

DELINQUENCY DRUG COURT



Third District Juvenile Court
450 South State Street - Second Floor
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-0431
and
8080 South Redwood Road
West Jordan, UT 84088

The Delinquency Drug Court program is for those youth who present with multiple delinquency referrals where a direct causal link is established between the delinquent activity and substance abuse. The program is designed as a probation supervision model, oftentimes as an alternative to out-of-home placement for youth. Per review by the District Attorney's Office and in conference with defense counsel, a plea in abeyance or an offense reduction, is oftentimes offered on presenting delinquency matters, pursuant to successful completion of the drug court program. As a prerequisite for admission into the program, and per the national and state emphasis to serve high risk and high need individuals in drug court, the youth must be identified as moderate to high risk to re-offend on the probation department's Pre-Screen Risk Assessment (PSRA) instrument. In addition, youth must meet criteria for substance abuse treatment per the findings of a clinically administered substance abuse assessment. All treatment services are offered under contract with Salt Lake County Division of Substance Abuse Services, utilizing their network continuum of substance abuse treatment providers. The drug court program is a minimum of six months with semi-monthly reviews.

The Delinquency Drug Court combines a multi-disciplinary, collaborative, non-adversarial team approach. Team members include the judge, a Deputy District Attorney, defense counsel, probation officers, treatment specialist, education input, law enforcement, and a coordinator. Through this collaborative approach, emphasis is directed towards engaging and maintaining the youth in treatment, with high accountability achieved through the intensity of court reviews, and the imposition of appropriate court ordered incentives and sanctions. The drug court program creates an environment with clear and concise rules and expectations. The youth's performance is immediately and directly reported to the judge, who in turn, provides incentives and sanctions in encouraging the youth to take control in their abstinence and recovery. Youth are offered an expedited access to a continuum of treatment services, frequent drug and alcohol testing to monitor sobriety, and ongoing judicial interaction.

The goal of the Delinquency Drug Court is to provide a mechanism to help youth live a drug free life. The program provides intervention and concerted treatment services for youth who abuse substances and are able to commit to the drug court process. The drug court program encourages substance abusing youth to fully cooperate with the program through the heightened supervision of the Court and the supportive intervention of drug court staff, coupled with the cooperation of the treatment service providers and peer support systems. For those youth who participate in the drug court program and take full advantage of the assistance provided, their experience can act as a springboard to permanent life changes.