



Superior Court

Rhode Island Adult Drug Court Program

Participant Handbook

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Noel Judicial Complex
222 Quaker Lane
Warwick, RI 02886

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Welcome

This handbook tells you what to expect in the Rhode Island Adult Drug Court Program (ADC). The handbook also explains how the program works and tries to answer questions you may have.

As an ADC participant, you are expected to follow the court's orders. The court expects you to follow the program rules and clinical treatment recommendations. The ADC is a voluntary program, and whether you participate is ultimately your decision. Of importance is that you review all the information included in this handbook with your attorney. We look forward to supporting you in your recovery.

Mission Statement

The ADC is an opportunity to participate in alcohol/substance use treatment while under close supervision by the judicial system. The program is designed for adults with a significant substance abuse issue coupled with criminal charges related to substance abuse. Instead of incarceration, participants are given the opportunity to stay in the community while getting help following the participant's treatment plans. The program combines close judicial supervision, case management, intensive substance use treatment, weekly random toxicology screens, and graduated responses to provide a highly structured environment for appropriate candidates. The ADC can help you move forward and improve your life. The program takes commitment, dedication, self-control, and hard work. The ADC team will give you the support, opportunity, assistance, and referral(s) necessary to help you make positive changes in your life.

Case Travel

Once your case is accepted into the ADC, a case manager will be assigned to your case. Your case manager will tell you how often you will meet together.

Your case manager will talk to you about the conditions of your bail and make sure you meet these terms. These terms include being compliant with treatment, staying in contact with your case manager, keeping your court dates and telling the court about any law enforcement contacts or changes in residence and/or employment.

Your case manager will keep track of your progress. Your case manager will also write a report for the judge before each of your appearances to keep the judge up to date on your progress.

Ask your case manager if you have any questions. Your case manager will know the answers or help you find the answer. Case manager Linda Bessette is located on the 1st floor of the Licht Judicial Complex. Case manager Courtney DiMartino is located on the 4th floor of the Noel Judicial Complex.

Location and Hours of Operation

The ADC program is located at the Noel Judicial Complex (Kent County) and the Licht Judicial Complex (Providence/Bristol County). Hearings are conducted in Providence/Bristol County on Mondays, in Kent County on Wednesdays, and in Washington County in the McGrath Judicial Complex on the first Friday of each month. Hearings begin at 9:30 a.m. and are in-person. Court dates may change due to holidays and other factors. If you do not know your court date, contact your case manager.

Inclement Weather Notification

If there is bad weather, go to the Rhode Island Judiciary website to see if the courts are open (<https://www.courts.ri.gov/Pages/default.aspx>). This information is also available through other sources (for example, the Providence Journal, 630 WPRO, Channel 12, etc.).

You are responsible for keeping all of your court appearances.

Permission to Leave the State

Should you have to leave the state of Rhode Island for any reason, you must get permission to do so by the court. Contact your attorney or case manager for the proper procedure.

Treatment and Orders of the Court

You must follow the treatment recommendations and the court's orders. Your treatment agency may refer you to another agency to better meet your needs. In general, treatment will address two (2) major areas. These areas are substance use and mental health.

Substance Use

You are required to participate in a substance use treatment program and take weekly, random, supervised toxicology screens at your program or directed by your case manager and/or the judge. While in treatment, your provider will regularly report to the ADC about your attendance, participation, and compliance. Of importance is that you attend all scheduled appointments and follow the rules of your treatment provider.

Participants must get approval for **any** mood-altering substances (including, but not limited to, prescription medication, over-the-counter medication, vitamins, designer substances, synthetic substances, and all herbal/dietary supplements.)

You will be held fully accountable for any and all substances that you put into your body. This shall include, but is not limited to, the eating of food containing "poppy" seeds, any item containing "alcohol," over-the-counter medications containing

“dextromethorphan,” over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal/dietary supplements, and prescription medications not prescribed.

Mental Health

If mental health treatment is recommended, you must attend all scheduled appointments and follow the rules of your treatment provider. You may be prescribed medication.

Sometimes, both substance use and mental health treatment are recommended.

You must attend scheduled appointments. If you cannot attend a session or if you are running late, contact your treatment counselor. Unexcused absences could result in treatment discharge. Your ADC case manager will receive a report on your attendance and level of participation. Your case manager will share your information with the judge.

The Treatment Plan

Your treatment provider (for example, CODAC, Thrive, Providence Center, Victa) will create a treatment plan with you. The treatment plan describes your specific issues and what you need to do to address these issues.

