

**Nevada County Mental Health Court**  
**Policies and Procedures**  
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## **Purpose of Mental Health Court**

Nevada County Mental Health Court, one of the Nevada County Collaborative Court Programs, is part of the problem-solving court movement. It is seen as a promising approach in bringing stability, sobriety, and safety to offenders with mental illnesses while helping to ensure the security and well-being of the entire community.

Mental Health Court is an intensive program designed to evaluate, monitor, and provide coordinated and comprehensive mental health services, integrated treatment for mental health and substance use disorders, and ancillary services. In addition, its goals are to improve outcomes for individuals and the community, including increased public safety, a reduction in recidivism, a reduction in abuse of alcohol and illegal drugs, and a reduction in the burden on law enforcement and other county resources.

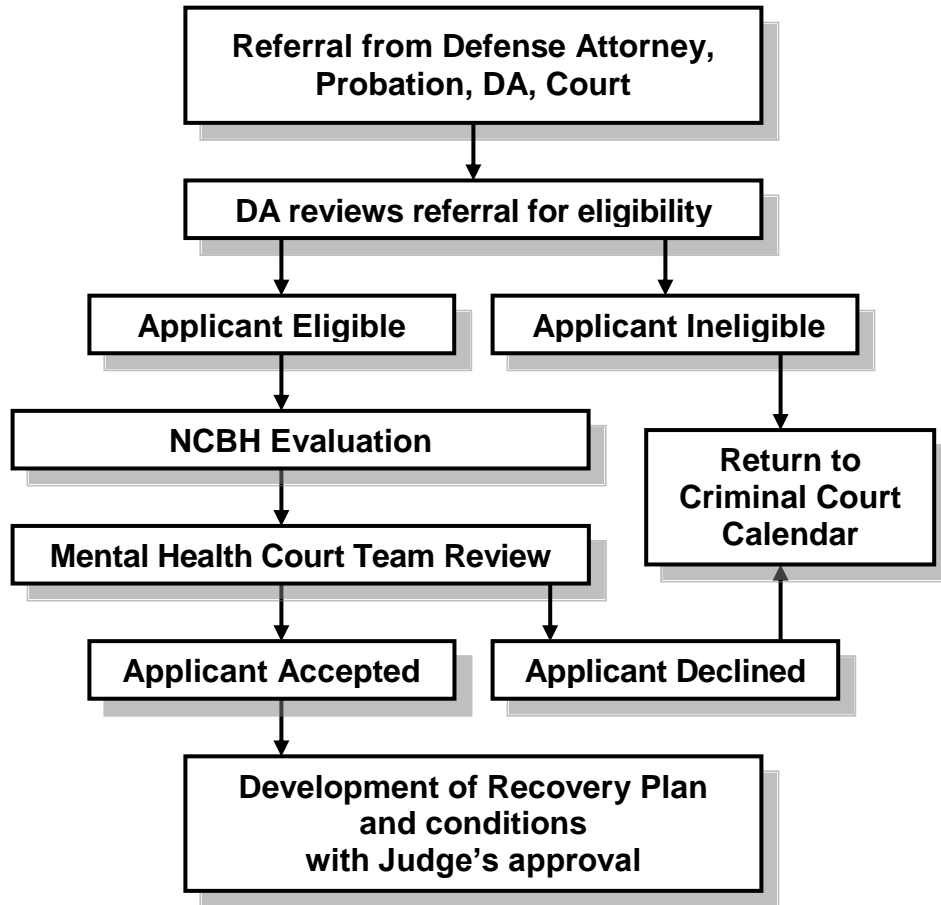
The Mental Health Court program draws on the expertise and cooperation of the Nevada County Superior Court; the Nevada County Offices of the District Attorney and Public Defender; the Departments of Behavioral Health, Probation, and Social Services; the Nevada County Sheriff's Department and other local law enforcement agencies; local advocacy and support agencies; and private providers of mental health, substance abuse, and ancillary services.

## **Eligibility**

Mental Health Court is an approximately one-year or longer voluntary program for offenders who have a serious mental illness (SMI) and those who have a co-occurring substance use disorder, (COD). Persons may be eligible if they:

- Are qualified to receive mental health and other services under the terms of the Nevada County Mental Health Court Protocol. (See Appendix A)
- Demonstrate that mental illness is a significant contributing factor that brought the offender to the attention of the criminal justice system
- Are considered suitable candidates for and are amenable to receiving mental health and other services
- Are eligible for probation
- Are able to appreciate the consequences of the legal proceedings and the agreement s/he is making with the court
- Are diagnosed with a *DSM IV* Axis I disorder
- Are 18 years of age or older
- Are a Nevada County resident or intend to remain in the county for the length of the probation order

## Nevada County Mental Health Court Eligibility Process



## **Mental Health Court Orientation**

Prior to acceptance to Mental Health Court, the mental health Personal Services Coordinator (PSC) or Defense Attorney will schedule an orientation for the prospective participant to observe the Mental Health Court proceedings.

