

Fourth Judicial Circuit



Problem-Solving Courts of Nassau County, Florida

Mental Health Court Participant Handbook

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1.1 Introduction

You have been identified as a person who may have an untreated mental illness and/or a drug addiction and co-occurring mental illness. You are being given an opportunity to participate in Nassau County's Mental Health Court (MHC). MHC is one of nine Problem-Solving Courts (PSCs) operating in the Fourth Judicial Circuit designed to help individuals like you achieve stability, learn how to live with your mental illness, learn how to live without illegal drugs, restore your life, and restore your family. The purpose of MHC is to offer a treatment-focused alternative to incarceration for persons suffering from chronic and persistent mental illness or co-occurring disorders. MHC seeks to address the cause for the criminal behavior that brought about the pending charges, whether due to noncompliance with medication, lack of accessibility to services, loss or lack of benefits, etc. The goal of MHC is for you to achieve stability with your mental health disorder, abstinence from illicit and illegal drugs, and abstinence from all criminal activity. MHC is designed to promote self-sufficiency and to return you to the community as a productive and responsible member.

This handbook is designed to answer questions, address concerns, and provide overall information about the MHC Program. As a participant, you will be expected to follow the instructions given in MHC by the judge and comply with the treatment plan developed for you by your treatment team. This handbook will detail what is expected of you as a MHC participant and review general program information. You are required to read and abide by all rules and procedures outlined in this handbook and are encouraged to share this handbook with family and friends.

1.2 Program Description

The Nassau County Mental Health Court Program is a court-supervised, comprehensive treatment program for nonviolent defendants. This is a program which includes regular court appearances before a designated judge, intensive individual, group, or residential mental health or mental health and substance abuse treatment, random observed drug and alcohol testing, regular attendance at 12-step/sober-support meetings (Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, Rational Recovery, etc.) and/or mental health support meetings, and participation in pro-social events. The MHC Program is a combined effort of the State Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Court Administration, the Department of Corrections/Law Enforcement, and Community Treatment Providers. You will be assisted with obtaining social security benefits (if eligible), assistance with the assignment of a financial payee, educational and skills assessments, and will be provided with referrals for vocational training, educational program, and/or job placement services as well as transitional/halfway housing or placement into an assisted living facility. The program length, determined by your individual progress will be no less than one year (12 months). However, the time period may be extended if necessary to successfully complete and graduate from MHC.

Following arrest, if determined to be eligible, you may be offered a choice between MHC and prosecution by the State of Florida for the pending charges. Eligibility for acceptance into the program shall be made upon determination that you meet the established clinical, legal, and suitability requirements for MHC as determined by the MHC team. The MHC team consists of the presiding judge, state attorney, defense counsel, mental health court coordinator, case managers, probation officer/law enforcement, and community treatment providers. Upon approval for program entry, you will be instructed to report for your first MHC status hearing. Electing to enter MHC at this stage is of your choosing and is completely voluntary. However, once you enter MHC you may not elect to voluntarily withdraw. If you are placed into MHC as a condition of a sentence (condition of probation), then you

have been offered the chance to avoid prison, and again, cannot voluntarily withdraw from the program. In either event, a representative from the State Attorney's Office will discuss the MHC program with you and a Public Defender or your private legal counsel will advise you of your options before you sign the participation agreement. Once you have entered the MHC program and exhausted your two (2) week orientation phase, only the presiding judge can terminate your participation. This condition exists for a very specific reason: to protect you from running away when/if the going gets tough. If stabilizing your mental health, staying compliant with your medications, and/or quitting drugs or alcohol and restoring/rebuilding your life and family were easy, you wouldn't need to be in MHC.

On your initial court date you will sign your participation agreement, be assigned to a probation officer (felony offenders only) and case manager who will provide supervision and enforcement of the terms and conditions of MHC throughout your participation, and you will receive an appointment for orientation into MHC so that you can get started in the program right away. At the orientation appointment you will be provided with your participant manual which includes this handbook, phase petitions, sober-support meeting information, travel forms, and a calendar. A case manager will review all materials in detail with you. You will complete a criminogenic risk assessment tool and will also execute required program intake forms at this meeting which include a Release of Information, Release of Liability, Participant Information Form, Prohibited Substances Agreement, and a Participant Testing Policy along with an Orientation Checklist upon completion of the orientation meeting. You will be provided a copy of all forms that you execute during this meeting.

While in MHC you will be supervised by a case manager and by a probation officer with the Department of Corrections (felony offenders only), either under pre-trial intervention supervision or formal probation supervision, and must comply with specific terms and conditions. Supervision will include unannounced home visits during which your person and residence will be subject to search. Court appointed defense counsel will represent you throughout your participation in MHC. If you have entered the program with private counsel, court appointed counsel familiar with the program shall automatically represent you unless you specifically request otherwise and your private counsel has agreed to appear as required.

Upon successful completion and graduation from MHC, if you entered into MHC voluntarily as part of a pre-trial/prosecution diversion, your successful completion and graduation from the program will result in having the charges against you dropped. However, failure or termination from MHC will result in further prosecution of the pending charges by the State Attorney's Office. If you were sentenced to complete MHC as a condition of probation or in lieu of prison, you must complete and graduate from MHC in order to fully comply with your sentence. In this instance, failure or termination from MHC will result in an additional charge of Violation of Probation followed by prosecution and sentencing.

1.3 Program Progress/Graduation/Termination

1.3.1 Progress

Once you have successfully completed the criteria for each phase (as described in the phases section), you will advance to the next level and eventually be a candidate to graduate from MHC. This will not happen in less than twelve (12) months. It will be necessary to discuss your progress toward the goals you initially set and why you believe you have met the graduation criteria when the time comes.

1.3.2 Graduation

Approval for graduation from the program shall be determined by the MHC judge with input from the MHC team. Simply completing each phase of the MHC program does not guarantee graduation. You need to have demonstrated that you have learned from the structure and support you have received before the MHC team will agree to allow you to graduate. Your family will be invited to join you in court as the

judge congratulates you on successfully completing MHC and achieving your goal to establish stability. If you entered MHC under a pre-trial intervention program/prosecution diversion basis, upon graduation your case will be dropped by the State Attorney's Office. Your record relating to the arrest that resulted in your participation in MHC **may be eligible** to be sealed or expunged. After graduation, you will be provided with the necessary paperwork to apply for such relief. If you lose this packet, you can request a packet from the Clerk of Courts to proceed on your own behalf or retain an attorney to represent you. If you were sentenced as a condition of probation to this program you will have met that requirement of your sentence and could potentially have your probation terminated early. Your record will not likely be eligible to be sealed or expunged as your case will not have been dismissed. However, you may consult with an attorney to pursue such dismissal through further proceedings within the criminal division that your case was originally assigned.

1.3.3 Termination

Termination from MHC is evaluated on an individual basis. A decision to terminate participation will be made by the MHC Team. The decision to terminate may be made for any of the following reasons:

- Abandonment of treatment program
- Available treatment options have been exhausted
- Evidence that you are involved in any threatening, abusive, or violent verbal or physical behavior towards anyone
- Evidence that you are involved with drug dealing or driving while under the influence
- Failure to attend MHC hearings (repeatedly)
- Failure to make satisfactory progress
- Inability to pass required drug/alcohol screening tests for any reason (repeatedly)
- New criminal charge/Concern for public safety
- Refusal to take approved prescribed medications
- Tampering with drug/alcohol screening tests
- Threat to the integrity of the program
- Use of synthetic substances/designer stimulants unable to be detected through normal screening
- Violating MHC rules (repeatedly)

1.4 Participant Rights

1.4.1 Confidentiality

Your identity and privacy will be protected consistent with Florida law. In response to these regulations, policies and procedures have been developed which guard your confidentiality. You will be asked to sign a release of information authorizing the transfer of information among all participating agencies as well as a release of liability. Additionally, an identification number will be assigned to you that will be used in all research and evaluation activities to safeguard your identity. If you are employed, your employment may be terminated if contacted by a probation officer. If you think this may happen to you, tell your attorney, probation officer, and the judge. The judge may choose to enter a no-contact order on your behalf. This order would prevent your probation officer from contacting your employer for employment verification. However, in lieu of such contact, you will be required to provide regular pay stubs to your program officer as a means of verifying your employment. You are also expected to respect and maintain the confidentiality of others and can be held accountable for breaching confidentiality. If there are family members that you wish MHC not to speak with, make sure you indicate so on your release forms as "family" can refer to multiple people.

