Week of court or as directed	Week of court or as directed
Visitation Plan (Child)	Establish	Maintain	Maintain	Maintain	Maintain
Drug Testing	Daily call-in	Daily call-in	Daily call-in	Daily call-in	As directed
Treatment (Individual & Group)	Get Assessed	As prescribed including a relapse prevention plan	As prescribed	As prescribed including an aftercare plan	As prescribed
Community Support Groups	If directed	1 time per week/Obtain sponsor/mentor	2 times per week/Maintain sponsor/mentor	2 times per week/Maintain sponsor/mentor	2 times per week/Maintain sponsor/mentor
Case/Social Service Plan	Develop	Update	Update	Update	Completed
Program Fee	Not required	Complete budget assessment	Pay as agreed	Pay as agreed	Pay as agreed
Sobriety (Minimum)	14 days	30 days	45 days	60 days	90 days
Full-Time Employment	Not required	Seek and obtain	Maintain	Maintain	Maintain
Life Skills	Establish needs with Service Coordinator	Start Strengthening Families	Engage in Finish Strengthening Families	Present aftercare plan to court	Develop continuing care plan
Phase Advancement	Application to advance to phase II	Application to advance to phase III	Application to advance to phase IV	Application to advance to phase V	Exit interview and Application for graduation

By the third phase you should be establishing a culture of sobriety (i.e. changing people, places, and things) as well as obtaining or maintaining stability in housing, finances, health, and transportation. Depending on your needs, you may be required to complete Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), meet with a Peer Support Specialist, budget classes, or other programs.

Your team will help you with these expectations as you move through the program.

<sup>1</sup> All program requirements are subject to change. Each participant will receive an individualized plan based on his/her own needs and progress.

## **COURT HEARINGS**

As a Family Treatment Court participant, you are required to appear in court on a regular basis. At each appearance, the Commissioner is updated on your progress in treatment, drug test results, visits with your children, your participation in other services, your attitude, etc. Your court appearances reflect the progress you are making in your recovery. You will be given a court schedule to know what dates you are to appear in court. Failing to appear at treatment court is unacceptable and can result in a sanction or termination from the program. If you cannot appear in court as scheduled, you must contact your service coordinator as soon as possible in order to get permission from the Commissioner. If you have questions about what date you should appear, contact your service coordinator.

The treatment court team meets regularly to discuss your progress and how to best help your family. At each court hearing, you are subject to consequences based on your performance and program compliance for the reporting period. When you fail to comply with program rules, the Court may order consequences for you. Noncompliance hearings are scheduled monthly as a measure of accountability to clients not engaged with FTC requirements. The goal is to address the behaviors prior to being set for termination from the court.

## **CONFIDENTIALITY**

Your identity and privacy will be protected consistent with Missouri law. In response to these regulations, policies and procedures have been developed which guard your confidentiality. You will be asked to sign an Authorization for Disclosure of Confidential Information Program authorizing the transfer of information among all participating agencies and the Juvenile Court Judge or Commissioner Team members will never reveal information to family members, friends, or the public without written consent.

## **PROGRAM FEES**

All participants who have been ordered into FTC are required to pay the following fees:

- Individuals - \$300.00
- Couples - \$425.00

If participants are classified as indigent and meet the US Federal Poverty Guidelines, they may request all of or a portion of their fees be waived due to financial hardship. These cases will be discussed by the FTC team on a case by case basis. Participants will not be held back in their phase due to financial hardship. The FTC team may allow the participant to engage in community service within the community in lieu of payment towards their treatment fees. If you leave or are terminated from the program, you will forfeit any money paid toward the fee. Fee payments will be reported to the Court as part of your regular progress report. In addition to the program fee, you may incur treatment-related costs.

## **WEATHER POLICY**

If Joplin Public Schools are closed or are dismissing early due to weather, Family Treatment Court proceedings are cancelled. If Joplin Public Schools are closed, there will be no drug-testing at TOMO Drug Testing Services that day only. If you have questions about the FTC schedule, contact your Children's Division Case Manager.

## DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING

The Jasper County Family Treatment Court uses both regular and random drug/alcohol screenings throughout the Recovery Court program. Primarily, the program uses daily random drug and alcohol testing based on a call code system. You will be assigned a call-in code and be given a phone number to call every day, between 4:30 a.m. and 7 a.m. The recording will prompt you to enter your call-in code and the first four letters of your last name. After you enter the required information the recording will tell you if you are required to report for a drug screen. If you are selected to submit a random drug test you will need to report between 6 a.m. and 9 a.m. to TOMO Drug Testing located at 705 Illinois Ave, Suite 12A Joplin, MO 64801 for drug testing. Additional testing may be administered at the court's discretion.

Failure to call, failure to report for drug testing, failure to admit to drug use prior to drug testing, and/or failure to submit a urine sample for drug testing will result in sanctions and may delay reunification with your children.

You **MUST** report for ALL drug and alcohol testing unless you have prior approval from your treatment court team. If you fail to report for your random drug and alcohol testing and you do not have prior approval, your test will be considered a positive. This may affect and delay reunification with your child(ren) and may result in a sanction. or in other sanctions.

