



Why have a Drug Court?

The Drug Court exists to help participants deal with the problems that have led to their offences.

The court works toward reducing criminal activity associated with substance use, for the wellbeing of the community and the participant.

What does the Drug Court do?

The Drug Court can help participants:

- acknowledge and address their substance use
- deal with their problems that led to them committing crimes
- change their behaviour so they can lead a constructive, fulfilling and law-abiding life.

CONTACT

For more information about the Drug Court, contact:

Your lawyer

Perth Magistrates Court

Department of Justice
Central Law Courts
501 Hay Street
PERTH WA 6000
Phone: 9425 2222
Fax: 9221 7720
Email: perthmagistratescourt@justice.wa.gov.au

Court Assessment and Treatment Service (CATS)

Level 4, 30 Moore Street
EAST PERTH WA 6004
Phone: 9230 2100
Fax: 9230 2101

Alcohol and Drug Support Line

Phone: 9442 5000
Country callers: 1800 198 024
Email: alcoholdrugsupport@mhc.wa.gov.au

A juvenile Drug Court also operates from the Perth Children's Court. For more information about this court, contact your lawyer, or CATS, or Perth Children's Court Registry on 9218 0100.

What is the Drug Court?

How can it help me?



DC-CHCCT | MAR18/000

Drug Court is a solution-focused court for people who have substance use problems and have committed offences.

Drug Court can help break the cycle of substance use and offending by making treatment for the drug dependence part of the court process.

Drug Court is not a soft option. It is for participants who are willing to commit to change and make a positive choice to end their drug dependency.

If a participant doesn't follow the agreed drug treatment and monitoring requirements they will be sentenced in the normal manner.

If the participant successfully completes the Drug Court program it is likely they will receive a reduced sentence.

Who is accepted by the Drug Court?

To participate in the Drug Court program, an applicant must:

1. admit they have an illicit substance use problem
2. enter a plea of guilty to all charges
3. be willing to undergo appropriate and agreed evidence based drug treatment, in the community or a residential rehabilitation facility
4. be willing to be supported and supervised by the Drug Court and the Court Assessment and Treatment Service (CATS).

If you think the Drug Court is for you

Step 1 - You or your lawyer can ask to have your offences referred to Drug Court and attend an information session

Drug Court information sessions are held every Tuesday at 9am at:

Central Law Courts

Level 3, Court 35
501 Hay Street, Perth

Step 2 - Participate in the assessment process with CATS (approximately four weeks)

If your application for Drug Court is accepted a CATS officer will assess your case to see if you are suitable.

CATS will submit a report to the court and you will need to obey strict bail conditions.

These conditions will include drug testing, living at a fixed address, a strict curfew and attending counselling sessions.

These conditions will be outlined by your CATS officer. Assessments in custody can also be granted.

Step 3 - Participate in a program

A number of programs are offered:

Pre-sentence Order (PSO) - usually 12 months

- indicated sentence
- supervision and program requirement
- breach point system
- regular court appearances
- provide urine samples as directed.

Conditional Drug Court Regime (DCR)

Up to 6 months

- indicated sentence
- breach point system
- regular court appearances
- supervision, treatment and support programs as directed
- provide urine samples as directed
- any other requirements.

Supervised Treatment Intervention Regime (STIR)

The Drug Court also offers a court diversion program known as STIR.

Offenders might be suitable for STIR if they:

- committed a less serious offence
- do not have a criminal record or are on bail
- might normally expect to receive a community based sanction if they plead guilty to their charges.

STIR involves less intensive case management but participants are regularly drug tested.

It involves community-based treatment while on bail and generally runs for six months.

Step 4 - Sentence

When you have finished the program, you will go back to the Drug Court for sentencing.

If final sentencing is undertaken in the District or Supreme Court, the Drug Court will report to those courts on your response to the Drug Court program.

The magistrate or judge may take into account efforts you have made to change your behaviour and face your drug use by reducing your overall sentence.