1.4.2 Waivers

You understand that by agreeing to participate in MHC, you are waiving your right to usual court proceedings during your participation time in MHC, such as questioning or disputing the legality of a search and seizure; a preliminary hearing; and a trial by jury or court. Admission into MHC requires acceptance of this responsibility. You also understand that admission, participation, graduation and termination from MHC is entirely within the discretion of the MHC Team.

1.4.3 Equal Opportunity

Every person will receive the same opportunity to be admitted into and succeed in drug court. MHC will not discriminate based on age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, sexual identity, national origin, physical or mental disability, religion or socio-economic status. If you have a disability, MHC will make accommodations for you in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and provide language access services to you if you have a limited understanding of English.

1.4.4 Safety

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Safety rules are posted on bulletin boards at service provider locations and in the courthouse. You must obey all court orders and rules/regulations regarding weapons.

1.4.5 Grievances

There is always the potential that treatment you receive by another person or this program may not be perceived by you as either fair or appropriate. To safeguard against any mistreatment or failure to provide quality care, this program has a procedure for addressing your complaint or concern.

1. Discuss the issue with the person you feel has treated you unfairly or inappropriately.
2. If your concern is not resolved, you may file a formal grievance with the program.
3. To file a formal grievance, complete a grievance form (request from your case manager or online at www.jud4.org/Court-Programs/Drug,-Mental-Health,-and-Veterans-Treatment-Courts/Program-Materials-Resources) and submit it to the PSC Director.
4. Complaints and grievances will be investigated and you will be notified of the outcome within 10 business days.

1.5 Community Service Requirements

As a MHC participant, you may be required to participate in community service obligations as a result of non-compliance. You may also be offered additional community service opportunities during program involvement as MHC believes it is important to give back to the community. You will be encouraged to attend and participate in such community service events and may be able to request such participation be considered as your program community service project that is described in the next paragraph.

As a MHC participant, you will be required to complete a community service project prior to successfully completing the MHC program. This project is over and above any court ordered community service you are required to complete as a result of non-compliance. Community service projects must meet the following requirements: comprised of at least 8 hours, provable/verifiable through photos and letters, no personal or monetary gain, and not connected to your friends or family.

Once you have determined what you wish to do for your community service project, you must submit your plan in writing to your case manager. This should take place during phase 4 of the MHC program and your project should be completed during phase 5 of the MHC program. Your case manager will submit your written plan to the MHC Judge who will issue approval or denial or your community service project request. Once you have completed your community service project, you must prepare a photo board/presentation board of photos and/or letters or documentation which reflects what was accomplished. This photo board/presentation board shall be submitted to your case manager and you may be required to present it in court.

2.1 Court Appearances

As an MHC participant, you will be required to appear in MHC on a regular basis. At each appearance, the judge will be given a progress report prepared by the treatment provider, case manager, and the probation officer regarding your random drug and alcohol test results, attendance in all program services, medication compliance, and level of participation in all program services. The judge will ask you questions about your progress, and discuss any specific problems you have been experiencing and may engage in conversations with you about your life experience. If you are doing well, you will be encouraged to continue with the program and work toward success and will earn incentives such as applause and recognition, phase advancement, certificates, and gift cards.

If you are not doing well, the judge will discuss this with you and the treatment team to determine further action. If you commit program violations (i.e.: positive or missed drug tests, failure to attend individual or group counseling sessions, failure to maintain compliance with approved medications, failure to report to your probation officer, etc.) the Court will impose sanctions. With repeated violations of program requirements, and a failure to progress satisfactorily, the Court may impose the ultimate sanction of termination from the program. Program violations and continued instability with your mental health disorder will be responded to differently. If you are struggling with your stability/sobriety and are honest with the MHC team, MHC will provide assistance in the form of treatment responses. Treatment responses and sanctions are very different and are described further in the Program Responses section of this handbook which also includes information pertaining to possible incentives.

Failure to appear in court on the date and time you are scheduled will likely result in a warrant for your arrest. If you cannot appear in court as scheduled, you must notify your probation officer or case manager as soon as possible to explain why you cannot appear. Claiming illness and/or transportation problems without substantiating such claims will not automatically permit you to miss your scheduled court dates. MHC begins at 3:00 p.m. in Nassau County. Therefore, you are required to be present by 2:45 p.m. to sign-in on the sign-in sheet. It is your responsibility to be present for court and to be on time. MHC understands that life goes on while you are participating in the program and that there may be times when you cannot appear on time for a program obligation. You must communicate with your case manager and probation officer ahead of time so that you are not considered as a “no show” or an “absconder” from the MHC program.

2.2 Program Rules

1. Sign all agreements and releases necessary for entering the MHC program.
2. Report as required and/or requested for drug/alcohol testing.
 - You will be randomly tested for the presence of drugs and/or alcohol throughout participation in MHC at a minimum of two times per week. All specimen collections will be conducted on an observed basis meaning you will be closely visually monitored while providing a urine specimen. The MHC judge will have access to all drug and alcohol test results including any failures to test. Additionally, any member of the MHC team may order a drug test at any time. A positive or “dirty” test will not automatically terminate you from the MHC Program; however, sanctions or treatment responses will be imposed and will include automatic delays in phase progression. The judge will be reviewing your overall performance in the program when determining sanctions.

3. You will be assigned a drug testing color on the day you enter MHC. You may also be directed to test at any time during MHC participation by any MHC team member. Drug Testing Colors:

Female Last Name A-M:	Black	Female Last Name N-Z:	Orange
Male Last Name A-M:	Red	Male Last Name N-Z:	Blue

 - You must contact the Drug Testing Color Line 7 days a week by calling (904) 255-2455.
 - It is your responsibility to listen to each recorded message in its entirety and report as directed.
 - The Drug Testing Color Line is automatically updated each morning at 6:00am. It is highly recommended that you call the color line no later than 10:00am to find out whether or not your color was called.
 - If reporting Monday-Friday, you shall report to Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., for testing when your color is called. You must report between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. unless otherwise instructed.
 - You are to sign in, be seated and be prepared to wait up to 30 minutes when reporting for testing. The more people present, the longer the wait. This is unavoidable.
 - You must provide a specimen within three (3) hours of arrival. If you fail to provide a specimen within three (3) hours, you will be dismissed and reported as having failed to provide a specimen which correlates to a missed drug screen.
 - In the event of a missed test, you are required to report to Starting Point Behavioral Healthcare, Inc., for testing by 9:00 a.m. the next business day.
 - Reporting as required when you miss a test will not excuse your missed test. However, adhering to this policy will likely lessen the severity of the sanction.
 - Testing that occurs on weekends and/or holidays will have reduced hours for reporting and will take place at an alternate location. If reporting on a Saturday or Sunday, the reporting time will generally be between the hours of 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. You must pay attention to the recording on weekends/holidays to ensure that you report as required.
 - Calling the Drug Testing Color Line after the reporting time has ended on weekend/holidays will not be accepted as a reason for a missed test.
4. When providing a urine specimen, you must provide a minimum amount of urine to be tested. This amount is indicated on the specimen collection container by a black temperature strip, which correlates to approximately thirty milliliters (30mls) of urine. Providing an insufficient volume of urine during the specimen collection process may be deemed as a program violation (if repetitive behavior) and sanctioned accordingly.
5. You will be sanctioned for providing or attempting to provide a dilute, adulterated, or substituted urine specimen. Under such circumstances, you may receive multiple sanctions to address dishonesty and deception. Tampering with any drug/alcohol test will also be deemed a positive test which may result in a new arrest/criminal charge and may result in termination from the program (this includes flushing, diluting, using someone else's urine, etc.).
 - You should not consume excessive fluids prior to providing a urine specimen. You are responsible for what you consume and claiming that you had too much to drink prior to providing a urine specimen will not be accepted as a valid reason for a dilute specimen. It is recommended that you do not consume more than one (1) cup of fluids in the hour leading up to providing a urine specimen. Also, you will not be permitted to consume more than one (1) cup of fluids in the presence of MHC staff prior to the urine specimen collection process.
6. The results of our drug tests will be presumed valid in MHC. The tests we use in MHC are very reliable at detecting any drug or alcohol use.
 - You must avoid using any products which could cause a positive test result. It is YOUR responsibility to read product labels to know whether they contain alcohol or another substance

