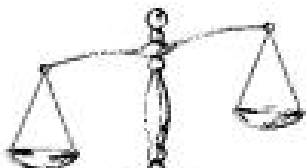


## Elements of Co-Occurring Court

- Participation is voluntary but once admitted, program compliance is court-ordered.
- Participants have a mental illness and a co-occurring substance abuse disorder that contributed to the situation resulting in their involvement in the criminal justice system.
- Public safety is a high priority. Participants are carefully screened prior to admission and monitored throughout the program.
- Early intervention is essential, with referral and screening occurring immediately after criminal charges or as soon thereafter.
- Working with a cross-disciplinary team, the Co-Occurring Court staff provides supervision and case management to participants.



## Why Participate?

Participants in the Co-Occurring Court program may be able to remain in the community for treatment rather than leaving the community or obtaining treatment in a more restrictive placement. Participants may get a lesser criminal sentence or may not be sentenced to any jail or prison time. If needed, participants receive help obtaining services such as housing, job training and medical care.

For more details about the Co-Occurring Court Program or benefits of participants, contact the Co-Occurring Court Coordinator or your attorney.

**The Missoula Co-Occurring Court strives to improve public safety by working with people involved with the criminal justice system who have mental illness and co-occurring substance abuse disorders.**

**Our staff is committed to developing ways to better address their unique needs.**

## Missoula Co-Occurring Treatment Court Program



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## What is Co-Occurring Court?

The Missoula Co-Occurring Treatment Court Program was developed to improve the response of the Missoula County criminal justice system to people with mental illness by mandating and monitoring treatment. The Court program diverts from jail to treatment, people with serious mental illness and co-occurring substance abuse disorders charged with misdemeanors and non-violent felonies. Participants must comply with appropriate community programs for mental health and chemical dependency treatment. The program works to support each participant's recovery and reduce future involvement in the criminal justice system.

### What is a Co-Occurring Disorder?

Persons with co-occurring disorders have one or more mental disorders as well as one or more substance-related disorders.

## Guidelines for Admission

- 1) The Referral:** A prospective participant may be referred by an attorney, judge, treatment provider, family member, detention center staff or other concerned person.
- 2) Defense Attorney:** Before Co-Occurring Court staff discusses the program with a potential participant to determine eligibility, the Defense Attorney must consent.
- 3) Screening:** The Co-Occurring Court staff meets with the potential participant, in the detention center, if necessary, to: (a) assess willingness to participate into the program; (b) perform eligibility screening; and (c) complete all necessary paperwork, such as releases of information to obtain records.
- 4) Intake Procedure:** If eligibility criteria are met, Co-Occurring Court staff: (a) obtain pertinent records; and (b) develop a preliminary court treatment plan.

**5) Co-Occurring Court Team:** The Court Team is composed of the Court Coordinator, a prosecutor, a defense attorney, a probation officer, a community supervision officer, treatment providers and the judge.

**5) Acceptance or Denial in Program:** Once the screening is completed, the team discusses the case at its weekly meeting and decides whether or not the potential participant is appropriate for the program.

**6) Acceptance:** The participant is notified of acceptance and given a date to appear in Co-Occurring Court to review/sign the participant agreement and the Co-Occurring Court treatment plan. The Judge then welcomes the participant into the Co-Occurring Court Program.

