

SUPPORT COURT PARTICIPANT ORIENTATION PACKET

The United States District Court for the District of Connecticut has developed a Support Court Team to positively influence participants who struggle with drug and alcohol addiction. We will connect participants with treatment, employment and education resources in the community. The Support Court Judge will address participants' behavior through meaningful incentives and timely sanctions. The Team, recognizing the nature of substance addiction, will treat participants with dignity and respect, to promote a rehabilitative atmosphere that empowers participants to lead law abiding lives.

SUPPORT COURT – ORIENTATION PACKET TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Program Description	1
Who May Enter, Intake, Orientation, Court Supervision, Courtroom Behavior and Goals	2
Substance Abuse Treatment	4
Probation, Treatment Fees, Constructive Use of Time and Dress Appropriately	5
Participant Fraternization and Drug Testing	6
Incentives, Sanctions and Phase Advancement	7
Expulsion, Unsuccessful Termination and Graduation	8

WELCOME TO SUPPORT COURT!



We are pleased that you chose to participate in the Support Court. Your commitment begins now. Total participation is vital. We want to assist you in your recovery, encourage you to improve your quality of life, and make Fairfield County a better place to live.

We intend to assist you in completing a program of effective substance abuse treatment. We use graduated phases to encourage you to succeed. You are not alone. Other people who are in recovery will also assist you in developing a lifestyle that is free from the use of alcohol and other drugs.

This handbook is a guide that contains information that you will need to successfully complete this program. We encourage you to read it and to share it with your family and friends so that they can support you on your road to recovery.

The answers to most of your questions concerning this program are in this orientation packet. If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to ask your probation officer, treatment counselor or any Support Court Team Member. We wish you every success in this program.

“Support Courts Work!”

Professionally yours,
The Support Court Team

Stefan R. Underhill, U.S. District Judge
Keith King, Assistant U.S. Attorney
Paul Thomas, Assistant Federal Public Defender
Milda Torres McClain, Paralegal

Brian Taylor, Supervising U.S. Marshal
Warren Maxwell, Deputy Chief U.S. Probation Officer
Deborah Palmieri, Supervising U.S. Probation Officer
Brian Topor, Senior U.S. Probation Officer
Jennifer Amato, Senior U.S. Probation Officer
Sandra Hunt, Senior U.S. Probation Officer
Bunita Keyes, U.S. Probation Officer
Brendon Pierpaoli, U.S. Probation Officer
Chris Rogers, U.S. Probation Officer

INTRODUCTION

This Support Court Team works with people who have substance abuse problems. If you participate in this program, your quality of life may drastically improve. This orientation packet covers information about Support Court. After reading it, you should have a good understanding of what we expect. As a participant, you should follow the instructions given to you by your probation officer, treatment counselor, and other team members, including the Judge.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Our Support Court program is a supervised, comprehensive treatment program for substance abusers under federal post-conviction supervision. The program combines the efforts of the U.S. District Court, the U.S. Attorney's Office, the Federal Public Defender's Office, the U.S. Marshals Service, community treatment providers, and community support groups. This voluntary program involves regular court appearances before the Support Court Judge, community supervision, substance abuse treatment counseling, random drug testing, and pro-social community activities, such as attending meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or other secular or faith-based groups. The program length, determined by each participant's individual progress, will be at least one year. If you are eligible and choose to participate in this program, you must be willing to commit to the entire program. Should you successfully complete the Support Court requirements and conditions, you may be eligible for up to one year off your term of supervision.

WHO MAY ENTER SUPPORT COURT?



Support Court is open to participants who are on probation or supervised release and have been identified by a member of the team as individuals who would benefit from the level of treatment and supervision offered through the phases of Support Court.

Support Court participants can not:

- have a history of violence

Definition of a violent offender: A participant who has one or more prior convictions for a felony crime of violence involving the use or attempted use of force against a person with the intent to cause death or serious bodily harm