that will impact drug test results. You will be sanctioned if you use such products so you must be sure to read product labels. You are responsible for what you put into your body whether it is legal or illegal drugs, or alcohol, prescription medications, over the counter medications, and/or food/drinks. There are substances as well as foods and drinks that may cross react with testing and cause false-positive test results. These items are included on the Prohibited Substances List. Attempting to claim that consumption of substances included on the Prohibited Substances list as a reason for testing positive will be a violation of MHC as you have previously been instructed not to consume these items. You have also previously been instructed to get permission before purchasing and/or consuming any medications- prescribed or over the counter so that will not be accepted as a reason for a positive test result either.

7. The monitoring/observation process exists to ensure the collection of valid urine specimens. While in MHC, you will be subject to direct observation of your person during the urine specimen collection process. This process consists of washing hands, removing outer clothing like jackets and sweaters, lowering bottoms to the ankles, lifting shirts and turning in a circle for a visual inspection, squatting and coughing (females), starting and stopping the urine flow and lastly, having someone monitor the urine leaving your body to ensure the urine is actually coming from you. This process may feel awkward and invasive but is necessary. Failure or refusal to abide by this policy will result in sanctions including possible removal from MHC.
8. Do not use or possess any drugs or alcohol.
 - Sobriety is the primary focus of this program. Maintaining a drug free lifestyle is very important in the recovery process.
 - Immediately contact a team member and your treatment provider if you have relapsed.
 - Success requires you to be honest about any continued use or relapse.
 - You are prohibited from using or possessing any unapproved legal drugs, all illegal drugs, alcohol (in any form), and all synthetic/designer drugs.
 - Medications identified as habit forming, having abuse potential, harmful to your recovery, or those that conflict with testing include, include but are not limited to:
 - Central Nervous System (CNS) Stimulates (e.g. Adderall, Concerta, Ritalin, Dexedrine)
 - Barbiturates (e.g. Seconol, Butisol Sodium, Phenobarbital)
 - Benzodiazepines (e.g. Xanax, Klonopin, Valium)
 - Hallucinogens (e.g. Dextromethorphan-DXM, Cannabis, Marinol)
 - Sedative-Hypnotic (e.g. Ambien, Soma, Lunesta)
 - Opioids (e.g. OxyContin, Vicodin, Codeine, Tramadol, Fentanyl, Heroin, Dilaudid)
 - Over the Counter Medications including ingredients of pseudoephedrine, ephedrine, dextromethorphan, phenylephrine, and alcohol (e.g. Nyquil, Sudafed, Robitussin)
 - Supplements that contain Creatine.
 - See the Prohibited Substances List for more information.
 - Medication Assisted Treatment programs are permitted if deemed medically necessary and monitored pursuant to MHC policies.
 - If you are receiving mental health treatment only (no history of substance use/abuse) you may be permitted to maintain certain mental health medications that would otherwise be prohibited.
 - This issue will be considered on a case-by-case basis only.
 - Approval must be received from the MHC judge prior to continuing any medications.

9. You are prohibited from purchasing, filling a prescription for, possessing, or using any prescribed and/or over the counter drugs/medications without obtaining approval from MHC prior to purchasing or ingesting.
 - You must maintain compliance with all approved medications.
 - If you must seek medical attention, you are required to inform the physician that you are in a drug/alcohol treatment program and cannot be prescribed narcotic/addictive medications as take home medications. Medications provided by physicians in an inpatient/supervised setting (ER visit, hospital stay, office administered) are at the discretion of the physician.
 - You must submit copies of all medical documentation to the MHC case manager within twenty-four (24) hours of release.
 - If take home narcotic/addictive medications are determined to be medically necessary for your recovery, MHC will monitor your usage of such medications for the expected duration of use and will suspend all MHC participation/progress during such time.

10. You must take medication as prescribed.
 - When medication has been prescribed by the doctor, it is your responsibility to continue the medication regimen that is provided. If there are any questions or concerns regarding the medication (i.e. the dosage, the frequency, and/or any side effects), these issues need to be addressed with the MHC case manager and prescribing physician. The case manager will assist you with calling your prescribing Psychiatrist and/or Primary Care Physician to schedule an appointment to have your medication reviewed.
 - If you are not taking medication as prescribed, you will be considered non-compliant. You will receive a 30 day supply of medication unless otherwise determined appropriate by staff. All medication history should be listed on your medication log.
 - The purpose of this document is to assist you with keeping track of prescriptions and with being more educated as to your individual mental health needs. You are to take all prescription medication with you to medication management appointments. This will ensure that the psychiatrist/ARNP is aware of all current medications and can assist in the prevention of any medication interactions.

11. You are strictly prohibited from using or possessing any and all “synthetic” or “designer drugs/stimulants” that can be purchased legally or illegally. This includes but is not limited to substances like synthetic marijuana, bath salts, flakka, and kratom. Any and all “smoking mixtures” (other than products specifically designated to contain only tobacco) are also strictly prohibited. And, any and all products sold or marketed under false pretenses with the warning “not for human consumption” are also strictly prohibited.
 - Violation of this rule may result in immediate termination from MHC - regardless of other progress made. See the Prohibited Substances List for more information.

12. You must be alert to ingredients in Over-the-counter (OTC) drugs to ensure you are properly using the medication and to prevent potential relapse. The first rule is to talk to the pharmacist. A pharmacist who understands addiction can guide you to medications that are safe and effective. The second, and most important rule to talk to your case manager and get permission before you purchase or ingest anything, either prescribed or over the counter.
 - If you have to sign anything at the pharmacy counter to get a product it is something you should not be taking. You should carefully read medication labels to look for potential intoxicating ingredients.
 - Once you have determined an OTC drug that will work best for you, you will also need to get permission from MHC to take the medication. All medications that are being taken, whether OTC or prescribed, should be discussed with MHC. You are responsible for the substances you consume and how they affect a urine analysis.

- You have made a commitment to a life free of drug/alcohol addiction. It is important for you to understand the connection between OTC medications and relapse. OTC drug use can become a serious problem for people recovering from drug and/or alcohol abuse. Improper use of OTC medications can lead to relapse, health problems, and even death. A wide variety of the OTC medications can be misused- from attempts to treat real illness, to self-medicate and, of course, for recreational purposes. All OTC medications have a legitimate medical purpose; however, when used improperly (taking higher than recommended doses, or using more frequently than directed), these drugs can produce a range of potentially damaging effects, including relapse. OTC medications containing alcohol and those that can be used for mind-altering purposes are prohibited. The following are the most commonly abused OTC medications:
 - Cold and cough medicines, especially OTC cold and cough medicines that contain large amounts of alcohol or the chemical dextromethorphan (DXM).
 - Pain relievers, OTC pain relievers that contain acetaminophen and ibuprofen can be toxic when taken too frequently or in larger-than-recommended doses.
 - Diet pills and various types of OTC diet medications may be abused for their stimulating effects, as well as their ability to suppress appetite.
 - Homeopathic preparations, vitamins and other supplements may be used to alter drug testing and must be approved before use while in MHC.