The orientation will include expectations and requirements, rewards and sanctions, responsibilities of the Mental Health Court Team members, and the Mental Health Court procedures.

## **Participant Agreement**

When an applicant applies for a referral to Mental Health Court, the Defense Attorney will review the terms and conditions of participation with the referred defendant. The applicant will sign necessary forms, including: *Consent for the Release of Confidential Information*, *Agreement to Participate in Mental Health Court*, and *Acknowledgement of Mental Health Court Procedure*. The applicant will be provided with the “*Guidelines for Participants*” information sheet.

Signed, witnessed, and complete documents must be on file with the Nevada County Superior Court to participate in the Mental Health Court program.

## **Progressing Through Mental Health Court**

Mental Health Court consists of phases that include judicial oversight, probation supervision, individual Recovery Plan requirements, possible drug testing, and rewards and sanctions. Each phase is designed to build upon the skills acquired in the previous phase, allowing participants to better manage their mental illness and substance abuse (where applicable) and fostering stable, independent living. As a participant moves through the phases of the program, s/he is evaluated and promoted based on successful completion of each phase

- **Intake/Screening Expectations**

Participant will:

- Meet with Mental Health Services Personal Service Coordinator and other members of the Mental Health Court Team
- Complete initial Mental Health Court suitability assessment
- Read the *Guidelines for Participants*
- Appear in Court as scheduled
- Enter into the *Agreement to Participate in Mental Health Court*
- Agree to keep scheduled appointments
- Adhere to all court ordered conditions of release which may include random drug testing

- **Individual Recovery Plan**

All persons participating in Mental Health Court will have an individual Mental Health Court Recovery Plan, which will be recovery-oriented, strength-based, and designed with input from the participant and his/her family and support network.

Members of the Mental Health Court Team will be provided with a copy of each participant's individualized Recovery Plan.

The Mental Health Court Recovery Plan is a flexible plan, subject to revision as goals are achieved or modified. Modifications to each person's plan may be made at the discretion of the Mental Health Court Team. The Personal Service Coordinator is to be informed prior to implementing changes in the Mental Health Court Plan.

***Because all Recovery Plans are individualized, the requirements may vary. This is a general guideline and is subject to modification by the Mental Health Court Team and Mental Health Court Judge.***

The Mental Health Court Recovery Plan may include or address:

- Documents completed at intake (see above)
- Intake assessment including mental health and substance use evaluations
- Terms of probation
- Random drug testing
- Individual goals
- Treatment strategies
- Prior criminal history, fines, fees

- **Phase I Expectations**

Participant will adhere to individualized Mental Health Court Plan, based on consultation between participant and Mental Health Court Team, which **may** include specific, measurable goals related to some of the following:

- Keeping scheduled appointments, including court appearances
- Meeting with and keeping appointments with Probation Officer
- Meeting with Personal Services Coordinator as stated in the Individual Recovery Plan
- Adhering to medication regimen agreed to with psychiatrist
- Attending individual counseling
- Attending group counseling
- Attending self-help/community support
- Meeting expectations regarding drug/alcohol use, as appropriate
- Cooperating with chemical testing on a random basis, if appropriate
- Having no new arrests
- Demonstrating willingness to remain in the program
- Accepting and completing community service as ordered by court
- Participating in education/vocational training and/or employment assistance
- Improving psycho-social functioning
- Participating in psycho-education classes
- Psycho-education for families and friends as feasible
- Meeting other expectations identified by the Mental Health Court Team.

- **Benchmarks for Moving to Phase II**

Participant has adhered with his/her individualized Mental Health Court Recovery Plan for at least four months, including being willing to work with substance abuse issues to clarify the nature of the participant's difficulties, if any.

Participant is willing to consider reduction of drug and alcohol use as part of his/her Recovery Plan, if appropriate.

Participant and Mental Health Court Team have developed measurable, stage-appropriate behavioral expectations including drug/alcohol issues in Phase II, if appropriate.

Participant has recently completed the Participant Interim Questionnaire.

