

## JUVENILE DRUG COURT An Introduction

Juvenile Drug Court was developed for first time misdemeanor drug offenders and second time alcohol offenders, to address substance abuse issues.

The goal of the Juvenile Drug Court is to assist youth and families in preventing future substance abuse problems. By providing a package of comprehensive services, we believe that youth and families will recognize the strengths and risks of their present circumstances and use the information, support and services in their best interests.

Juvenile Drug Court is an *optional* program for those who qualify.

## WHAT NORMALLY HAPPENS WITH SUCH CHARGES?

According to Utah State law, misdemeanor drug and alcohol charges generally result in the "**minimum mandatory penalties**" which include:

- 20-100 hours community service
- \$150.00 - \$500.00 fine
- Suspension of driver's license (regardless of offender's age)

## WHO QUALIFIES FOR JUVENILE DRUG COURT?

Federal grant restrictions limit those who may be considered for Drug Court, and fulfillment of the following criteria does not guarantee participation. The following are some general guidelines:

- Limited juvenile court history
- Age 14 - 17.5
- 1<sup>st</sup> drug and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> alcohol offenses (misdemeanors only)
- No history of violent offenses
- Must have permanent residence in Salt Lake County and live with a parent/guardian
- Participant and parent/guardian must be available to attend drug/alcohol testing, monthly review hearings, intervention classes and/or counseling. **Testing and hearings typically occur during traditional working hours.**
- Juveniles admit to the allegations

Youth are evaluated for participation in Juvenile Drug Court, and if appropriate, may be offered the chance to participate.

Parental support is critical, but the juvenile must make the final decision to participate.

If the Juvenile does not wish to

participate, it is not recommended.

## WHAT DOES BEING IN JUVENILE DRUG COURT ENTAIL?

Juvenile Drug Court is a six month program (minimum). During these months, the juvenile enters a contract which binds him/her to obey the rules of the program. The standard orders of Juvenile Drug Court generally include, but are not limited to:

- Sixty hours community service (minimum)
- Substance Abuse Evaluation
- Intervention classes and/or substance abuse counseling, dependent upon individual needs as determined by Substance Abuse Evaluation
- Random drug/alcohol testing
- Two written assignments
- Home visits
- Attend school/receive passing grades
- Follow home rules
- Attend monthly Speakers Bureau with a parent
- May receive no new offenses
- Attend monthly court reviews