13. Report to Probation Officer as directed (felony offenders only).

- You must report to a probation officer (PO) during the first week of each month (felony offenders only). You must be prepared to provide a urine sample at each visit. If you have any problem making an appointment, you are to call your probation officer at 904-548-9380. Failure to report as required to a probation officer or failing to attend a scheduled appointment/visit may result in sanctions and/or fines.
 - You must provide 24 hour notice of any cancelled probation appointment.
 - You must leave a voicemail or send an email/text message if you cannot reach your PO.
 - You must inform your PO of any change of address prior to changing locations.
 - You must inform your PO when you gain and/or change employment.
 - You must receive permission from a PO to leave Nassau County (for day travel only).
 - Overnight travel requires submission of a travel form and approval from MHC

14. You are subject to a search of your person, possessions, including cell phones and other electronic devices, residence, and vehicle as determined by the PO or any other member of the MHC team.

- MHC conducts random searches in addition to planned searches. Searches can take place at any time and any location. If you refuse to submit to such search procedures you are in violation of MHC.
- Items and/or information obtained from your property (physical items, written, or electronic records) relating to direct or possible criminal activity involvement, discussions of other MHC /PSC participants and their programmatic status, participant/courtroom/treatment session photos, or other unapproved dissemination of MHC /PSC materials shall be a violation of MHC.

15. Remain in County of residence.

- You are required to remain in the county in which you reside. You may be given permission to leave your county for day trips by a PO. Overnight travel that requires you to leave your county is not permitted unless approved by the MHC judge. MHC is a privilege, not a right, and offers you an opportunity to receive help, not plan vacations. At no time will travel outside of the continental United States be authorized.

16. Travel Requests.

- If you endeavor to travel overnight to a location outside of your county of residence, you must submit a travel request form and receive written approval.
 - Travel request forms are included in your handbook and are available at the PSC Main Office, the PSC website, or from your case manager.
 - Travel requests forms must be completed in their entirety and submitted to your Case Manager for processing.
 - Travel request forms must be submitted at least 5 days prior to your requested travel time-frame. Exceptions to this rule will be made for emergency travel requests only. All other requests not submitted as required will be denied.

17. Transportation

- If you do not own a vehicle you will be required to contact Council on Aging (COA). COA is to be utilized for transportation to court, therapy appointments, medication management appointments, and Mental Health Intervention groups (Modules). Please complete a Council on Aging Application and submit it to your case manager. Listed below are the expectations for clients regarding COA.
- You are responsible for scheduling your own transportation, unless specified otherwise by COA. All transportation must be arranged no later than three business days before scheduled appointment. (Not including day phone call was made.)
- Contact COA twenty-four hours in advance to confirm pick-up times.
- Failure to schedule transportation will require you to utilize COA's transit system to attend services.
- Cancellations are required twenty-four hours in advance. A message can be left with the answering service after hours. If you fail to cancel travel arrangements, it will be considered a "no-show."
- Sanctions for failure to adhere to COA requirements are as follows:
 - 1st infraction- You are contacted via letter from the director giving notice of suspension which lasts for two weeks.
 - 2nd infraction within thirty day period- One month suspension.
 - 3rd infraction within same thirty days- It will be at discretion of the supervisor whether you will be allowed to receive services or to be suspended permanently.

18. Avoid inappropriate places including, without limitation and by way of example only, bars or restaurants with a primary purpose of serving alcohol, adult entertainment venues, co-defendant's homes or places of work, other PSC participant's homes or places of work.

- You may not work or visit places where alcohol is the primary item being dispensed, sold or marketed.
- You may not work or visit places where illegal drugs are the primary item being dispensed, sold or marketed.

19. Attend all treatment sessions.

- This includes individual and group counseling sessions, mental health appointments, educational sessions, and sober-support meetings. If you are unable to attend a scheduled session/appointment, you must contact your treatment provider/counselor. Failure to attend treatment or missing scheduled appointments will result in sanctions, fines, or may result in termination from MHC. All of the sessions are scheduled in advance so that you will be able to make arrangements with your employer and/or arrange for childcare. It is recommended that you exchange phone numbers with other group members in case you need transportation to or from group sessions.

20. Be on time.

- If you are late for court sessions, 12-Step/sober-support meetings, mental health appointments, educational sessions, and/or group/individual treatment sessions, you may not be allowed to attend and will be considered non-compliant.
 - You should contact your case manager if there is a possibility you will be late or have an emergency that will cause you to miss your court appearance.
 - You should contact your assigned provider/counselor if there is a possibility you may be late or have an emergency that will cause you to miss your group/individual treatment session.
 - You must leave a voicemail or send an email/text message in the event you cannot reach your case manager or provider/counselor.
 - Claiming illness and/or transportation problems without substantiating such claim will not automatically permit you to miss your scheduled appointments. It is your responsibility to be present and to be on time. MHC understands that life goes on while you are participating in the program and that there may be times when you cannot appear on time for a program obligation/service. You must communicate ahead of time so that you are not considered as a “no show” or an “absconder” from the MHC program. Additionally, other participants may need the same service and could potentially be rescheduled into your appointment slot. Be courteous of the time of others.

21. Do not make threats toward other participants or staff or behave in a violent manner.

- Violent or inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated and will be reported to the Court. This will result in termination from MHC.

22. No weapons.

- You may not possess any firearms or weapons on your person or in your home or vehicle.

23. Behavior.

- While in court, you are to wait for your case to be called, sit quietly, and listen to the proceedings. Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated. Upon addressing the Drug Court Judge/Judicial Officer, you are to be respectful and use the terms “Your Honor,” “Ma’am,” “Judge,” or “Sir.” In the absence of the judge, the courtroom security officers are in charge of the courtroom. You must follow their instructions.
- For your benefit as well as the benefit of all participants, proper behavior is expected to be followed by everyone; both in court and at treatment centers. All cell phones and/or electronic devices must be turned off in the courtroom and at treatment sessions. If found in use, these devices will be removed from your possession.
- Disruptive behavior will not be tolerated in treatment sessions. You will be removed from treatment sessions if not behaving in an acceptable manner. Such behavior shall be documented and reported to the MHC team and considered as a missed treatment session.

24. Intimate relationships with any other participants are not allowed.

- This includes romantic involvement as well as living with other participants.
 - “Other participants” includes participants of all 4th Circuit PSC programs.
- Violating this section is grounds for automatic termination from MHC.

25. Dress appropriately for court and treatment sessions.

- You will be expected to wear a button down or collared shirt or blouse, pants, dress, or skirt. Shoes must be worn at all times. While you may be permitted to dress comfortably and casually for treatment sessions, you are not to wear t-shirts, shorts, tank-tops, flip-flops, and/or

hats when appearing for court. Clothing bearing drug or alcohol related themes or promoting/advertising alcohol or drug use is considered inappropriate. Sunglasses are not to be worn inside court or at treatment centers unless medically approved. You should speak with the treatment team if assistance with clothing is needed.

26. Do not engage in and/or commit any new criminal offenses.

- Warrants and/or new arrests could result in termination from MHC. This includes traffic related offenses. If you do not have a valid driver's license DO NOT DRIVE. If you would like to obtain and/or regain a driver's license you must let the treatment team know and the treatment team will see what assistance can be provided once you have demonstrated progress in MHC.

