**HARRIS COUNTY DRUG COURT**



**Serving Harris County for over Fifteen Years**

**PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK**

**Rev. 5/2020**

Welcome to the Harris County Drug Court program. This handbook is designed to answer your questions and provide overall information about the STAR Drug Court program. As a participant in the program, you must follow the instructions given in court by the Judge, follow all of the Terms and Conditions of Probation, and comply with the treatment plan developed for you. Throughout your time in STAR Court, your case manager and treatment provider will be working closely with you and with each other. They will also promptly report all of your progress and any problems to the Drug Court Judge.

**◙ What is STAR Drug Court?**

* Program of treatment and rehabilitation monitored by STAR Court Judge and team
* Intensive supervision by your case manager
* Partnership between the criminal justice system and the alcohol/drug and mental health treatment communities
* Dedicated treatment team of case managers and staff
* Provide a variety of programs that support and help you maintain an alcohol and drug free lifestyle
* Four phase intervention program for high-risk, non-violent offenders
* Frequent court appearances
* Random alcohol and drug testing
* Substance abuse counseling, in individual and group sessions

**◙ What is the Drug Court Team?**

Drug Court is a unique non-adversarial program that involves working with a team of individuals who are all dedicated to your recovery process. The team consists of:

* Judge



* Community Supervision Officer
* Assistant District Attorney
* Criminal Defense Attorney
* Specialty Court Supervisor
* Specialty Court Branch Director
* Treatment Providers
* Clinical Director
* Recovery Coach

◙ **HOW LONG WILL I BE IN THE PROGRAM?**

The amount of time you spend in the program will be determined by **your individual progress**, but will be no less than 18 months and a maximum of 24 months. You will be eligible for an early termination of supervision or probation supervision may continue after successful completion of the STAR Court Program. If you graduate from Drug Court and remain on supervision, you will be expected to follow all aftercare requirements and continued conditions of supervision.

**◙ HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?**

As a participant, you must pay monthly fees as ordered by the Court. These may include fines, court costs, and supervision fees. These fees will be listed on your conditions of community supervision.

**◙ ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT**

After your CAST assessment, a recommendation will be made for treatment based on your needs. You will be required to follow a treatment plan that will include group and individual counseling and will focus on developing goals for you to achieve and maintain your sobriety.

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| |  | | --- | | **DRUG COURT**  **PHASE I BENCHMARK REQUIREMENTS**  **Weekly Court Reviews and Weekly office visits**  **AFTERCARE** (coming out of Residential) | | | | |
| Participant: |  | Case Manager: | |
| **ADVANCEMENT CRITERIA** | | | |
| |  | | --- | | 1. Set a long term goal and completed the Preparing for Change worksheet | | | |  |
| |  | | --- | | 1. Developed a personalized case plan | | | |  |
| |  | | --- | | 1. Attended and gained certification in at least 12 group sessions | | | |  |
| |  | | --- | | 1. Verbalized and demonstrated understanding of the use of the Behavior Chain   Specific Risky Situation: | | | |  |
| |  | | --- | | 1. Addressed substance use issues and/or missed UA and completed all assignments as directed | | | |  |
| |  | | --- | | 1. Followed up with behavioral health services, when applicable | | | |  |
| 1. Obtained valid ID | | |  |
| 1. Initiated contact with Recovery Coach | | |  |
| 1. Meet with designated clinical staff member, when applicable | | |  |
| 1. Sanction free for a minimum of 14 days prior to phase advancement | | |  |
| 1. Must have at least 2 ratings of a 2 | | |  |
| 1. Other Requirement (specify): | | |  |

As of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has completed all criteria

(Date) (Client)

for advancement to phase II.

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Client Case Manager

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| |  | | --- | | **DRUG COURT**  **PHASE II BENCHMARK REQUIREMENTS**  **Bi-weekly Court Review and Bi-weekly office visits**  **AFTERCARE** | | | | |
| Participant: |  | Case Manager: | |
| **ADVANCEMENT CRITERIA** | | | |
| |  | | --- | | 1. Attended and gained certification in all group sessions   Total of 24 group session completed on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | |  |
| 1. Demonstrated adequate progress towards goals and case plan | | |  |
| 1. Established a sober support network | | |  |
| 1. Addressed substance use issues and/or missed UA and completed all assignments as directed | | |  |
| |  | | --- | | 1. Attended a Sober Event. | | | |  |
| 1. Followed up with appropriate community resources. Specific Agency: | | |  |
| 1. Actively seeking employment or vocational training | | |  |
| 1. Maintained compliance with behavioral health services, if applicable? | | |  |
| 1. Sanction free for a minimum of 14 days prior to phase advancement | | |  |
| 1. Must have at least 2 ratings of a 2 | | |  |
| 1. Other (specify) | | |  |

As of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has completed all criteria

(Date) (Client)

for advancement to phase III.

