

### **Further information**

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An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna  
Courts Service

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# **The Drug Treatment Court Programme**

*a guide to the gold phase*

*for participants*



### **Welcome**

This leaflet explains the Dublin Drug Treatment Court Programme and outlines what is involved for those who take part in the gold phase of the programme.

### **Why should you take part?**

You have come a long way in your recovery and you may feel that you have done enough for now. However, by sticking with the final part of the programme, you will be given the opportunity to have all of the charges hanging over you struck out completely. You will also have the chance to continue to work on staying clean and getting the skills to get a job. Ultimately, it is about pride – pride in your achievements and making your family and friends proud.

### **How do I take part?**

You must successfully complete the silver phase of the Drug Treatment Court Programme and be recommended by the team to be admitted.

## Gold Phase

### What is involved?

You must attend the Drug Treatment Court as required in the Chancery Street Courthouse, usually once a month. Before court, a report from every member of the Drug Treatment Court Team will be given to the judge. At this stage of the programme you have to:

- \* Attend the Drug Treatment Court in the Chancery Street Courthouse usually once a month on Wednesday afternoons and tell the judge how you are getting on
- \* Continue with your treatment and attend all sessions
- \* Take part in weekly and random drug screenings and stay off your main drug of choice. You must stop using cannabis if you are to achieve a gold award.
- \* Agree to cooperate with extra testing, if the team feels it necessary
- \* Continue to attend appointments with the Drug Treatment Court nurse and other medical experts
- \* Continue the counselling process, as part of your treatment
- \* Attend meetings of the Drug Treatment Court Support Group and Narcotics Anonymous meetings to help your recovery
- \* Continue to attend classes in Parnell Adult Learning Centre and to complete course work
- \* Prepare a plan with the Education Coordinator from Parnell Adult Learning Centre for your life after the Drug Treatment Court
- \* Continue to meet with your Probation Officer as required on a regular basis. Work with the Probation Officer to make your new ways of behaving and coping into good habits, which will help you to ensure that you do not commit any further offences.

## Gold Phase

- \* Stay out of trouble with the Garda Síochána
- \* Maintain your accommodation and continue to claim your State allowances
- \* When you graduate, give a short speech on your experience of the Drug Treatment Court Programme.

As you work through the programme, the team will tell you how you are doing and the areas to watch. At every meeting we will tell you about the credits given or take away over the weeks and give you a written report explaining why.

### How do I graduate?

You have twelve months from the date you start on the gold phase to graduate. Most people who take the programme seriously have no difficulty in moving on in that period. However, if there are strong reasons why you shouldn't move on, your participation on the Drug Treatment Court Programme will be terminated and you will be returned to the original court for sentencing. While you may receive a suspended sentence, your charges will not be struck out.

### Something to keep in mind

People who complete the silver phase have come a long way. It would be a shame to leave at that point and not take advantage of all of the supports available by staying with the Drug Treatment Court Programme to the end. Think of the great story you can tell your family and friends if you get a gold award.