- **Phase II Expectations**

During Phase II the individualized Mental Health Court Recovery Plan will include the same kinds of elements outlined in Phase I, with the expectation that the participant will achieve a higher level of proficiency at meeting specifically identified, measurable goals.

- **Benchmarks for Moving to Phase III**

Participant has adhered with reasonable consistency to the specific goals of his/her individualized Phase II Mental Health Court Plan for at least four months, and during Phase II the Mental Health Court Team and participant have agreed on goals and chosen specific measurable behaviors to target in Phase III

Participant has made an effort to pay outstanding fees and fines

Participant has recently completed the Participant Interim Questionnaire.

- **Phase III Expectations**

The individualized Mental Health Court Recovery Plan will include the same kinds of elements outlined in Phase II. The participant is expected to demonstrate a higher level of proficiency at meeting specifically identified, measurable goals, including the skills learned in the earlier stages of the Mental Health Court Program.

- **Graduation Requirements**

Participant has adhered with reasonable consistency to the specific goals of his/her individualized Phase III Mental Health Court Recovery Plan for at least four months, including:

- Has attended all required court sessions.
- Has complied with terms of probation.
- Has shown appropriate progress in reaching drug and alcohol use goals.
- Has made all payments or performed all community service hours required for Mental Health Court participants.
- Compliant with medications as ordered by a licensed physician.
- Has addressed outstanding matters in the criminal justice system.
- Has completed a Relapse Prevention Plan or Exit Plan, which recognizes triggers for old patterns of thinking and improved ways of addressing them.

- Has the means to address food, clothing, and shelter.
- **Aftercare**

*Aftercare is recognized as a critical part of success once an individual has left the supervision of the Mental Health Court. The Mental Health Court Team will facilitate links with public and community-based sources of assistance for aftercare.*

### **Incentives for Successful Progress**

Incentives will be tailored to each participant and reflect their changing needs as they progress through the program. Incentives may include:

- ❖ Restoration of lost privileges
- ❖ Vouchers, passes, gift certificates
- ❖ Assistance with housing, job training, employment and transportation
- ❖ Graduation certificates and other tokens of success
- ❖ Possible reduction of fine
- ❖ Possible reduction of charges
- ❖ Possible dismissal of charges under the terms of P.C. §1203.4 or §1203.4a

### **Sanctions**

*Sanctions should only be imposed after careful consideration of the participant's capacity to understand consequences.* They should be considered as part of the Mental Health Court Plan. They may include:

- ❖ Reprimands from the Judge
- ❖ Increased frequency of meetings with Mental Health Court Team members
- ❖ Increased contact with the Personal Services Coordinator
- ❖ More frequent court appearances
- ❖ Writing an essay
- ❖ Imposition of curfew
- ❖ Incarceration

### **Mental Health Court Operating Policies**

- **Systems Cooperation and Conflict Resolution**

Consensus through dialogue will be the primary means for achieving systems cooperation. Direct contact will be maintained with key players who may be unable to attend any of the various meetings called on behalf of the program. The Mental Health Court Team will address disagreements regarding Recovery Plans. All significant policy issues will be brought before the Mental Health Court Steering Committee for resolution.

- **Violations of Probation and New Law Violations**

Violations of probation will be handled by the Mental Health Court. Participant may be arraigned on new charges during the Mental Health Court calendar. A new offense may disqualify a participant from continuing in the Mental Health Court. A determination will be made and presented to the Mental Health Court Team. The individual will be re-evaluated for

both eligibility and suitability to continue. A decision will be made regarding return of the matter to the criminal calendar

- **Participant Termination**

A Mental Health Court participant may be terminated from the program:

- Upon request
- For refusal to participate in his/her Recovery Plan
- For repeated willful violations of the program
- For committing a new crime
- Because s/he has achieved the maximum benefit from available services
- If s/he has been AWOL on a Bench Warrant for four weeks

- ***Ex-Parte* Communication with the Court**

If a Mental Health Court participant is charged with a new offense, it will not be discussed with the Mental Health Court Judge unless the Deputy District Attorney and the Defense Attorney assigned to the Mental Health Court are present. Pre-court conferencing may be requested for these discussions.

- **Pre-Court Staffing**

The Mental Health Court Judge, Collaborative Courts Program Director, Personal Services Coordinator, a representative of the District Attorney's Office, a representative of the Probation Department, a representative of the Public Defender's Office, a representative of Behavioral Health, and other appropriate staff, will attend a staff meeting prior to each Mental Health Court session and at other times as necessary. Participant's progress reports will be reviewed during staffing. Recommended sanctions and incentives will be considered.