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Client Case Manager

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| |  | | --- | | **DRUG COURT**  **PHASE III BENCHMARK REQUIREMENTS**  **Monthly Court Review and Monthly office visits**  **AFTERCARE** | | | | |
| Participant: |  | Case Manager: | |
| **ADVANCEMENT CRITERIA** | | | |
| |  | | --- | | 1. Completed a minimum of **4** booster sessions | | | |  |
| 1. Developed a success plan and submitted it to the Court | | |  |
| 1. Demonstrated the ability to manage a high risk situation effectively   Specific risky situation: | | |  |
| 1. Maintained a sober support network | | |  |
| 1. Addressed substance use issues and/or missed UA and completed all assignments as directed | | |  |
| |  | | --- | | 1. Attended and complete Helping Men Recover (12 sessions) | | | |  |
| 1. Followed up with appropriate community resources.   Specify: | | |  |
| 1. Maintained compliance with behavioral health services, if applicable | | |  |
| 1. Actively maintaining Health and Wellness objectives | | |  |
| 1. Gain employment or vocational training | | |  |
| 1. Attend Alumni Group meeting once monthly | | |  |
| 1. Sanction free for a 14 days prior to phase advancement | | |  |
| 1. Must have at least 2 ratings of a 2 | | |  |
| 1. Other (specify) | | |  |

As of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has completed all criteria

(Date) (Client)

for advancement to phase IV.

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Client Case Manager

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| |  | | --- | | **DRUG COURT**  **PHASE IV BENCHMARK REQUIREMENTS**  **monthly Court Review and month office visits**  **AFTERCARE** | | | | |
| Participant: |  | Case Manager: | |
| **ADVANCEMENT CRITERIA** | | | |
| 1. Completed a minimum of **4** booster sessions | | |  |
| 1. Finalized continuous sobriety plan and approved by the court | | |  |
| 1. Presented the continuous sobriety plan in court | | |  |
| 1. Compliant with treatment plan as directed | | |  |
| 1. Addressed substance use issues and/or missed UA and completed all assignments as directed | | |  |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | 1. Followed up with referral for community resources   Specify: | | | | |  |
| |  | | --- | | 1. Maintained employment or vocational training | | | |  |
| |  | | --- | | 1. Maintained compliance with behavioral health services | | | |  |
| 1. Attend Alumni Group meeting twice monthly | | |  |
| 1. Sanction free for a minimum of 30 days prior to   graduation. | | |  |
| 1. Must have at least 2 ratings of a 2 | | |  |

As of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has completed all criteria

(Date) (Client)

of the STAR Drug Court program and is eligible for graduation.

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**PHASES OF STAR DRUG COURT**

The STAR Court Treatment Program is a four-phase, highly structured, abstinence and accountability-based program lasting a minimum of 18 to 24 months, depending upon your individual progress. Each phase consists of specified treatment objectives, therapeutic and rehabilitative activities, and specific requirements for promotion into the next phase. The components and requirements for advancement to each phase are included in advancement forms.

Once you have successfully completed the criteria for each phase you will graduate from STAR Court. Promotion to each phase and graduation from the program shall be determined by the STAR Court Judge. The graduation ceremony will be a celebration of completing all established program requirements.

**◙ WHAT ARE THE RULES OF THE PROGRAM?**

**The STAR Program uses four post-plea courts to serve the varied needs of it's participants.**

**Monday Docket……………The Honorable Judge Josh Hill**

**Tuesday Docket……….The Honorable Judge Kelli Johnson**

**Wednesday Docket……...The Honorable Judge Hazel Jones**

**Thursday Docket……The Honorable Judge Amy Martin**

**►Appear in court as scheduled**

You will be required to appear in front of the Judge on a regular basis. The Judge will be given progress reports regarding your drug tests, attendance and participation in your treatment program. The Judge will ask you about your progress, homework assignments and address any current or ongoing non-compliance issues. **Complete & keep all required paperwork.** At each Court appearance, you will be required to bring:

1. Your STAR Court notebook, which will contain all of your important papers: appointments, goals and certificates of program completion. You will be provided with a notebook.

**►Follow your treatment plan**

If you are late or miss treatment sessions, you will be unsuccessfully discharged from treatment. Unsuccessful discharge from treatment is a serious violation and will result in a sanction or termination from the program.

**►Appropriate behavior in court and at treatment**

* Inappropriate physical and/or verbal behavior will not be tolerated and may result in your termination from the program
* Do not make threats or behave in a violent or aggressive manner toward other participants, counselors or Drug Court Team members
* Completely turn off cell phones in Court
* No gum or food is allowed in the courtroom
* Dress appropriately in Court and at treatment. Remove your hat and sunglasses. Wear shirts, pants, dresses, etc. of reasonable length. No shorts, tank tops or flip flops allowed

**►Comply with drug and alcohol screening**

You will be tested throughout the treatment process. The frequency of the random tests will be determined by your current phase and is subject to change based on violations and the recommendation of the Drug Court team and your treatment counselor.