Your case manager will ask for a “summary of services report” from your treatment provider. This report may be verbal or written. The report usually describes the type of service(s) you receive, the duration, current progress, anticipated completion date, and dates and results of toxicology screens. The ADC may direct you to change your treatment-related activities or level of care after consulting with your treatment team.

Confidentiality

Federal and state laws protect the confidentiality of your health records. The ADC cannot release written or verbal information without your written, signed consent. However, you cannot participate in the ADC program without signing a “Release of Information.” The release allows members of the ADC team to discuss your case and progress. We will not share information about you or your progress with anyone outside the ADC team.

Other emergency or legal circumstances may or may not require release of information, such as:

- A court order;
- A medical emergency;
- You commit or threaten to commit a crime;
- You are suspected of child abuse or elder abuse; and/or
- You threaten to hurt yourself or someone else.

Participation Agreement

While you are in the ADC program, you will stay on the ADC calendar and remain on bail for the duration of the program. If you agree to participate in the ADC, the court will ask you to sign a contract stating the terms of the program. You will also sign a nolo contendere or guilty plea form which will provide the final disposition of the case if you 1) successfully graduate, or 2) are terminated from the ADC. Your attorney will discuss the participation process with you in greater detail.

If you have any questions about the Participation Agreement, ask your attorney. You will receive a copy of your Participation Agreement.

General Expectations and Program Phases

The ADC program expects that you:

- Be open and honest and trust the process;
- Demonstrate willingness to participate in the program;
- Show willingness to follow all treatment recommendations;
- Do not use illegal substances, including marijuana;
- Do not use alcohol;
- Attend all court sessions;
- Have good behavior and keep the peace;
- Maintain consistent contact with your ADC case manager;
- Contact your case manager immediately if you are terminated from your current treatment provider;
- Tell the court of any change in contact information, employment, or anything of similar importance;
- Agree to take all mental health medications as prescribed or consult with your doctor and/or attorney as needed; and
- Comply with all special conditions of release (for example, if you have a no contact order, do not violate the terms of the order).

The ADC program has four (4) phases. You must complete each phase before advancing to the next phase.

Phase 1 – Acute Stabilization	
Key Concept	Starting ADC - Show up, be open, be honest. Focus on basic needs being met.
Minimum Time in Phase	Sixty (60) days minimum requirement in Phase 1
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Take a chance on a new life. ✓ Be honest and show up to each scheduled appearance. ✓ Do not use alcohol or illegal substances, including marijuana. ✓ Participate in random, weekly toxicology screens as directed. ✓ Follow the orders of the court. ✓ Follow the treatment orders of your provider. ✓ Address basic needs (housing, medical needs, transportation, etc.). ✓ Begin changing people, places, and things. <p>*If at any point you have barriers, please reach out to one of the ADC team.</p> <p><i>In order to be considered to advance to the next phase:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with orders indicated above. • Achieve a minimum of fourteen (14) days of sobriety and at least sixty (60) days in the ADC.

Phase 2 – Clinical Stabilization	
Key Concept	Engage in consistent treatment, learn relapse prevention strategies, and work on employment or educational plan.
Minimum Time in Phase	Sixty (60) to ninety (90) days minimum requirement in Phase 2
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Commit to trying something new. ✓ Be honest and show up to each scheduled appearance. ✓ Do not use alcohol or illegal substances, including marijuana. ✓ Participate in random, weekly toxicology screens as directed. ✓ Follow the orders of the court. ✓ Follow the treatment orders of your provider. ✓ Demonstrate changing people, places, and things. ✓ Develop employment or educational goals. <p>*If at any point you have barriers, please reach out to one of the ADC team.</p> <p><i>In order to be considered to advance to the next phase:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with orders indicated above. • Achieve a minimum of thirty (30) days of sobriety.

Phase 3 – Prosocial Habilitation	
Key Concept	Focus on rebuilding healthy relationships, develop positive coping mechanisms, begin to address life skills, look for employment, and explore vocational training.
Minimum Time in Phase	Sixty (60) to ninety (90) days minimum requirement in Phase 3
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be honest and show up to each scheduled appearance. ✓ Do not use alcohol or illegal substances, including marijuana. ✓ Participate in random, weekly toxicology screens as directed. ✓ Follow the orders of the court. ✓ Follow the treatment orders of your provider. ✓ Establish pro-social activity. ✓ Set a goal to attend sober functions outside of self-help meetings to continue to build Recovery Capital. ✓ Develop one (1) short-term goal. ✓ Develop one (1) long-term goal. ✓ Begin job, vocational training, or school. ✓ Work on paying off any outstanding restitution. <p>*If at any point you have barriers, please reach out to one of the ADC team.</p> <p><i>In order to be considered to advance to the next phase:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with orders indicated above. • Achieve a minimum of forty-five (45) days of sobriety.