Pre-court staffing is the opportunity for Mental Health Court Team members to resolve their differences before entering the courtroom.

- **Status Hearings**

Mental Health Court will be held every other week or more often. The frequency of court appearances for each individual participant will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Return dates will be discussed during staffing, with the Judge making the final decision

- **Court-Ordered Fees, Fines, and Restitution**

Mental Health Court participants will be given every opportunity to address all outstanding matters before any court while they are under the supervision of the Mental Health Court. The Personal Services Coordinator and the Judge will review all outstanding matters for the purpose of resolving them prior to participants completing the Mental Health Court program. Community service may be used by participants with outstanding fees and fines at the courts discretion.



- **Steering Committee**

The Mental Health Court Steering Committee shall meet quarterly, or more often as required, for the purposes of:

- Developing and modifying policy so that a full continuum of services is integrated with justice system processing.
- Reviewing program costs and directing action on new sources of funding.
- Supporting the Mental Health Court Team by providing strategic guidance and resources.
- Coordinating responses to identified problems and needs.

## **Mental Health Court Medical Policies**

### **General**

It is the policy of the Nevada County Mental Health Court that use of prescription medications must occur under a physician's supervision and according to the physician's direction.

The Personal Services Coordinator or another member of the Mental Health Court Team must verify absences from the program due to illness.

Private physicians providing care to Mental Health Court participants are to be identified by the time the Recovery Plan is completed. Necessary releases of information are to be on file with the Behavioral Health Department.

### **Use of Medication**

The Mental Health Court understands that most participants will be taking psychiatric medication. Participants taking psychiatric medication must do so only under the direction and supervision of a licensed physician. Medications being taken by a Mental Health Court participant are to be on file with the Probation Officer and the Behavioral Health Department.

Participants must sign *Consent to Release Information* form giving Mental Health Court Team permission to consult with the participant's physician regarding their medication use.

### **Absence from Program due to Illness**

The Personal Services Coordinator or another member of the Mental Health Court Team must verify illness of a participant. If a participant is ill enough to miss counseling sessions, s/he may be required to make an appointment with a health care provider for an examination.

If a physician instructs the participant to remain at home, the participant must provide a signed note indicating the amount of time the participant is being required to be absent from program activities.

Regular medical appointments not of an emergency nature are to be scheduled at a time other than those in which Mental Health Court activities are scheduled.

### **Welfare Checks**

Welfare checks may be requested by any Mental Health Court Team member. The Personal Service Coordinator will maintain a record of welfare checks. Outcomes of welfare checks will be reported to the Mental Health Court Team during pre-court staffing or sooner if need dictates.

**NEVADA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**  
**MENTAL HEALTH COURT PROTOCOL**

The Mental Health Court calendar of the Nevada County Superior Court will adjudicate the following cases. Unless otherwise specified, this policy shall apply to both felony and misdemeanor cases.

**I. Defendants Qualified for Services Under the Mental Health Court**

- A. A defendant is suitable for referral to the Mental Health Court calendar for disposition if he or she is charged with a qualifying offense and it appears that the significant contributing factor in his/her involvement with the criminal justice system is a mental illness.

Except as provided in paragraphs C and D, all felony and misdemeanor charges qualify for services under the program.

- B. The following offenses are *presumptively* ineligible for disposition under the program:
1. Any felony or misdemeanor which demonstrates that the defendant presents a substantial risk to the health and safety of others.
  2. Any “serious” felony under P.C. § 1192.7(c).
  3. Any crime subject to the Three Strikes sentencing law which defendant is charged with one or more prior “serious” or “violent” convictions.
- C. The determination of acceptance shall be made by the Judge assigned to the Mental Health Court calendar. It shall be the burden of the prosecution to establish the facts under subparagraph B. 1. It shall be the burden of the defendant to establish that he or she is otherwise suitable for disposition, notwithstanding the factors set forth in subparagraphs B.1, 2 and 3.
- D. A defendant charged with a “violent” felony under the provisions of P.C. § 667.5(c) is *conclusively* ineligible for disposition unless the defense, the prosecution and the court agree that the particular case is suitable for such disposition.
- E. Notwithstanding the exclusions created by paragraphs C and D, a defendant initially excluded because of the nature of the charges, may nevertheless qualify for Mental Health Court if the defendant ultimately is convicted of a qualifying offense and is otherwise suitable for disposition.