Employment is not an acceptable reason to fail to report for drug testing. If you frequently work during these hours, you must make alternative arrangements with your case manager or your employer. In addition to the call-in code system, you may be asked to submit to testing during home visits, court sessions, or meetings with your case manager or treatment provider. All drug/alcohol testing procedures will be explained to you at the time of the test. You have the right to witness all urine testing and to be made aware of the results. You have a right to request confirmation testing. Drug test results will be shared with all other team members. In addition to submitting urine samples for drug testing, you may be asked to submit a sample of your breath for alcohol testing, blood tests, and/or to hair follicle testing.

## MEDICATIONS

By entering Family Treatment Court you have agreed to not possess, use, or consume alcohol or illegal drugs or misuse prescription or over-the-counter medications. This includes:

- Over-the-counter medications that contain “D, DM, DXM” (dextromethorphan), ephedrine/pseudoephedrine (Robitussin, Sudafed, Nyquil, etc) including inhalants
- Herbal energy supplements (Mini Thins, etc.) or drinks (Kombucha)
- Any substances that may alter your mood and/or cause you to have a positive drug test including: Kratom, CBD oil, poppy seeds, K2, Delta8, bath salts, hand sanitizer, mouth wash, etc.

You must present any treating physician with your Notice to Any Health Care Provider card each and every time you seek treatment – this lets them know you are a recovering addict. You must provide list of medications (both prescription and over-the-counter) to Juvenile Officer within first two weeks. If there are changes, update the list within 24 hours. We expect to learn this information directly from you, not through drug test results.

Do not eat, breathe, or otherwise consume any substance thing if you do not know its contents. Do not takes drinks, vapes, or other substances from other people that you do not know and trust. **You are responsibility for the results of your tests (i.e. what goes into your body).**

## MEDICATION ASSISTED THERAPY

All participants have access to and some are currently receiving services through medication-assisted treatment (MAT) including methadone, buprenorphine, and injectable naltrexone. CODC does not exclude participation due to using MAT's nor requires participants to taper off MAT's. Participants who are under the care of a physician are permitted to continue on with MAT as long as the prescriber determines that the medication is clinically beneficial.

## TREATMENT REQUIREMENT

At its core, Family Treatment Court is a *treatment* court. Because of this, the Court and your treatment team expect you to make treatment your top priority. You are expected to be present and participate in all required treatment sessions, including your substance use intake. Only the Commissioner or your treatment provider can excuse you from past or future missed treatment. Your DJO, caseworker, or attorney cannot excuse you from treatment. The Court typically only excuses missed treatment if you are so sick that you needed to go to the doctor, and you can provide a doctor's note. Otherwise, you are expected to be at treatment. Be engaged in your recovery process – don't just go through the motions.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT GROUPS (12-STEP MEETING ATTENDANCE):

As a participant of FTC you may be required to attend community support group meetings. Attendance of community support groups such as, but not limited to, Narcotics Anonymous and/or Alcoholics Anonymous will be part of your recovery. The number of required meetings depends on the phase. It is required that you arrive to meetings on time and that you stay for the entire session. You are responsible for maintaining your own log, but please note that only the meeting's chairperson can sign the log. Falsification of logs will result in a severe sanction. There may be other meetings in the community that you and the FTC team considers support, for these instances, discuss this option with your juvenile officer and treatment provider. We count meetings from Sunday through Saturday. You may not double up on meetings without prior approval from your juvenile officer or treatment provider. You must present your verification logs as long with proof of employment and/or community service to juvenile officer each Monday or as directed.

## EMPLOYMENT/EDUCATION REQUIREMENT

Financial stability is very important. Starting in Phase 3, you must obtain and maintain full-time employment or be enrolled in an approved academic program. If you are already on SSI (disability) or have other stable income, the employment requirement will be waived but you may still be required to complete volunteer hours as directed by the FTC team. Your service coordinator will work with you to find a volunteer service option that you can do with your disability. Provide weekly verification of employment and/or school to your juvenile officer as directed.

## CHILD VISITS

As you move through the programs, you will get to spend more time with your children. It is very important to attend and participate in every session. A pattern of missed sessions or lack of participation will result in a sanction. you must miss an appointment/session, it is your responsibility to provide a 24 hour notice prior to appointment/sessions so that it can be rescheduled.



## HOME VISIT GUIDELINES

Home visits will serve as a way for court officers to become better acquainted with your family and assess living conditions. Home visits will be conducted randomly at any time day or night. They will be conducted in a professional and discreet manner. Your person/home/vehicle may be subject to search without a warrant for drugs, drug paraphernalia, and alcohol. People living at your residence should be advised that the entire home will be subject to inspection. If you are not at home when a home visit is attempted, the court officer will leave a business card. You must call back as soon as you return home no matter what time you return.