* If you miss a urine test without valid proof of absence, you may be sanctioned
* If you miss a urine test, you must immediately submit to a test, the next day
* Any detectable level of alcohol, drug, or other intoxicating substances is considered a positive test
* If you have relapsed and used alcohol or prohibited drugs, inform your Case Manager
* Positive test as a result of a prescription drug, will be considered a positive test if you fail to submit prescription documentation to Case Manager

**►Mandatory field visits**

By entering this program, you have agreed to waive certain rights to privacy and have given consent to searches of your home, vehicle, property and person. A Drug Court law enforcement officer or your case manager will visit your home and/or workplace.

**► DON’T BREAK THE LAW**

You are required to refrain from any further violations of the law. New arrests, whether or not they lead to formal charges, may result in being terminated from STAR Court and/or revocation. Any arrest must be reported to your Case Manager immediately.

**► Reliable transportation**

There are numerous activities such as Court Reviews, treatment sessions and drug testing appointments for which you must be on time. This is not negotiable. **You must have reliable transportation or at least a reliable source of transportation to participate in this program.**

**► Responses to non-compliant behavior**

Responses for non-compliance include, but are not limited to:

1. Verbal admonishment by the Judge
2. CSO Admonishment
3. Community service
4. House arrest/electronic monitoring
5. Curfew
6. Jail

**► Program termination/revocation**

1. Serious or repeated violation of the rules of STAR Drug Court
2. New arrest
3. Failure to attend scheduled STAR Court sessions or treatment
4. Driving under the influence of alcohol or any mind altering substance
5. Tampering or falsifying any required drug /alcohol test
6. Threatening, abusive or violent verbal/physical behavior towards anyone

**USEFUL STAR COURT ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS**

**STAR UA Line: 713-368-3942**

**Monday Docket- Judge Josh Hill**

**CSO: Edward Murray, 713-755-2596**

**Address: 49 San Jacinto, 4th floor, Room459, Houston, TX 77002**

**Email:** [**edward.murrayjr.@csc.hctx.net**](mailto:Perla.Khan@csc.hctx.net)

**Defense Attorney: Aaron White**

**Email: aaron@texasdwilaw.com**

**Tuesday Docket- Judge Kelli Johnson**

**CSO: Dallas McMahon, 713-755-2544**

**Address: 49 San Jacinto, 4th floor, Room 460, Houston, TX 77002**

**Email:** [**dallas.mcmahon@@csc.hctx.net**](mailto:Luis.Moreno@csc.hctx.net)

**Defense Attorney: Sally Ring**

**Email: sallyring@ringlawfirm.net**

**Wednesday Docket- Judge Hazel Jones**

**CSO: Laura Archer, 713-755-2158**

**Address: 49 San Jacinto, 4th floor, Room 458, Houston, TX 77002**

**Email:** [**Laura.archer@csc.hctx.net**](mailto:Latasha.Baylor@csc.hctx.net)

**Defense Attorney: Jessica Needham**

**Email: jneedhamattorney@yahoo.com**

**Thursday Docket- Judge Danny Lacayo**

**CSO: Jessica Lopez, 713-755-2155**

**Address: 49 San Jacinto, 4th floor, Room 424, Houston, TX 77002**

**Email:** [**Jessica.lopez@csc.hctx.net**](mailto:Markisha.brinson@csc.hctx.net)

**Defense Attorney: Deborah Keyser**

**Email: KEYSERATTY@aol.com**

**STAR Drug Court Counselors**

**Alexandra Glenn, M.Ed, LPC, LCDCI**

**Address: 49 San Jacinto, 4th floor, Room 471, Houston, TX 77002**

**713-755-2510 Alexandra.glenn@csc.hctx.net**

**Brittany Bowell, M.ED., LPC**

**Address: 49 San Jacinto, 4th floor, Room 454, Houston, TX 77002**

**713-755-2814 Brittany.bowell@csc.hctx.net**

**Specialty Court Branch Manager: Trina Willis, 713-755-2709** [**Trina.Willis@csc.hctx.net**](mailto:Trina.Willis@csc.hctx.net)

**Specialty Court Supervisor: KeaYon Adams, 713-755-2548** [**keayon.adams@csc.hctx.net**](mailto:Aundrea.Walls@csc.hctx.net)

**STAR Program Manager & Clinical Director: Keith Liles, BA, LCDC, ADC III, ICADC, NCAC II**

**Address: 49 San Jacinto, 4th floor, Room 435, Houston, TX 77002**

**832-927-4323 keith.liles@csc.hctx.net**

**STAR Recovery Coach/Counselor Intern: Open**

**Address: 49 San Jacinto, 4th floor, Room 440, Houston, TX 77002**

**832-927-4320**

**County Clerk, Public Service: 713-755-8297**

**Harris County Jail: 713-755-5300**