

**DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT - ACT REENTRY COURT**

**EXHIBIT B to Policy Manual**  
**Participation Progress Plan**

The following describes the phases of each participant's participation in the ACT (Achievement/Commitment/Trust) Reentry Court ("Reentry Court"). Each participant starts with Initial Reentry (ACT I), followed by phases for Achievement (ACT II), then Commitment (ACT III), and finally Trust (ACT IV).

**ACT I: Initial Reentry** (minimum of 4 weeks)

**Goal:**

Participants will demonstrate an interest in a pro-social and crime-free lifestyle by connecting to community-based services to assist in acquiring basic needs. Participants will begin to develop a supportive network consisting of family, pro-social networks, the ACT team, and others. Connection to substance abuse or mental health treatment may be appropriate on a case-by-case basis. During this phase, the participant is introduced to skills and knowledge to recognize, manage, and avoid patterns and factors associated with criminal behavior.

**Objectives:**

1. To have the participant engage in community-based services that provide the skills necessary to avoid or manage high-risk situations, based on his or her risk/needs assessment.
2. To provide supervision that offers ongoing support to and feedback on the participant's progress with an agreed-upon case plan, and teaches new skills that reduce the participant's risk.
3. To provide judicial oversight using both incentives and sanctions that are designed to enhance the participant's intrinsic motivation, and to increase the application of skills that reduce the risk of anti-social and criminal behavior.

**Expectations:**

- Actively work with probation officers on goals to overcome barriers.
- Participate in substance abuse or mental health treatment, as deemed necessary, and attend all Reentry Court sessions.
- Engage with community-based services as needed and recommended by the ACT team.
- Comply with drug testing, as required by the participant's conditions of supervised release and as deemed necessary for purposes of the ACT Reentry Court.
- Attend MRT program if suitable.
- Comply with all supervision conditions.

- Begin developing a reentry plan that identifies high-risk situations, and begin developing skills necessary to manage or avoid each situation.
- Minimum of one meeting per week with the probation officer, to take place at the probation office, participant's home, or elsewhere in the community.
- Meet with workforce development officer as recommended by the ACT team.
- Attend bi-weekly Reentry Court sessions.

**Criteria for Advancement:**

To complete ACT I, the participant must:

- report to both the supervising officer and court as directed;
- participate in the recommended level of substance abuse or mental health treatment or community-based services;
- not have any unexcused absences from scheduled services. It will be up to the discretion of the ACT team as to whether an absence is considered excused or unexcused;
- have established a supportive network, and have members of that supportive network attend ACT Reentry Court when and if possible;
- have a period free from substance abuse equal to 30 consecutive days prior to advancement;
- comply with drug testing;
- complete ACT intake form to identify employment goals and barriers, and develop an action plan to achieve those goals; be current with any court-ordered financial obligations or be abiding by a payment plan that addresses the obligation (i.e., fine, restitution, etc.);
- demonstrate evidence of beginning the development of a reentry plan; and
- have advancement approved by the team based upon ACT advancement criteria.

**ACT II: Achievement** (approximately 12-24 weeks)

**Goal:**

Participants will ACHIEVE a commitment to living a pro-social and crime-free lifestyle by remaining abstinent from drugs and criminal behavior. They will continue to build upon developed skills that help identify, manage, and avoid high-risk situations.

**Objectives:**

1. To continue working with community-based services (and substance abuse or mental health treatment if appropriate) as identified by an ongoing assessment of the participant's risk/needs.
2. To provide supervision that offers an ongoing review and feedback of the participant's progress with the agreed-upon reentry plan.
3. To provide educational tools designed to reduce the risk of recidivism by the participant.

4. To provide judicial oversight using both incentives and sanctions that are designed to enhance the participant's intrinsic motivation.
5. To increase the application of skills to manage high-risk situations.

**Expectations:**

- Participate in community-based services that target the areas of high risk for each individual participant. Substance abuse treatment may be appropriate but is not the focus of the Reentry Court.
- Maintain a pro-social supportive network that engages with Reentry Court when possible.
- Begin an educational or vocational program, or secure and maintain full-time employment, and submit verification.
- Submit to random drug testing, as directed.
- Comply with all supervision conditions.
- Attend MRT group as directed.
- Continue development of a reentry prevention plan that identifies high risk situations, and the skills needed to navigate such situations.
- Meet with supervising officer twice a month outside of Reentry Court and MRT.
- Continue to meet with workforce development officer as recommended by the ACT team.
- Attend bi-weekly Reentry Court sessions.