## OTHER PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Achieve	Avoid
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Show Up and Be Honest.</li><li>• Keep your juvenile officer and treatment provider, or any other members of the FTC team informed of your current address and phone number at all times.</li><li>• Attend court, treatment, juvenile, and community support groups meetings as directed and provide weekly verification of attendance.</li><li>• Surround yourself with healthy people.</li><li>• Live in a home free of alcohol and drugs and people who are using alcohol and drugs.</li><li>• Inform your juvenile officer within 24 hours of any contact with law enforcement regardless of whether you are issued a citation or arrested.</li><li>• Submit to random home visits.</li><li>• Abide by all other program rules and regulations imposed by the FTC team.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Missed or late court dates, treatment sessions, group meetings, conferences with case manager, or other appointments and meetings with service providers</li><li>• Use or possession of alcohol or illegal drugs, or misuse prescription or over-the-counter drugs. This includes the use of inhalants</li><li>• Inappropriate clothing or behavior in court</li><li>• Missed or tampered drug tests</li><li>• Missed or late visits with your children</li><li>• New laws violations (charges)</li><li>• Failure to comply with requirements of the court or team members</li></ul>

By following these suggestions, you can greatly increase your chances of successfully completing FTC and achieving reunification with your children

Be honest with the Court, your Team, and yourself. Don't withhold information – it is the same as lying and will likely affect your progress more than the behavior you are trying to cover. We do not expect perfection – there will likely be bumps in the road but we will be here to help if you ask and are trying to improve your life. The FTC Team is here to help you succeed. Let us do that.

Please meet with your service coordinator or attorney if you are confused or uncertain about the requirements of FTC.

## INCENTIVES & SANCTIONS

The FTC Team recognizes the effort that it takes in attempting to improve behaviors, choices, and ultimately lifestyles. The program uses a combination of incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic responses to help you succeed. Incentives spotlight your successes both big and small while sanctions help highlight behaviors that need to change. Both incentives and sanctions are imposed on an individual basis. Other participants in similar circumstances may receive different sanctions to what appear to you to be the same infraction. This is not unusual nor is it inappropriate. You are viewed as an individual and thus, your individual progress, attendance, and history is taken into account at each occurrence. The Team may also decide that you need an “therapeutic response” which simply indicates a change in your prescribed treatment. This may mean lowering or raising treatment hours or adding/changing treatment types. Here are some examples<sup>2</sup>:

Incentives	Sanctions	Treatment Responses
Praise from FTC Commission	Admonition from Commission	Increased drug testing
Praise from FTC Team	Admonition from FTC Team	Increased support groups
Applause	Community service	Increased individual sessions
Fee reduction	GPS monitoring	Residential treatment
Travel privilege	Curfew	
Letters of recommendations	Essay/homework	
Gift cards	Letters of apology	
Spin the wheel/fishbowl	Phase extension	
Snacks or candy	Return to lower phase	
Recognition certificate	Termination	
Phase advancement	Decreased visitation	
Graduation		
More visits with your kids		
Reunification with children		

## TERMINATION FROM FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

Dismissal from the program will be reported to the Court overseeing your children’s permanency case. Termination from the program will be taken into consideration by the Judge or Commissioner who is overseeing your children’s case to determine permanency.

Termination will not be on a whim. You will be provided notice that includes the reasons for your termination. You will have a right to hearing on termination. In ordering a participant’s termination from the program, the Court will consider factors such as the nature of the violation, duration in the program, previous violations, criminal history, participants’ desire to achieve sobriety as evidenced from their actions, and others. A finding of the following by the Court could result in immediate termination: distribution of drugs, falsifying or tampering with drug and alcohol testing, violent crime, or assaultive, threatening, or abusive behavior toward any member of the FTC staff, other participants of the program, or other clients of the treatment providers.

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<sup>2</sup> This list is an example only. The FTC Commissioner has final determination of all sanctions based on individual history/previous progress.

## GRADUATION

Graduation ceremonies occur periodically throughout the year, based on a participant's entrance date into the Treatment Court program. This ceremony is a time of celebration, to reflect on the progress and commend the achievements made in a participant's life, as well as focusing on the continued success in recovery. Although graduation from Family Treatment Court does not guarantee reunification with your children, it is a very important part of the process. Your participation and progress with other services such as parenting classes, family/individual counseling, domestic violence treatment, or other court-ordered programs specific to your case also play a major part in determining reunification.

According to federal law, there must be a permanency plan in place for children who are in foster care for 12 months. Please keep this timeline in mind as you work on your recovery and the return of your children. Time is of the essence for you and for them but the Court will take into consideration your progress in FTC at the 12-month mark.

Graduation requirements are as follows:

- Completion of a relapse prevention plan and recommendation from the treatment provider
- Exhibit an understanding of the 12-step support and recovery program and maintain a permanent sponsor who has been verified by treatment
- Produce negative drug screens for no less than 90 days prior to set graduation date
- Complete a program exit interview and submit a graduation application
- Collaborative Treatment Court team vote for graduation

Your success will be reported to the Court overseeing your children's case. While it may not mean that the case is closed immediately, graduation improves your chances and speed to reunify with your children.

## CONCLUSION

Thank you for your participation in the Jasper County Family Treatment Court. The Commissioner and entire team are here to guide and assist you but ultimately, the final responsibility is yours. We hope you take full advantage of the opportunity that you've been given to change your life for the better so that you can get your kids back as soon as possible.