27. Associations.

- You will be subject to associational limits as determined by the MHC team. Active drug users, known felons, and individuals on probation shall be discussed with your case manager and PO, prior to associating with such individuals. This does not necessarily mean that contact will be prohibited. However, you are expected to avoid affiliation with non-law-abiding individuals, violence prone individuals, or individuals whom are actively using drugs or alcohol. Additionally, MHC may specifically prohibit associations with any individual deemed non-conducive to a life of recovery.
- Relationships with a spouse, significant other, or partner, and even friends and family are an important aspect of recovery. The important people in your life can be a source of support for a clean and sober lifestyle. However, these people may also prevent you from reaching your goals and staying drug free. If the important people in your life use/abuse mood-altering substances, you may have to avoid them for the sake of your recovery and this may have to be accomplished through a court order limiting or prohibiting contact between you and the subject.

28. Participate in services with a case manager.

- You will be assigned to a specially trained case manager. Case managers can be advocates and allies but will also be required to hold you responsible for your actions. You must maintain weekly contact with your case manager, by phone and through in-person visits. Case managers may request things from you, such as schedules and proof of services. Some participants may require a higher level of supervision than other participants. This "extra attention" is sometimes required and may be short-term or long-term, depending on individual progress. You should not measure your needs and services against others. Case managers are not "picking on you" and are not "out to get you" but are doing what is expected of them by the program. You are an individual, and individual needs will differ.

29. As a participant in MHC you are not required to pay program related fees. However, you may have court mandated fees that must be paid in full prior to completion of MHC.

- If you are under any level of probation supervision, you are required to pay the Department of Corrections a Drug Testing Fee of \$31.20.
 - Payment will be made directly to the probation office in money order form and must be paid prior to completion of MHC.
 - You may also be responsible for a monthly cost of supervision if on formal probation. Speak to your PO regarding this fee and your obligations.
- You are responsible for a \$50.00 Public Defender application fee if you are represented by or receive the services of the PD while enrolled in MHC
 - Payment of this fee is to be made to the Clerk of Court prior to completion of MHC

- You may also be responsible for victim restitution if you stole from or caused damage or injury to another person/entity. Restitution must be paid in full prior to successful completion of MHC, unless otherwise approved by the MHC judge.
30. Follow the rules/follow instructions as they are given.
- It is very important to follow all of the MHC rules. The judge will frequently remind you that “trying” is not “doing” and that just “trying” may result in termination from MHC. Examples of violations which could result in termination include multiple missed drug tests, consistently demonstrating a lack of program participation and/or continuously failing to follow instructions of the treatment provider, probation officer, case manager or the Court. Additionally, there are behaviors that you may choose to engage in that will subject you to immediate termination after only one offense.
 - Participation in MHC is a privilege. It is not a place to waste time and “fake it until you make it.” Doing so will likely result in receiving more jail time on program violation sanctions than you would have received on your underlying charge if not in MHC. If your case is returned to the criminal division for prosecution, you may not be entitled to credit for any program violation jail time served while in MHC.
 - You will undergo a review of progress after six (6) months of participation in MHC to determine if the level of participation is meeting expectations.
 - The rules in this handbook apply to all facilities, treatment providers and/or housing programs. The rules of the treatment provider/housing program apply as if they were issued directly by the MHC judge.
 - Following the rules is in your best interest. As you progress, consistently follow the rules and achieve goals, you will receive incentives from MHC. These incentives are described further in this handbook. In the same manner that poor behavior/choices are to be sanctioned, good behavior/choices are to be rewarded.

Chapter Three: Treatment Services

3.1 Treatment Procedures

Your treatment will be provided through a team approach with the combined resources of the Court, probation office, and the assigned treatment staff. You will be provided with all materials needed to participate in the MHC program including participant handbooks and treatment manuals. The treatment provider will assess what level of treatment will best meet your needs and recommend to the MHC team that you receive either outpatient or residential treatment. If you are admitted to a residential treatment program, your treatment plan will include the requirements of that program. You may be maintained in a residential treatment facility for as little as 30 days or as many as 180 days. It all depends on your individual needs. Regardless of when you complete residential treatment services (if applicable) you will enter outpatient treatment services and will remain in, at minimum, outpatient treatment services until you complete MHC. Additionally, upon release from residential treatment you will automatically be placed in phase 2 of the MHC program, regardless of prior program progress. If you are not admitted into a residential treatment program, a multi-component, outpatient program will be developed for you that includes:

3.1.1 Treatment Plans

An “initial” treatment plan will be developed by you and your treatment team following an overall assessment of your problems and needs. The plan will act as a guide for your initial treatment phase and within it, you will set goals, select methods for meeting those goals, and develop target dates for achieving those goals. The plan will be maintained by your treatment provider and will be updated as you progress through the program. You will attend and participate in monthly “treatment plan review” meetings with

your individual counselor. This is in addition to any other services your treatment provider has outlined for you in your treatment plan.

You should request and receive a copy of your treatment plan and refer to it often. If, at any time, you feel that you are not receiving the services outlined on your treatment plan or are not meeting the goals you have identified in your treatment plan, reach out to your counselor and case manager for assistance.

3.1.2 Counseling

Mental health and/or co-occurring substance abuse and mental health counseling is comprised of two separate formats: individual and group. As part of your treatment plan, you will be required to participate in both types of counseling at various times. Together they are designed to help you develop self-awareness, realize your self-worth, and develop the strength to practice self-discipline. The individual and group counseling sessions will include problem identification and alternative solutions. Your counselors may utilize multiple treatment modalities/approaches to assist you in reaching your goals. All of these approaches are evidence-based practices and are chosen specifically because of their relevance to your issues. Your attendance and participation level in counseling sessions will be reported to the team as part of your overall progress report. Your discussions in these sessions are confidential and will not be discussed with the judge or MHC team.

If medication is required to adequately treat your condition, your physician will need to consult with the MHC team so that you are provided with approved medication. If you see a physician not associated with MHC, you will need to discuss this with your physician and obtain permission to take the medication from your case manager before you fill any prescriptions.

3.2 Sober Support Meetings

Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Rational Recovery

Attending 12-Step/sober-support meetings such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Rational Recovery or other sober-support meetings is required throughout MHC (co-occurring participants only). The frequency of attendance requirement is determined by your progress in the program. The minimum attendance requirement for each phase is below:

- Phase 1: 3 sober-support meetings are required per week during this phase.
- Phase 2: 2 sober-support meetings are required per week during this phase.
- Phase 3: 2 sober-support meetings are required per week during this phase.
- Phase 4: 2 sober-support meetings are required per week during this phase.
- Phase 5: 2 sober-support meetings are required per week during this phase.

Attending these meetings is an important part of your recovery. It will help familiarize you with recovery philosophies, help you develop levels of trust, and help you create social bonds with other recovering addicts. Your treatment team will provide you with information regarding the time and location of 12-step/sober-support meetings and will also direct you to special interest and recovery events in the community. MHC will not force attendance of spiritually based support meetings. You will be provided with the option of attending secular meetings that are recognized as sober-support meetings if you request such alternative.

You must provide proof of having attended the required number of meetings at each court appearance. You will be required to submit a form containing information about all sober-support meetings attended. This form must be signed by the meeting CHAIRPERSON at each meeting you attended. DO NOT attempt to submit falsified 'fake' meeting attendance slips to the court as you will be sanctioned and may be terminated from MHC.

4.1 Program Phases

MHC is a five-phase, highly structured court-supervised treatment program lasting for a minimum of one year. Completion of all requirements is necessary before you may graduate and this may take significantly more than one year. Each phase consists of specified objectives, therapeutic and rehabilitative activities and specific requirements for advancement into the next phase. The components and requirements for advancement from each phase are described below.