- F. When a case is received on the Mental Health Court calendar for disposition, the court shall refer the matter to the Mental Health Court Team for an evaluation as to suitability for disposition. If the defendant is excluded as unsuitable, the case shall be referred back to the original court calendar.
- G. Any preliminary hearing or other substantive motion shall be heard on the original court calendar, not the Mental Health Court calendar.
- H. Any matter not settled shall be referred back to the referring court for trial. At the option of the sentencing Judge, the matter may be returned to the Mental Health Court calendar for sentencing.

**III. Competency To Stand Trial (P.C. §§ 1368, *Et Seq.*)**

Will not be referred to Mental Health Court.

**IV. NGI Proceedings (P.C. §§ 1026, *Et Seq.*)**

Will not be referred to Mental Health Court.

## **Mental Health Court Team Member Responsibilities**

### Mental Health Court Judge

- Presides over court sessions and maintains a therapeutic relationship with the participant
- Orders terms and conditions of probation, to include the Participation Contract and Recovery Plan
- Participates in Mental Health Court Steering Committee and Mental Health Court Team meetings as well as pre-court staffing and other relevant meetings
- Acts as a spokesperson to community and peers
- Provides and participates in cross training for Mental Health Court Team members and their staffs to assure mutual understanding of court proceedings and requirements
- Assists with data collection

### District Attorney

- Familiarizes staff within the District Attorney's Office regarding the goals, policies and procedures of the Mental Health Court
- Participates in Mental Health Court Steering Committee
- Reviews criminal case filings to determine need for formal prosecution or eligibility for the Mental Health Court; refers cases to the Mental Health Court on a case-by-case basis
- Participates in adjudication and dispositional hearings
- Attends pre-court staffing, meetings of the Team and other relevant personal services coordination meetings
- Participates in non-adversarial Mental Health Court Provides and participates in cross training for Mental Health Court Team members and their staffs to assure mutual understanding of prosecution proceedings and requirements
- Participates in data collection

### Public Defender

- Familiarizes staff within the Public Defender's Office regarding the goals, policies and procedures of the Mental Health Court
- Participates in Mental Health Court Steering Committee
- Identifies offenders with mental illnesses who may benefit from Mental Health Court and advocates on their behalf to participate in this program
- Participates in adjudication and dispositional hearings
- Attend pre-court staffing, regular meetings of the Team and other relevant meetings
- Participates in non-adversarial Mental Health Court sessions
- Provides and participates in cross training for Mental Health Court Team members and their staffs to assure mutual understanding of defense proceedings and requirements
- Participates in data collection

### Nevada County Sheriff

- Familiarizes staff within the Sheriff's Office, especially the Corrections Division, with the goals, policies and procedures of the Mental Health Court
- Screens jail bookings to determine if persons have a mental illness for evaluation by the

### Mental Health Court Team

- Assures the involvement of a jail medical services provider (currently the California Forensic Medical Group) who will be notified by the jail booking officer when a person exhibiting mental illness has been identified
- Assures that jail medical staff notify the Mental Health Court Personal Services Coordinator and the Defense Attorney when an inmate exhibiting mental illness is identified as a Mental Health Court participant
- Facilitates mental health services for incarcerated defendants who are under the supervision of Mental Health Court, including court-ordered sanctions
- Attends Mental Health Court Steering Committee meetings when necessary
- Provides and participates in cross training for Mental Health Court Team members and their staff to assure mutual understanding of arrest and detention proceedings and requirements
- Participates in data collection

### Jail Medical Provider

- Notifies the Mental Health Court Personal Services Coordinator when an inmate with mental illness issues is identified.
- Provides medication(s) supervision for inmates referred to the Mental Health Court Provides mental health services for incarcerated defendants who are under the supervision of Mental Health Court, including court-ordered sanctions
- Attends Mental Health Court Steering Committee Meetings when necessary

### Behavioral Health

- Serves as the lead agency for providing services for the Mental Health Court
- Familiarizes staff within the Behavioral Health Department and contract providers with the goals, policies and procedures of the Mental Health Court
- Provides staff/contract providers to serve on the Mental Health Court Team, including a Client Advocate to participate in relevant meetings
- Consults regularly with the jail medical provider regarding offenders with mental illnesses
- Offers consultation with regard to Mental Health Court Recovery Plans
- Provides or arranges for mental health services, including medication.
- In cooperation with the jail medical provider, provides mental health services for incarcerated participants who are under the supervision of Mental Health Court, including court-ordered sanctions
- Attends pre-court staffing, regular meetings of the Mental Health Court Team and other relevant meetings
- Identifies potential referrals to Mental Health Court
- Provides and participates in cross training for Mental Health Court Team members and their staff to assure mutual understanding of mental illness, agency services, and procedures and requirements for intervening with persons with mental illness
- Participates in data collection
- Participates in Mental Health Court Steering Committee

