

**MONROE COUNTY TREATMENT COURT
GENERAL INFORMATION**

OVERVIEW

The Monroe County Treatment Court is a non-traditional, non-adversarial, court supervised treatment program for non-violent individuals with a Substance Use Disorder. The Program provides intensive treatment and addresses ancillary needs of the participants while at the same time holding individuals accountable for their actions.

The Treatment Court has three (3) tracks:

- **TRACK 1 – DIVERSION**
 - The goal of Track I is to give the participant the opportunity to work toward a better resolution of the charges if he/she adheres to all conditions set forth by the Court and successfully completes their individualized program.
 - The participant must enter a guilty plea approved by the District Attorney (“DA”) and then defer sentencing with a signed Waiver and Written Guilty Plea Colloquy.
 - Upon successful completion, the participant will be afforded the opportunity to withdraw his/her guilty plea, and if originally charged with Felony offenses, enter a plea to lesser Misdemeanor charges. If the original charges were misdemeanors, the charges will be dismissed. Participants may have charges automatically expunged if they participate in an after-care program and/or voluntarily return to Court as directed after graduation.
 - The Track I program is designed to meet the needs of eligible participants who are low level individuals based on their prior record score and current charges as set forth in Pennsylvania’s Sentencing Guidelines.
 - The DA has sole discretion over approval into this track. For those who do not qualify for Track I, the DA may offer Track II in their discretion.
- **TRACK II – STANDARD**
 - Track II provides individuals with the opportunity to participate in the Treatment Court as an alternative to incarceration.
 - The participant must enter a guilty plea to an appropriate offense approved by the DA and defer sentencing with a signed waiver, unless the Court requires immediate sentencing in DUI cases, or other offenses with mandatory minimum sentences of incarceration. The length of community supervision must be for at least 18 months (not including any period of incarceration). The period of supervision can be up to 30 months or longer, as required by law. If a sentence will be imposed, the sentence must be a sentence of Probation with Restrictive Conditions and/or a period of incarceration. The sentence imposed must meet mandatory minimums.
 - Upon successful completion, the participant will be afforded the opportunity to have their supervision terminated, and/or a sentence of time served, or no further sentence beyond mandatory minimums.
 - Track II is intended for higher level individuals, based on their prior record score and current charges as set forth in Pennsylvania’s Sentencing Guidelines, or those who the DA has not accepted into Track I. The DA has sole discretion over approval into this Track, but applicants may ask for

reconsideration by the DA as to this Track or Track I denial, provided they do not have an ineligible offense.

- **TRACK III – Recovery**

- Participants deemed eligible for admission to the Recovery Track are those individuals who are already under the supervision of the Monroe County Adult Probation and Parole Department and have violated their supervision from a previous sentence imposed by the Court. It is designed to meet the needs of eligible participants who have been unsuccessful with probation/parole supervision and are in need of more intense and extensive treatment in lieu of incarceration.
- The participant must acknowledge and admit a violation of his/her probation or parole. The participant will be resentenced to a minimum of 18 months community supervision (not including any period of incarceration). The length of community supervision can be up to 30 months or longer, as required by law. Upon graduation, they may earn the termination of their supervision, and/or no further sentence.

What's in it for the Participant?

- Reduction and/or dismissal of charges (Track I cases) – If you successfully complete the Treatment Court Program, you will be eligible to have your charges reduced or dismissed, and possibly automatically expunged.
- Completion of Court supervision (Track II and III) – An alternative to incarceration and if you successfully complete the Treatment Court Program, you will be eligible to have your Court supervision terminated.
- A Second Chance – The opportunity to move forward in your life with a new outlook and new skills.
- To achieve and maintain sobriety and be in recovery.
- A Healthy Lifestyle – Through treatment, structure, and accountability you will acquire the skills to improve your quality of life through your transparency and candor, reducing stress, becoming gainfully employed, rebuilding relationships, and becoming a productive member of society while living a crime-free and substance-free lifestyle. This may include:
 - Job training • Educational/vocational training • Job placement assistance
 - Family counseling • Life skills training • Anger management
 - Mental health services • Public assistance/Medicaid

How long is Treatment Court?

- A minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 30 months or longer, if required by law or the Court.
- A participant's compliance with their treatment plan and ability to successfully progress through each phase of the program determines the length.

What do I need to complete/accomplish in order to complete or graduate from Treatment Court?

- Treatment Court is an extremely structured and comprehensive program that requires active participation and compliance. There will be frequent court appearances, regular and random drug and alcohol testing, participation in drug and alcohol treatment, establishing a sober support network, mental health treatment if recommended, and attendance in any other educational and therapeutic programming.
- Graduation Requirements:
 - Complete all phases of the program

- Submit a graduation application and essay
- Treatment – successfully completed all treatment goals and established an approved relapse prevention plan
- Drug and alcohol tests – six (6) months of negative drug tests
- Employment – employed or involved in productive daily activity for at least three (3) months of Treatment Court
- Housing – reside at an approved residence that is not likely to promote relapse for the last three (3) months of Treatment Court
- Financial obligation – compliant with all costs, fines, supervision fees, restitution, and treatment costs
- New arrests – remain arrest free for any new criminal charges that result in a conviction

Can I be terminated from the Treatment Court Program, and if so, what will happen to me?

- Although a violation of any aspect of the Treatment Court Program rules may result in the participant's termination from the Treatment Court Program, the program is structured to provide incremental, proportionate, and predictable responses in the form of incentives to encourage and reinforce positive behaviors, and sanctions to discourage negative, non-compliant behaviors.
 - Sanctions will be imposed after careful consideration of a variety of factors, which include proximal/distal goals, performance thus far, the severity of the behavior, and the magnitude of the participant's response.
- The following violations, however, may result in automatic termination:
 - Violent or abusive behavior;
 - New charge of Driving Under Suspension (DUI or non-DUI)
 - New criminal charges (misdemeanor or felony) that are held for court at a preliminary hearing
 - Failure to comply with directives given by the Court
- Following Termination from the Program:
 - Track I or II – offenders will be sentenced for the original charges.
 - Some Track II (DUI) and Track III – Gagnon II hearing and sentencing for a violation of probation/parole.

How does an individual begin the process to get into Treatment Court?

1. Review the Pre-Screening Form instructions
2. Complete the Pre-Screening Form and submit it to:

Office of the District Attorney
 ATTN: Treatment Court
 Monroe County Office of the District Attorney
 701 Main Street, Suite 200
 Stroudsburg, PA 18360
 Email: dheller@monroecountypa.gov

w/. a copy to the Monroe County Probation Office-Attn. Treatment Court Coordinator

3. After review of the Pre-Screening Form and approval for eligibility by the DA, contact the Monroe County Probation Office and/or complete the formal Treatment Court Application and submit it to:

Jessica Peters, Treatment Court Coordinator

Monroe County Adult Probation Office

Monroe County Courthouse

Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Email: jpeters@monroepacourts.us

4. You will then be contacted by the Treatment Court Coordinator for a formal interview and to set up evaluations if not already done.