You are responsible for completing ALL phase requirements before advancement can occur. You may submit a petition to move to the next phase only after you have completed each task listed on the applicable phase-up petition. It is important to remember that even if you can check off every task on the phase-up petition that you still might not be approved to phase up if you are not fully compliant with the program. Promotion or demotion between phases is subject to the order of the MHC judge. Promotion eligibility and phase advancements are not automatic, and are always based upon individual assessment. The MHC team may determine that it is not conducive to promote you even if you have met all promotion criteria. Thus, the following phase criteria are simply guidelines.

1. Phase 1: Intake, Assessment and Orientation
 Length: 2 weeks (minimum)

In Phase 1, you will be assigned to a probation officer and case manager. Your problems and needs will be assessed and a treatment plan will begin to be developed based on your self-reported needs and goals. Your complete treatment plan will be developed in phase 2 after you begin attending treatment services. You will complete an orientation/overview of the MHC program and have an opportunity to ask questions before moving forward with your treatment obligations.

- Phase 1 requirements include:
 - Sign formal agreement to enter MHC
 - Attend new participant orientation with case manager
 - Complete all new participant information forms
 - Sign a waiver of liability
 - Sign a release allowing receipt and disbursement of medical/treatment records and communication within/between the MHC team and providers
 - Sign a prohibited substances agreement
 - Sign an acknowledgement of the drug testing rules and procedures
 - Receive participant handbook/binder
 - Receive drug testing color
 - Begin calling drug testing color line daily (7 days per week)
 - Appear for drug/alcohol testing as required/requested
 - Begin attending sober-support meetings (3 per week) (as applicable)
 - Complete treatment assessment to determine appropriate level of care
 - Complete initial report to probation officer (as applicable)
 - Attend MHC court sessions every other Thursday at 2:00pm (or as instructed)
 - Review a webinar on the Use of Creatinine Measurements in Drug Testing and submit a short essay on what was learned (attach to phase-up petition)
 - Complete a four to five (4-5) page essay on “What’s My Story”
 - Achieve a minimum of five (5) consecutive days of documented abstinence from drugs/alcohol
 - This includes no missed, diluted, altered or otherwise positive tests

- Complete and submit a petition for phase advancement after all requirements are met

2. Phase 2: Treatment and Personal Goals
Length: 6 weeks (minimum)

In Phase 2, your formal treatment plan will be developed by you and your counselor after you have started attending services and as you reveal more about yourself. Group treatment sessions and individual treatment sessions will help you learn about your triggers and how to appropriately respond to them.

- Phase 2 requirements include:
 - Receive and sign your formal treatment plan
 - Attend and participate in group and individual services as outlined by your treatment provider and treatment plan
 - Attend and participate in at least one (1) individual counseling session per month
 - Complete all treatment assignments in a timely manner
 - Follow directives of the court, probation officer, treatment counselors, and case manager
 - Attend a minimum of two (2) sober-support meetings per week (as applicable)
 - Report to a probation officer monthly or as instructed (as applicable)
 - Appear for drug/alcohol testing as required/requested
 - Attend MHC court sessions every other Thursday at 2:00pm (or as instructed)
 - Achieve a minimum of fifteen (15) consecutive days of documented abstinence from drugs/alcohol
 - This includes no missed, diluted, altered or otherwise positive tests
 - Complete and submit a petition for phase advancement after all requirements are met

3. Phase 3: Ongoing Treatment and Life Skills
Length: 8 Weeks (minimum)

In Phase 3, your treatment plan will be updated by you and your counselor to identify and monitor your treatment goals and objectives. Counseling and meetings will begin to focus on relapse prevention issues and help you identify ways of coping with stressful situations.

- Phase 3 requirements include:
 - Attend and participate in group and individual services as outlined by your treatment provider and treatment plan
 - Attend and participate in at least one (1) individual counseling session per month
 - Complete all treatment assignments in a timely manner
 - Follow directives of the court, probation officer, treatment counselors, and case manager
 - Attend a minimum of two (2) sober-support meetings per week (as applicable)
 - Obtain a verifiable sponsor (as applicable)
 - Report to a probation officer monthly or as instructed (as applicable)
 - Appear for drug/alcohol testing as required/requested
 - Attend MHC court sessions every other Thursday at 2:00pm (or as instructed)
 - Work with your MHC case manager to create a list of personal goals you would like to complete during the program
 - Search for/obtain employment or engage in pursuit of vocational/educational goals
 - N/A if disabled
 - Begin working toward obtaining GED (as applicable)
 - Complete a two (2) page essay on “What I Want to Get out of MHC”

- Achieve a minimum of thirty (30) consecutive days of documented abstinence from drugs/alcohol
 - This includes no missed, diluted, altered or otherwise positive tests
- Complete and submit a petition for phase advancement after all requirements are met

4. Phase 4: Relapse Prevention/Treatment Completion
Length: 12 Weeks (minimum)

Phase 4 will continue focus on relapse prevention/identifying ways of coping with stress.

- Phase 4 requirements include:
 - Attend and participate in group and individual services as outlined by your treatment provider and treatment plan
 - Attend and participate in at least one (1) individual counseling session per month
 - Submit idea/plan for a community project to be completed by the end of phase 5
 - Complete all treatment assignments in a timely manner
 - Follow directives of the court, probation officer, treatment counselors, and case manager
 - Attend a minimum of two (2) sober-support meetings per week (as applicable)
 - Maintain relationship with and/or obtain a verifiable sponsor (as applicable)
 - Report to a probation officer monthly or as instructed (as applicable)
 - Appear for drug/alcohol testing as required/requested
 - Attend MHC court monthly on a Thursday 2:00pm (or as instructed)
 - Continue to search for/maintain employment/be engaged in vocational/educational program
 - N/A if disabled
 - Continue working toward completion of GED (as applicable)
 - Update MHC case manager on progress toward personal goals identified in phase 3
 - Achieve a minimum of forty-five (45) consecutive days of documented abstinence from drugs/alcohol
 - This includes no missed, diluted, altered or otherwise positive tests
 - Complete and submit a petition for phase advancement after all requirements are met

5. Phase 5: Aftercare and Alumni
Length: 8 weeks (minimum)
(Under 12 months in MHC, participation will be until 12 months has been reached but no less than 8 weeks. Over 12 months in MHC, 8 weeks minimum participation required.)

Phase 5 will address your ongoing recovery needs to maintain compliance with your medications and abstinence from drugs and alcohol. An increased focus will be placed on daily living skills. This phase will assist you in your adjustment of returning to the unsupervised community as a productive, successful person able to care for yourself and others.