### Personal Services Coordinator (Behavioral Health Department/Contract Provider)

- Evaluates potential participants for program appropriateness
- Determines appropriate services to be provided to meet participant's needs
- Prepares and monitors individual Mental Health Court Recovery Plans for every participant under the supervision of the Mental Health Court
- Consults with other Mental Health Court Team members, participant's family and support network, as appropriate, regarding participant progress
- Maintains current records of participant progress
- Attends staffings and presents reports of participant's progress to the Court
- Attends pre-court staffing, regular meetings of the Mental Health Court Team and other relevant meetings
- Acts as community resources broker to assure that ancillary needs of the participant are being addressed
- Participates in data collection

### Probation Department

- Familiarizes staff within the Probation Department regarding the goals, policies and procedures of the Mental Health Court
- Carries out orders of the court with regard to detention and other Department functions; may perform drug tests
- Prepares pre-sentence reports to assist in evaluating potential participant suitability
- Attends pre-court staffing, regular meetings of the Mental Health Court Team and other relevant meetings
- Provides and participates in cross training for the Mental Health Court Team members and their staff to assure mutual understanding of department procedures and requirements
- Participates in data collection
- Participates in Steering Committee Meeting

### Private Mental Health Providers

- Provide services to offenders with mental illnesses with whom they may have had previous experience or to those not utilizing the Behavioral Health Department
- Attend pre-court staffing, regular meetings of the Mental Health Court Team and other relevant Mental Health Court meetings, as necessary

*Note:* Private providers must be approved by the County Behavioral Health Department.

### Collaborative Courts Program Director

- Maintains Mental Health Court policies and procedures
- Monitors budgets and program expenditures
- Oversees grant writing and other funding efforts on behalf of the program
- Facilitates public education and outreach efforts on behalf of the program
- Coordinates collection of data, maintains program statistics

# **Nevada County Mental Health Court**

## **Forms**

1. Nevada County Mental Health Court Guidelines for Participants
2. Consent for Release of Confidential Information
3. Agreement to Participate in Mental Health Court
4. Participant Status Report
5. Participant Exit Review
6. Participant Interim Questionnaire
7. Participant Exit Questionnaire



# Nevada County Mental Health Court

## Guidelines for Participants

Welcome to the Nevada County Mental Health Court. The purpose of this alternative court is to provide the skills and resources to support you in managing your illness and remaining out of the criminal justice system. This information is designed to answer your questions about the Mental Health Court program.

Mental Health Court is a choice that you make. It is a court-supervised, comprehensive treatment program for adult offenders who have a mental illness and who may also abuse drugs or alcohol. The program is provided in partnership with a team of staff from the Court, Behavioral Health, the Probation Department, Public Defender, District Attorney and law enforcement.

### Eligibility

Mental Health Court is a one-year voluntary program. To be eligible, you must:

- Be qualified for treatment under the terms of the Nevada County Mental Health Court Protocol, which excludes serious, violent offenses and Three-Strikes crimes
- Be suitable for and indicate that you want to participate in treatment
- Be eligible for probation
- Be able to understand the consequences of the legal proceedings and the agreement you are making with the court
- Have been diagnosed with a DSM IV, Axis I disorder
- Be 18 years of age or older
- Reside in Nevada County

### The Mental Health Court Program

If you choose to participate in Mental Health Court, you will meet with a Case Manager from Behavioral Health who will explain the program and prepare a Treatment Plan with you. The Plan becomes part of your probation orders. You will go before the judge and plead guilty, but you will not be sentenced as long as you keep participating in Mental Health Court.

Your confidentiality will be protected while you are in the program. You will, however, be asked to sign a statement releasing information to the Mental Health Court Team. This is so the Team can know how you're doing in the program. Your records cannot otherwise be disclosed without your written consent.

Examples of the kinds of things you will be expected to do in the program are as follows:

- Appearing in Court
- Staying on your prescribed medications/Following your Treatment Plan

- Not using alcohol (if ordered), or illegal drugs (you may be tested)
- Not getting arrested
- Not violating probation
- Attending individual and/or group counseling
- Meeting regularly with the Case Manager
- Working on an aftercare plan for when you've left the program

The Team will also help you with transportation, housing, taking classes or getting a job.

