

### **How do I go on to the next stage?**

You have twelve months from the date you start on the silver phase to move on to the gold phase. Most people who take the programme seriously will have no difficulty in moving on in that period. However, if there are strong reasons why you shouldn't move on you will not be allowed stay on the programme and your participation on the programme will be terminated. You will then be sent back to court to have your sentence imposed and perhaps go to prison.

### **Something to think about**

Achieving the silver standard is a very good thing and may be good enough for you. It may be more than you thought you could ever achieve. But don't stop now. The gold phase has lots more to offer. You could achieve a full FETAC qualification that might lead to a place in college or improve your chances of getting a job. And more importantly if you reach the gold standard the charges against you will be struck out letting you get on with the rest of your life. It's up to you.

### **Further information**

Contact the Drug Treatment Court Co-ordinator at 01 8886294 or by e-mail at [drugtreatmentcourt@courts.ie](mailto:drugtreatmentcourt@courts.ie)



An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna  
Courts Service

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# **The Drug Treatment Court Programme**

*a guide to the silver phase*

*for participants*



### **Welcome**

This leaflet explains the silver phase of the Dublin Drug Treatment Court Programme and what is involved if you take part. It is a chance to build on the positive work you have done up to now. You have been making a good effort to get off drugs, you are attending classes in Parnell Adult Learning Centre, you are staying out of trouble with the Gardaí and you are looking to the future. You have probably found the programme hard and no doubt have had your ups and downs with the team, the judge and your addiction but you are still here.

At this stage you are hopefully realising that the Drug Treatment Court Programme is a fantastic opportunity to get your life back on track. There is still the chance that you might go to prison.

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

You must have completed the bronze phase of the programme and ask to be referred to the silver phase.

## Silver Phase

### What is involved?

Many of the targets you must achieve are like those in the bronze phase but you will have to work a little bit harder this time. To give you a good start any credits over and above the 70% pass mark that you got in the bronze phase will count as silver phase credits. You have to:

- \* Continue to attend the Drug Treatment Court in the Chancery Street Courthouse usually every second Wednesday to talk to the judge about how you are getting on
- \* Continue with your drug treatment and attend all sessions
- \* Attend all appointments with the Drug Treatment Court nurse and all other medical experts, in a sober state
- \* Participate fully in weekly and random drug screenings and stay off drugs, particularly any unprescribed tablets you may have been taking
- \* If alcohol use is a problem for you, you must continue to address this and ensure that it does not affect your ability to participate in your programme. Alcohol levels will be measured in your urine and you may have to undergo breathalysers in your clinic or pharmacy
- \* Attend Stanhope alcohol awareness sessions if you have been requested to do so
- \* Continue to address life and addiction issues in counselling
- \* Ensure you keep your medical card up to date, and look after your health by attending all appointments
- \* Continue to attend all classes in Parnell Adult Learning Centre, in a sober state and develop a life and career plan with the education coordinator there
- \* Show that you have finished some of the Further Education Training Awards Certificates (FETAC) – these are certificates awarded in Parnell Adult Learning Centre in all the subjects you do there
- \* Complete a FÁS assessment
- \* Begin the process of applying for a job or community employment scheme, further education or training which ever is deemed suitable for you. You might also apply to voluntary and charitable schemes

## Silver Phase

- \* Continue to see your probation officer who will help you to work out ways to overcome difficulties or problems in such a way that you do not commit any further crimes
- \* Continue to be of good behaviour and don't get into trouble with the Gardai
- \* With the help of a Community Welfare Officer, secure all State allowances for which you qualify
- \* Maintain safe and secure accommodation for you and (where appropriate) your family.

You will get extra credits if you take part in projects and local initiatives not covered by the Drug Treatment Court programme. You should keep going to meetings of the Drug Court Support Group every Tuesday afternoon in the Parnell Adult Learning Centre and meetings of other groups, such as Narcotics Anonymous.

At every meeting with the Drug Treatment Team we will tell you about the credits given or taken away over the weeks and give you a written report explaining why.

You must continue to be tested for drugs every week. The results will determine whether you can stay on the programme. You will be tested as part of your treatment but you may be tested at least once more in the week, if the team feels it is required.

We expect you to be honest with us if you have a slip. If you are caught attempting to hide drug taking, or provide a bogus sample the consequences will be more severe than if you own up.

The good news is that if you complete the silver phase, the Drug Court judge will recommend that your sentence will at least be suspended. This may well mean that you will not go to prison.