- Phase 5 requirements include:
 - Attend and participate in group and individual services as outlined by your treatment provider and treatment plan/aftercare plan
 - Attend and participate in at least one (1) individual counseling session per month
 - Complete all treatment/aftercare assignments in a timely manner
 - Submit proof of completing the community project approved in phase 4

- Follow directives of the court, probation officer, treatment counselors, and case manager
- Attend a minimum of two (2) sober-support meetings per week (as applicable)
- Maintain relationship with and/or obtain a verifiable sponsor (as applicable)
- Report to a probation officer monthly or as instructed (as applicable)
- Appear for drug/alcohol testing as required/requested
- Attend MHC court sessions monthly on a Thursday at 2:00pm (or as instructed)
- Maintain employment or be engaged in a vocational/educational program
 - N/A if disabled
 - Complete/obtain GED prior to completion of this phase (as applicable)
- Achieve a minimum of ninety (90) consecutive days of documented abstinence from drugs/alcohol
 - This includes no missed, diluted, altered or otherwise positive tests
- Submit a two (2) page essay “How I have changed my life through MHC”
- Pay \$50.00 to the Clerk of Court for the Public Defender application fee
- Pay \$31.20 to the Department of Corrections for a drug testing fee
- Pay full probation balance and/or restitution balance and any remaining fine balance
- Complete and submit petition for graduation after all requirements are met

4.2 General Phase Requirements

In addition to all of the individual phase requirements listed in the previous section, there are overall requirements that apply to each phase of MHC. **You may submit your petition to phase-up only after you have completed each individual phase requirement and can initial each task on your phase-up petition.** It is your responsibility to track your progress and know when you should be eligible to phase up. However, do not expect to be approved to phase up if you:

- Are not compliant with your treatment provider (attendance and participation)
- Are receiving a sanction on the day you would otherwise be eligible to phase up
- Have not completed a sanction that was ordered during your current phase
- Have not been communicating or participating in services with your case manager
- Are disrespectful toward MHC and/or MHC staff
- Are requesting to phase up on a day that MHC court hearings are not being held
 - Phase-ups/Graduations will take place on the earliest available court date after eligibility has been reached

Chapter Five: Program Responses

5.1 Program Responses

An effective system of program responses promotes your ability to account for your actions. Program responses must be appropriate for your developmental level and graduated as you progress through the program. To motivate you, program responses will be applied in a way that is immediate, predictable, and consistent. Program responses will be tailored to your individual progress/needs. Program responses will also align with your specific capabilities. The MHC team will ascertain whether or not you are capable of meeting a certain goal at the current time. The MHC team will ascertain whether or not you are capable of adhering to a certain rule/policy at the current time. You will not be held liable for not meeting a goal or adhering to a rule/policy that you are deemed to not be capable of following at the current time, i.e.: abstinence, improvement in attitude, active participation in services. Your goals will be based on proximal and distal expectations: proximal for those items that can and

should be expected immediately and distal for those items that can and should be expected as you progress in services.

5.1.1 Incentives

The MHC program recognizes the effort that it takes in attempting to improve behaviors, choices, and ultimately lifestyles. Incentives compel compliance and success in case outcomes. Incentives spotlight desired compliance and help to build trust between you and the MHC team. With that in mind, the Fourth Judicial Circuit MHC program recognizes all markers of success even if in a small way. Examples of behaviors/accomplishments that lead to incentives are included below.

Behaviors/Accomplishments		Possible Incentives/Responses	
• 1 day clean/sober	• Obtaining employment	• Applause	• Gift Certificate
• Assisting others	• Obtaining GED/degree	• MHC outings (game days)	• Lunch with the MHC team
• Increased contact with child	• Outstanding accomplishment	• Books	• Praise from judge
• Infraction/Violation free for 60+ days	• Perfect attendance	• Candy	• Recognition certificate
• Maintaining employment	• Phase completion/advancement	• Coffee with the MHC team	• Recommendation letter for job
• Monthly report of being clean/sober	• Recognition of investment in program	• Curfew extension/removal	• Reduction of community service hours
• Multi-day clean/sober		• Decreased court appearances	• Reduction of supervision
• Obtaining driver's license		• Early dismissal from court	• Sobriety tokens
		• Early phase advancement	• Standing Ovation
		• Fishbowl drawings	• Travel privileges

5.1.2 Sanctions

If you fail to comply with the MHC program, the judge may order one or more of the following sanctions. Sanctions are graduated and individualized. Sanctions are not negotiable and are imposed in an effort to modify your behavior. Sanctions are not intended to be fun and will, most times, consist of hard work such as manual labor.

Punitive sanctions and treatment responses are very different. "Sanctions" that increase the level of treatment are considered treatment responses and are imposed to help and not punish you. Other sanctions are imposed in an effort to modify behavior so that you learn to make better choices. While sanctions may be viewed as punishment, the intention is to teach or inspire changes in your behavior. Sanctions are not imposed arbitrarily and are imposed after detailed discussion among the team and between you and the judge occurs.

Sanctions are imposed on an individual basis. Other participants in similar circumstances may receive different sanctions to what appear to you to be the same infraction. This is not unusual nor is it inappropriate. You are viewed as an individual and thus, your individual progress, attendance, and history is taken into account at each occurrence.

Examples of infractions that lead to sanctions are listed below. This is not a complete list and only represents possible sanctions that may be imposed. As needs arise and different situations occur, new sanctions may be developed and added to this list.

Examples of Typical Infractions/Violations

- Behavioral issues (poor attitude and/or being disruptive)
- Providing a dilute/alterd drug test
- Failing to abide by curfew
- Failing to attend scheduled events
- Failing to complete community service hours
- Failing to engage in services
- Failing to follow counselor/case manager instruction
- Failing to follow court instructions and/or orders
- Failing to submit community service hours
- Failing to submit AA/NA meeting slips
- Filling prescribed medication without authorization
- Lying or deliberately omitting information to/from the court
- Missing drug test
- Missing treatment appointments
- Missing mental health appointments
- Missing probation check-in
- Missing treatment group sessions
- Non-compliance with approved medications
- Positive drug test
- Tardiness to and/or absence from court
- Tardiness to and/or absence from treatment group sessions
- Use of drugs and/or alcohol
- Use and/or Possession of synthetic and/or designer drugs

Examples of Serious Infractions/Violations (may result in immediate removal from MHC)

- Engaging in romantic/sexual relationship with any PSC participant
- New criminal arrest/offense
- Possession and/or Use of synthetic and/or replacement drugs
- Tampering/Falsifying drug test
- Threats of violence or violent behavior
- Submitting falsified documents

Examples of Possible Sanctions/Responses

1st Occurrence:

- 4-24 hours of community service
- Admonishment from judge
- Curfew
- Essay on topic related to infraction
- Fines
- Increased AA/NA meetings
- Increased drug testing
- Keeping a calendar
- Phase extension
- Sit in jury box
- Stay to the end of court
- Verbal and/or written apology

2nd Occurrence:

- 10-40 hours of community service
- Admonishment from judge
- Court observation days
- Curfew
- Educational workbooks
- Essay on topic related to infraction
- Fines
- Incarceration
- Increased court appearances
- Increased drug testing
- Increased supervision
- Phase extension
- Removal of privileges
- Return to lower phase
- Round table with MHC team

3rd and/or Multiple Occurrences:

- 50-100 hours of community service
- Admonishment from judge
- Fines
- Incarceration
- Increased court appearances
- Increased drug testing
- Increased supervision
- Peer review
- Phase extension
- Program removal
- Re-start of the MHC program
- Return to lower phase

Automatic Sanctions/Responses to Certain Behaviors

Missed/Positive drug test

- Automatic extension in phase regardless of progress (# of days is based on phase)

Missed court hearing

- Capias “warrant” issued for arrest

This page provides a list as an example only. The judge has final determination of all sanctions based on individual history/previous progress.

5.1.3 Therapeutic Adjustments

If you are honest about any use or fail to follow rules and/or expectations which you may not be fully capable of following you will be responded to with therapeutic adjustments referred to as “treatment responses”. If you are not responding to treatment interventions, but are otherwise compliant with treatment and supervision requirements, punitive sanctions will not be imposed. Treatment responses that increase your level of treatment are not sanctions. They are imposed to help you learn from your choices and to not repeat them and are designed to improve the overall effectiveness and response to the treatment episode.

Treatment-oriented responses for substance use while in MHC are based on the recommendation of treatment providers. Input from other team members will be permitted for thorough discussion with the ultimate recommendation being made by the treating providers. Examples of behaviors that lead to treatment responses are listed below. This is not a complete list and only represents possible treatment responses that may be recommended.