There are rewards for following the rules of the program. There are sanctions if you do not, including termination from Mental Health Court.

## **Termination**

The following behaviors will cause you to be terminated from Mental Health Court:

- Refusing to participate in your Treatment Plan
- Repeated and intentional program violations
- Committing a serious new crime
- Unexcused and long-term absences from any part of the program

## **Graduation**

After a year, if you show the Mental Health Court that you have followed your Treatment Plan by:

- attending court
- attending counseling and therapy
- using medications properly
- not using alcohol or illegal drugs
- obeying the law
- creating a Plan that you will follow every day,

you will graduate from the program. The criminal charges that brought you into Mental Health Court originally will be dismissed from your record. However, if you commit another crime or attempt to possess a firearm, the prior conviction may be brought up. The Team will continue to be available to assist you, should you need it.

***Good Luck from the Mental Health Court Team!!***

**NEVADA COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT**  
**CONSENT FOR THE RELEASE OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

authorize the Nevada County Mental Health Court, which consists of the following departments and organizations:

- Nevada County Superior Court
- Human Services Agency (Behavioral Health, Alcohol and Drug Services, Adult and Family Services, Veterans Services)
- Probation Department
- District Attorney
- Defense Counsel
- Public Defender
- County Counsel
- Sheriff's Department
- Community Recovery Resources (CoRR)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

to disclose to each other information relative to my psychiatric diagnosis and treatment, probation terms, response to provided services, recommendations concerning my individual Recovery Plan, and other information relevant to my progress in Mental Health Court.

The purpose of the disclosure authorized herein is to determine adherence to the Nevada County Mental Health Court program as well as to prepare for the most beneficial services to insure the success of each participant.

I also consent to have my court hearings heard in the presence of all other Mental Health Court participants and candidates.

I understand that my records are protected under the federal regulations governing Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records, 42 CFR Part 2, and cannot be disclosed without my written consent unless otherwise provided for in the regulations. I also understand that I may revoke this consent at any time except to the extent that action has been taken in the reliance on it, and that in any event this consent expires automatically six months following the discharge from the Nevada County Mental Health Court program.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Representative, when required

**Superior Court of California, County of Nevada**

The People of the State of California <i>Plaintiff</i>	Case No. _____
vs.	
_____	
<i>Defendant</i>	<b>Agreement to Participate in Mental Health Court</b>

I agree to the following as conditions for participating and remaining in Mental Health Court: I understand that all participants in the Mental Health Court are agreeing to help me help myself. I know that by participating in Mental Health Court, I must agree to certain conditions, including:

1. I agree to sign any and all releases necessary to further my progress in the Mental Health Court Program. I also agree to sign releases which will allow the Mental Health Court to review my diagnostic and treatment information.
2. My participation in Mental Health Court will take at least one year. I agree to
  - ◆ participate actively in all aspects of my individual Recovery Plan, such as individual or group therapy/counseling sessions, education, rehabilitation, etc.
  - ◆ attend all court sessions
  - ◆ submit to random alcohol and/or drug tests, if part of my individual Recovery Plan or condition of probation
  - ◆ cooperate fully with the Personal Services Coordinator and other members of the Mental Health Court Team
  - ◆ comply with all rules of the agencies involved in Mental Health Court
3. I understand that if I do not comply with the requirements described in Numbers 1 and 2 of this Agreement, I will be subjected to sanctions imposed by the Court.
4. I understand that commission of a serious new crime, repeated willful violations or repeated non-compliant events may result in my dismissal from the Mental Health Court.
5. I understand that the Mental Health Court Judge has discretion to dismiss me from the Mental Health Court program at any time upon finding that I have not been honest and truthful with the Court.

I have read this Agreement and received a copy of it. I understand there are penalties for violating this Agreement. After consultation with my attorney, I hereby sign the Agreement to

participate in Mental Health Court and to work with the Mental Health Court Team while I am in the program.

*When I successfully complete the term of Mental Health Court, I am advised that the charge(s) against me may be dismissed, under the terms of Penal Code §1203.4 or §1203.4a.*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant (print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant's Attorney

We, the undersigned members of the Mental Health Court Team, agree to work with the participant to develop and monitor a Recovery Plan, to support the participant in managing his/her illness and remaining out of further involvement with the criminal justice system.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge, Nevada County Superior Court, Mental Health Court

\_\_\_\_\_  
Behavioral Health Department

\_\_\_\_\_  
District Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Probation

# Nevada County Mental Health Court Status Report

Date:  
Name:  
Current Address:

Case No:  
Phase:

Personal Services Coordinator:

Entry Date:

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Did participant fulfill meeting requirements?