**Criteria for Advancement:**

To complete ACT II, the participant must:

- report to the supervising officer and court as directed;
- participate in the recommended level of substance abuse or mental health treatment;
- continue working with established pro-social networks;
- have a period free from substance abuse 90 days prior to advancement to ACT III;
- comply with drug testing;
- have no unexcused absences from scheduled services for 60 calendar days preceding the advancement in ACT. It will be up to the discretion of the ACT team as to whether an absence is considered excused or unexcused;
- participate in an educational program as deemed necessary by the ACT team;
- submit proof of full-time employment or proof of enrollment and participation in a program designed to assist in obtaining employment. Full-time students must submit proof of enrollment. Less than full-time employment will be considered on an individual basis by the ACT team;
- complete or be actively participating in MRT;
- demonstrate evidence of continuing the development of a reentry plan;
- be current with any court-ordered financial obligations or abiding by a payment plan that addresses the obligation (i.e. fine, restitution, etc.); and
- have advancement approved by the team based upon ACT advancement criteria.

## **ACT III: Commitment** (approximately 16-20 weeks)

### **Goal:**

Participant will continue to demonstrate a COMMITMENT to a pro-social and crime-free lifestyle by continuing to develop and work towards mastery of skills necessary to assist in managing high risk situations. The participant's commitment will develop through this phase as he or she shows the ability to establish supportive networks which may require less intensive supervision.

### **Objectives:**

1. To continue providing educational and therapeutic tools designed to reduce the identified risk/needs of the participant;
2. To monitor application of skills learned through the educational and therapeutic process while providing ongoing support and feedback to the participant as it relates to the agreed-upon reentry plan;
3. To provide judicial oversight using both sanctions and incentives that are designed to enhance the participant's intrinsic motivation.

### **Expectations:**

- Participate in substance abuse or mental health treatment as directed and as needed.
- Continue connection to community-based services or established community support group or person.
- Maintain a pro-social supportive network that engages with Reentry Court when possible.
- Submit to random drug testing, as directed.
- Comply with all supervision conditions.
- Continue employment/education and provide verification.
- Complete MRT.
- Meet with supervising officer twice a month outside of Reentry Court and MRT.
- Monthly court session.

### **Criteria for Advancement:**

To complete ACT III, the participant must:

- have a period free from substance abuse of at least 120 consecutive days preceding advancement to ACT IV;
- comply with drug/alcohol testing;
- have no unexcused absences from scheduled services for 90 calendar days;
- be employed or demonstrate a positive response to educational or vocational goals;
- be engaged with pro-social network as directed for 60 calendar days prior to advancement to ACT IV;

- exhibit insight and commitment to reentry plan and development of long-term goals; and
- have advancement approved by the team based upon ACT advancement criteria.

## **ACT IV: Trust** (approximately 16-20 weeks)

### **Goal:**

Participant will demonstrate the ability to TRUST and apply the skills acquired in Phases I – IV. He or she will utilize a support system outside of the ACT Reentry Court and Probation Office to live a pro-social and crime-free lifestyle. He or she will exhibit the ability to articulate a reentry plan that identifies potential high-risk situations, skills that reduce the identified risk, and a pro-social network that supports the participant’s long term success.

### **Objectives:**

1. To continue providing educational and therapeutic tools designed to reduce the identified risk/needs of the participant.
2. To monitor application of skills learned through the educational and therapeutic process while providing ongoing support and feedback to the participant as it relates to the agreed upon re-entry plan.
3. To develop a relapse prevention plan that will support pro-social lifestyle.

### **Expectations:**

- Participate in substance abuse or mental health treatment as directed and as needed.
- Continue engagement with pro-social support network.
- Maintain employment and/or continue education, and provide monthly verification.
- Submit to random drug testing.
- Comply with all supervision conditions.
- Complete a written relapse prevention plan approved by the ACT team.
- Complete a written exit essay and present to the ACT Reentry Court.
- Meet with supervising officer once a month outside of Reentry Court.
- Monthly court session.

## **Graduation Requirements:**

To complete the program, the participant must:

- have no positive urine sample results for the preceding 120 days;
- comply with drug/alcohol testing;

- have no unexcused absences from scheduled services for 90 days prior to graduation;
- be employed or demonstrate a positive response to educational or vocational goals;
- have engaged with pro-social support networks as directed for 60 consecutive days preceding graduation;
- have fulfilled the goals and objectives of the community-based services;
- have developed and presented a relapse prevention plan; and
- be recommended for graduation by a member of the team, and approved by a consensus vote of the team.