Examples of Typical Behaviors That Lead to Treatment Responses

Examples of Behaviors

- Admitted use of drugs and/or alcohol
- Admitted struggling/dealing with issues
- Failing to meeting treatment plan goals
- Known use of drugs and/or alcohol
- Positive drug test

Examples of Treatment Responses

- Educational workbooks
- Essay on topic related to infraction
- Increased sober-support meetings
- Increased contact with treatment
- Increased level of treatment
- Increased drug testing
- Phase extension
- Residential treatment
- Return to lower phase in MHC

5.1.4 Monitoring Devices

As a result of MHC non-compliance or as a method of additional monitoring for specific circumstances, you may be required by court order to wear a monitoring device. Such device may be a GPS ankle monitor, a SCRAM alcohol monitoring device, or a drug testing patch. MHC has established policies and procedures pertaining to the application and removal of such devices as indicted below.

If you are required to wear a monitoring device you may be required to do so at your own expense or at the expense of MHC. At times, the expense of the device may be split between you and MHC. This process depends on the reason for the application of the device. If you are otherwise compliant but struggling and may benefit from a form of additional monitoring, you will not be required to absorb the cost of the device. If you are not in compliance with the MHC program or have had a recent incident you will be required to absorb the cost of any such device or may have the cost of such device split with the program. This decision shall be at the discretion of the MHC judge.

If you are required to absorb the cost of such devices you will be required to maintain current payments with any providers or be subject to additional sanctions by MHC. If, at any point you are unable to pay balances on the monitoring device and this inability to pay is due to a legitimate, verified difficulty, MHC may elect to assume the cost of such device by leveraging community service hours against you in lieu of such fees.

5.1.5 Violation of Probation

If you are enrolled into MHC as a condition of probation you are subject to Violation of Probation procedures/proceedings as a result of certain infractions and/or non-compliance. Given the formal nature of violations of probation and the required actions that must be taken to file and dispose of such violations, this handbook outlines the procedure that MHC will follow with regard to violations of probation.

Florida law requires that if you are in MHC and are subject to the filing of a violation of probation that you have such violation of probation heard and disposed of within the MHC division. This rule applies unless the violation of the program rules results in rejection from MHC prior to the filing of the violation of probation. In this instance, the violation of probation would then be filed in the original criminal division. If you are not immediately rejected from MHC as a result of the program violation, the probation officer shall file the violation of probation in the MHC division, shall serve you with a copy of the violation of probation and shall have a hearing pertaining to the violation of probation set and heard by the MHC judge.

Chapter Six: Conclusion & Contacts

6.1 Conclusion

The MHC Program has been developed to help you achieve total abstinence from illicit and illegal drugs and all criminal activity. The program is designed to promote self-sufficiency and to return you to the community as a productive and responsible member. The judge, court staff, and the treatment team are present to guide and assist you, but the final responsibility is yours. You must be motivated to make this change and be committed to a stable life. If you are unable or unwilling to complete the program you will not remain in the program very long. However, it is not your choice to simply withdraw from the program. Only the MHC judge can determine if you are to be terminated from the program and if terminated as a result of your noncompliance, you will likely be taken into custody upon termination from the program.

Honesty is always the best policy, especially when it comes to how the MHC program will respond to your actions/behavior. When you are honest with MHC, you are rewarded with credibility and trust. When you are dishonest with MHC, you lose that credibility and trust which will have a direct impact in how the MHC program responds to you. MHC is a tough, strict program and is not for those that do not want to change/improve their lives. If you want the help and are willing to let us help, we are here for you and will walk with you on your path to recovery. If, after learning about this program and completing an orientation meeting with your case manager, you decide that you do not want help, please speak with your attorney about your options before you complete phase 1.

Remember, the rules outlined in this handbook apply to all facilities, treatment providers and/or housing programs. These rules apply in the courtroom as issued by the MHC judge but also apply as though they were issued directly by the MHC judge at each facility, treatment provider, and/or housing program.

Upon completion of the MHC program, someone from the MHC team will contact you after you leave the program. The purpose of this follow-up is to get an idea of how people in MHC do after they leave and to measure how well the MHC program is doing. For this to occur, we ask that you provide your contact information upon program completion and that you update the MHC program if that information changes. You will not be identified individually or sanctioned in any way for your answers.

We hope this Handbook has been helpful to you and answered most of your questions. Important MHC telephone numbers are listed on the next page. **Good luck to you!**

6.2 Contacts

MENTAL HEALTH COURT CONTACT INFORMATION

DRUG SCREEN COLOR LINE (7 days a week): 255-2455

Phone line opens at 6:00 am. Testing Hours are 8am-5pm, unless otherwise noted

Problem-Solving Court Office

501 W. Adams St., # 2321
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 255-1040
Fax: (904) 255-1051

Teri Hamlyn, Director
Phone: (904) 255-1046
Cell: (904) 412-5808
thamlyn@coj.net

Chantal Prescott, Case Manager
Phone: (904) 255- 1040
Cell: (904) 885-2361
cprescott@coj.net

Florida Department of Corrections

Scott Bleicken
Correctional Probation Senior Officer
86058 Pages Dairy Rd
Yulee, FL 32097
904-548-9380
richard.bleicken@fdc.myflorida.com

Starting Point HealthCare Center

463142 SR 200
Yulee, FL 32097
Phone: (904).225-8280
www.spbh.org

Raven Williams, Case Manager
Phone: (904) 225-8280 x.
rwilliams@spbh.org

Alicia Hopson, Court Liaison
Phone: (904) 255-8280 x. 441
ahopson@spbh.org

CareerSource Northeast Florida

96042 Lofton Square Ct.
Yulee, FL 32097
Phone: (904) 432-0009

State Attorney's Office

Ann Marie Johnson, Assistant State Attorney
311 W. Monroe Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 255-2667
amjohnson@coj.net

Public Defender's Office

407 N. Laura St.
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Melina Buncome, Assistant Public Defender
Director of Problem-Solving Courts,
Public Defender's Office
Phone: (904)255-4614
mbw@pd4.coj.net

Jeanine Sasser
jsasser@pd4.coj.net

Florida Counseling & Evaluation

6251 Philips Highway
Jacksonville, FL 32216
Phone: (904) 239-3677

ANCILLARY SERVICES/COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Barnabus Medical Clinic

1303 Jasmine St., #101
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
Phone: (904) 261-7887
(904) 261-7000

Sulzbacher Center

611 E. Adams St.
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 359-0457
www.sulzbachercenter.org

Fernandina Beach Group Halfway House (NA Open meeting)

1014 South 10th Street,
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Nassau County Council on Aging

1901 Island Walk Way
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034
Phone: (904) 261-0701
or
37002 Ingham Road
Hilliard, FL 32046
Phone: (904) 845-3331

Alcoholic Service Center

20 West 4th St.
Jacksonville, FL 32206
Phone: (904) 355-6947

Alco House, Halfway House

1120 Hubbard St.
Jacksonville, FL 32206
Phone: (904) 355-1334

Operation New Hope/Ready4work

1830 N. Main St.
Jacksonville, FL 32206
www.operationnewhope.com

Old YMCA Enter Thru Chain Link Fence (AA Open meeting)

6 Koen Lane
Yulee, FL 32097

Keep It Simple Group (AA Open meeting)

2600 Atlantic Ave.
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Volunteers In Medicine

41 E. Nassau St.
Jacksonville, FL 32202
Phone: (904) 399-2766
www.wim-jax.org

N.E. Florida Intergroup (AA Lists)

3128 Beach Blvd.
Jacksonville, FL 32207
Phone: (904) 399-8535
www.neflaa.org

City House

1704 N. Pearl Street
Jacksonville, FL 32206
Phone: (904) 359-9375
www.cityhouses.org

Amelia Room (AA Open meeting)

906 S 7th St.
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

Alachua Club (AA Closed meeting)

32 N 3rd St
Fernandina Beach, FL 32034