Recommended services?

	Yes	No	N/A
PSC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Probation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Behavioral Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doctor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Self Helps	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Restitution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SPIRIT: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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Participant status:

Medications:	Adherent <input type="checkbox"/>	Non-adherent <input type="checkbox"/>	Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/>	
Residence:	Stable <input type="checkbox"/>	Unstable <input type="checkbox"/>	Homeless <input type="checkbox"/>	
Behavior Patterns:	Appropriate <input type="checkbox"/>	Coping Poorly <input type="checkbox"/>	Not coping <input type="checkbox"/>	
Symptoms:	Remission <input type="checkbox"/>	Partial Rem. <input type="checkbox"/>	Increasing <input type="checkbox"/>	Decreasing <input type="checkbox"/>
Social Interaction:	Positive <input type="checkbox"/>	Isolating <input type="checkbox"/>	Struggling <input type="checkbox"/>	
Program Participation:	Engaged <input type="checkbox"/>	At Risk <input type="checkbox"/>	Not engaged <input type="checkbox"/>	
Support System:	Helpful <input type="checkbox"/>	Marginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/>	

Clinical Information:

Sanctions/Incentives Recommended:

Recommended changes to Recovery plan

Prepared by:

**Nevada County Mental Health Court Exit Review**

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Recovery Status: \_\_\_\_\_

Drug(s) of Choice: \_\_\_\_\_ Months of Sobriety: \_\_\_\_\_

Triggers: \_\_\_\_\_

Adherence to Recovery Plan: \_\_\_\_\_

Legal: Re-Offenses: Date And Charge: \_\_\_\_\_

Bench Warrants: Date And Charge: \_\_\_\_\_

(Recalled or Open)

Education status: enrolled at entry \_\_\_\_\_ enrolled at exit: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment status: employed at entry \_\_\_\_\_ employed at exit \_\_\_\_\_

Employer/Job: \_\_\_\_\_

Special services provided:

GED \_\_\_\_\_ College \_\_\_\_\_ Job Training \_\_\_\_\_ Housing \_\_\_\_\_

Family Reunification \_\_\_\_\_ Health Care \_\_\_\_\_ Dental Care \_\_\_\_\_

Needs not met:

GED \_\_\_\_\_ College \_\_\_\_\_ Job Training \_\_\_\_\_ Housing \_\_\_\_\_

Family Reunification \_\_\_\_\_ Health Care \_\_\_\_\_ Dental Care \_\_\_\_\_

Fees: amount paid to date \$ \_\_\_\_\_ balance due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

(Person conducting exit interview)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nevada County Mental Health Court Participant Interim Questionnaire**  
**For Use in Phases I & II and/or III**

Your answers will assist us in better helping you and others. We appreciate your help.  
Write (or print) as clearly as you can. If you need help with the questionnaire, please ask..  
Write on the back if you need more space.

1. Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your contact phone number \_\_\_\_\_

2. About how long have you been in Mental Health Court?

3. Is anything about Mental Health Court helping you at this point?

4. Is anything about Mental Health Court making things harder for you at this point?

5. What do you like most about the Mental Health Court?

6. What do you like least about the Mental Health Court?



7. Do you have any thoughts about how Mental Health Court could be improved?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Aside from what the Police, Sheriff, lawyers, or the court might say, why do you think you were arrested?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. What are the two best things that have happened to you in this last week or two?

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.

## **Nevada County Mental Health Court Participant Exit Questionnaire**

Your answers to the following questions will assist us in better help you and others. Please write as clearly as you can. Use additional sheets of paper as needed. If you need help with the questionnaire, please ask.

1. Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your contact telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

2. What about Mental Health Court helped you the most?

3. Where do you now get your emotional and other support when things get tough?

4. How much or how little do you think that your medications help you?

5. Please describe any medication questions or if you need help with any medication issues.

6. If you have used alcohol or illegal drugs to feel better in the past, how will you handle that now and in the future?

7. Will you need additional help with any alcohol or illegal drug issues?

8. How do you think you can avoid being arrested in the future?

9. Please describe any educational goals you might have.

10. If you have a job right now, please tell us what you can about it.

11. Do you need and help with employment or employment issues?

12. Since you have been in the Mental Health Court Program, how are your relationships with your family and friends now compared to before?

13. Can you handle your daily activities better or about the same? Can you explain?

Thank you for completing the questionnaire.

**Congratulations on succeeding in Mental Health Court!**