

How Can I Help Drug Court

Champaign County Drug Court depends on support from the local community. You can help by:

- making monetary donations to aid participants receive necessary medical, dental and other services.
- donating merchandise or gift cards for incentives. Research has shown that a system of incentives and sanctions is most effective. Incentives have been shown to decrease recidivism by up to 65%.
- employing Drug Court participants and graduates.
- asking your elected officials to support drug courts.

Please consider helping Champaign County Drug Court fulfill its mission to foster responsible citizenship. You can donate in person or send a check made payable to the Champaign County Drug Court Fund.

MAIL TO:

Champaign County Mental Health Board
ATTN: Champaign County Drug Court Fund
1776 E. Washington Street
Urbana, Illinois 61802

All donations are tax deductible. A receipt will be issued in the donor's name for tax records.

For further information or for a speaker to present to your group about Drug Court, please call (217) 384-1292.

You can learn more about drug courts at:

www.co.champaign.il.us/circt/DrugCourt/Info.htm

www.american.edu/justice/drugcourts.html

www.nadcp.org

Recent government reports indicate what addiction professionals already know: drug abuse is on the rise. This upsurge in drug use comes from nontraditional sources.

Advancements in chemical engineering allow for the creation of synthetic versions of marijuana and opiates. Some substances are frequently marketed as bath salts or plant food and are available in retail outlets in our community. The legislature has prohibited the sale and use of these synthetic drugs.

Funding Sources

Funding for the Champaign County Drug Court is provided in whole or part by the:

- Illinois Department of Human Services
(Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse)
- Champaign County Mental Health 708 Board
- United States Department of Justice
- Private Donations

As founding members of the Champaign County Drug Court, special thanks and recognition go to Judge Jeffrey B. Ford and Prairie Center Health Systems for their tireless dedication and support.



*Drug treatment courts save money,
increase public safety and rebuild lives!*

Please consider helping the Drug Court of Champaign County in its mission to foster responsible citizenship.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Champaign County Drug Court is to develop substance-free, productive citizens and break the cycle of criminal recidivism. This is accomplished by assessing and directing individuals with substance abuse addictions into judicially-supervised treatment.

Drug Court Facts

A drug court is a specialty court that manages drug abuse cases through comprehensive supervision, drug testing, treatment and sanctions/incentives. Incarceration is an appropriate resolution for some defendants, but for many, society is better served by addressing the underlying causes of a defendant's addiction.

Since the first drug court was founded in Miami over 20 years ago, there has been scientific research that clearly demonstrates the effectiveness of drug court programs. Drug courts significantly reduce drug use, and related crime, and are much more cost-effective than traditional criminal justice methods. Drug courts serve over 120,000 clients per year and have more than a million graduates in all 50 states and 15 countries.

Addiction to drugs is difficult to overcome in the best of circumstances. Individuals sentenced to Drug Court work harder than they have ever worked in their lives. A defendant's success requires tremendous dedication from the professional staff, the clients, and their families to make the transition from addiction to sobriety. The following agencies are represented on the Drug Court Team: State's Attorney, Public Defender, Court Services, Prairie Center Health Systems, TASC, Community Elements, the Judiciary, the Sheriff's Department, Family Services and Safe House.

DRUG COURT ELIGIBILITY

Participants sentenced to Drug Court:

1. Must be sentenced at an open sentencing hearing with a pre-sentence report
2. Must be a Champaign County resident
3. Must be assessed as an individual having a substance abuse/alcohol problem.
4. Must NOT have a history of violence
5. Must not be a drug dealer
6. Must have a drug-related felony
7. Must not have previously been sentenced to Drug Court

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

For every three people sentenced to Drug Court, only one graduates. In order to graduate a Drug Court participant must:

1. Have one year of continuous sobriety
2. Have continuous involvement in a sobriety-based, 12-step, self-help group.
3. Have no pending criminal charges
4. Attend, actively participate and successfully complete all recommended treatment
5. Have no outstanding arrest warrants and have six consecutive months without a misdemeanor conviction. Defendant must keep probation officer aware of any such convictions.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DRUG COURT

Three out of every four Drug Court graduates do not commit a new crime within four years of graduation. Since Drug Court not only addresses addiction, but also lifestyle, businesses and citizens are no longer victimized to support the participants' addictions. Because of Drug Court, Champaign County is a safer place to live and work.

Drug Court is cost-effective for our community. The cost to taxpayers for incarcerating a defendant is approximately \$24,000 per year. The cost of treatment for a Drug Court participant is approximately \$5,000 per year. Therefore, an individual's participation in the program saves the community \$19,000 per year. When all totaled, the citizens of Champaign County and the State of Illinois have saved hundreds of thousands of dollars because of the success of Drug Court.

According to Drug Court graduate Brian H., "I am no longer a lying, angry guy with an overpowering sense of entitlement. I like who I am now and all the things I'm doing for myself and my family. I owe Drug Court and the people associated with it everything that I have in my life right now. They also taught me that just because I'm a felon that doesn't mean my life is over."



We Can Do It!

According to Judge Ford, "It's nice for the taxpayers to know we're not just incarcerating everyone, and doing away with them. We're trying to get these people to become productive citizens and turn their lives around. *This isn't easy!*"