Phase 4 – Maintaining a Life in Recovery	
Key Concept	Focus on long-term sustainable recovery and maintenance, engage in consistent employment or education, active participation in recovery network, and articulate short and long-term plans and goals.
Minimum Time in Phase	Sixty (60) to ninety (90) days minimum requirement in Phase 4
Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Be honest and show up to each scheduled appearance. ✓ Do not use alcohol or illegal substances, including marijuana. ✓ Participate in random, weekly toxicology screens as directed. ✓ Follow the orders of the court. ✓ Follow the treatment orders of your provider. ✓ Establish progress on vocational, educational, employment, or wellness objectives. ✓ Begin to focus on Aftercare and Recovery Capital ✓ Must not have any active warrants. ✓ Develop two (2) short-term goals. ✓ Develop two (2) long-term goals. ✓ Work on paying off any outstanding restitution. <p>*If at any point you have barriers, please reach out to one of the ADC team.</p>

	<p><i>In order to be considered to graduate from ADC:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comply with orders indicated above.• Achieve a minimum forty-five (45) to sixty (60) days of sobriety.
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Court Appearance Expectation

You will appear in front of the judge on a regular basis. The judge will receive a report on your overall progress which will be presented by your case manager the afternoon prior to your court appearance. As you advance through the program phases, your court appearances will be less frequent.

Failure to Appear

Failure to appear in court on the scheduled date and time may result in a **warrant** being issued for your arrest. If you cannot appear in court on your scheduled date, notify your case manager before the court date. If you have an emergency, notify your case manager as soon as possible. If you have any question regarding your court appearances, contact your ADC case manager.

Infractions

If you fail to comply with your treatment recommendations, program rules or commit a crime, you will be sanctioned by the court. Infractions include, but are not limited to:

- Lack of open and honest communication;
- Missed treatment appointments;
- Failure to maintain contact with Case Management;
- Missed court appearances;
- Use of illegal substances, including marijuana, and/or alcohol;
- Refusal to provide toxicology screens;
- Positive toxicology screens;
- Non-compliance with treatment recommendations;
- Violation of specific bail terms and conditions; and/or
- Re-arrests.

The ADC team will respond to all infractions. The team wants you to succeed; however, you must be motivated, be in the center of your own treatment or recovery, and want yourself to succeed. Sometimes the ADC will require you to increase your treatment-related activities or will direct you to accept a change in your level of care after consulting with your treatment team.

Sanctions

As a response to infractions, the court will order sanctions. Sanctions can include, but are not limited to:

- A verbal reprimand by the judge;
- More frequent office call-ins and check-ins;
- Increased frequency of toxicology screens;
- Increased level of care;
- More frequent court appearances;
- Incarceration;
- Termination from the ADC program; and/or
- Community service.

Incentives

As you progress through treatment and your involvement with the program, the court will recognize and reward your achievements. Rewards can include, but are not limited to:

- Phase promotion;
- Fewer court appearances;
- Fewer office check-ins with your case manager;
- Waiver of probation costs and/or court costs;
- Decreased level of care; and/or
- Shorter wait times on court dates.

Graduation

Once you have successfully completed all requirements of the program, you will be eligible for commencement.

By completing the ADC, you will receive the previously agreed upon disposition that is outlined in your Participation Agreement.

Participant Rights

Participants will receive equal treatment and services without regard to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, religion, national origin, ancestry, or physical disability.

All participants have the right to be treated with respect and dignity. Participation in the program is voluntary. If you do not wish to participate, your case will return to traditional prosecution. Your case manager will inform you of any changes to the program as soon as possible. The ADC team encourages your feedback on the program.

Conclusion

If you have any questions about the program, please contact your case manager, or any member of the ADC team.

Good luck to you!

Receipt of Participant Handbook

Date: _____

Name: _____

I, _____, acknowledge the receipt of the Participant Handbook for Rhode Island Superior Court Adult Drug Court Program. By my signature below, I attest that I have been provided with a copy of the Participant Handbook. Furthermore, I have been made aware of the Rhode Island Superior Court Adult Drug Court Program rules through my attendance at the Rhode Island Adult Drug Court Program.

Signature: _____

Participant Copy

Receipt of Participant Handbook

Date: _____

Name: _____

I, _____, acknowledge the receipt of the Participant Handbook for Rhode Island Superior Court Adult Drug Court Program. By my signature below, I attest that I have been provided with a copy of the Participant Handbook. Furthermore, I have been made aware of the Rhode Island Superior Court Adult Drug Court Program rules through my attendance at the Rhode Island Adult Drug Court Program.

Signature: _____

Case Management File Copy