

Douglas County DUI/Drug Court Treatment Program

State Court of Douglas County

Chief Judge Eddie Barker
Judge Brian K. Fortner
DUI/Drug Court Judges
8700 Hospital Drive
Douglasville, GA. 30134

LOCATED IN THE:
Old Douglas County Courthouse
Lower Level
12431 Veteran's Memorial Hwy.
Douglasville, GA 30134

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Frequently Asked Questions

What is DUI/Drug Court? What kind of time commitment should I expect?

DUI/Drug Court is a voluntary, pre/post-conviction, treatment-based program for those who have either been convicted multiple times for driving while under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs or have a substance abuse problem and meet one of the below criteria. The DUI/Drug Court program offers enhanced supervision, counseling, and treatment to help participants function in the community with continuing support. The program has two tracks, each one lasting a minimum of 18 months.

- I work during the day. Will I be able to keep my job? **Classes are in the evenings beginning not earlier than 5PM and Judicial Status hearings are conducted twice per month not earlier than 3:30PM. If your employer will allow you to be out of work to attend these sessions, you can keep your job. Speak with staff regarding other shifts.**
- I lost my license. How can I get to the program if I don't have any transportation? **UBER and LYFT are possible alternatives. Family support and the Connect Douglas fixed route bus system are other options.**
- I don't have a place to live / live out of county. Can I still participate? **If you live in a county that has a DUI Court we can get you that application and have you assessed for that program. Once you enter your plea in your case, we would transfer your supervision to your local DUI Court program.**
- How does DUI/Drug Court compare to other inpatient / outpatient treatment options? **The Douglas County DUI/Drug Court is an 18 month intensive outpatient treatment program that uses evidence based treatment curriculum with a proven track record of helping people to get into and stay in recovery long term and reduce recidivism.**
- This is my first DUI. Can I still participate? **If you have a substance use issue that you would like to address or your BrAC or BAC was above a .15 you can still be considered for the program. The clinical evaluation will determine if your needs and risk level are high enough to be a participant.**
- Will this charge be restricted / sealed from my record if I participate? **By law, DUI charges cannot be restricted and will remain on your record. Non DUI charges are eligible for dismissal/restriction on a case by case basis. You should discuss this with your attorney.**
- I don't have a DUI charge, but I am interested in drug court. Can I participate in DUI/Drug Court? **Our court is a DUI/Drug Court and non DUI charges are eligible for consideration.**
- I have a mental health diagnosis. Is this court the right fit for me? **Your clinical evaluation will determine the court that best suits your needs. Douglas county has several accountability courts including HOPE court which is our Mental Health accountability court.**

What are the benefits of participating in the program (reductions in jail time, fines, community service, etc.)?

- less jail time;
- in DUI cases: a reduction of fine(s), conditioned upon successful completion the first 3 phases.
- community service credit of up to 200 sentenced hours
- affordable treatment and alcohol/drug testing;
- supervision in meeting license reinstatement requirements
- Ability to get Limited Permit sooner based on successful completion of Risk Reduction Class and ability to remain alcohol and drug free
- possible license saving on those with multiple drug convictions; and
- support in achieving sobriety.

How much does the program cost? I don't think I can afford it.

For Track 1 and 2 - the cost of the program is \$260 per month for the first 12 months for treatment, Court fees, drug and alcohol screening and \$105 per month for the next 6 months. Anyone remaining in the program for more than 18 months will continue to pay a \$75.00 fee to include supervision, screening and treatments costs, until participant graduates from the program. *There is a sliding scale application process for lower income participants that can cover up to 1/2 of the program fees. If you are eligible for this, you will be required to do community service hours at a county facility.* Track 3 participants will pay a \$100 per month fee that will include supervision and drug screening costs. Treatment costs will be paid to the provider they choose for ASAM level I treatment.

Phases

DUI/Drug Court is divided into phases that each has a minimum duration; how long a participant is in a particular phase depends on the participant's level of compliance and readiness to progress in the program. In the higher phases, the program requirements lessen.

Court Status Hearings

In Phases I through III or IV, participants are required to attend court two times per month depending on the Track they are placed in. In the last phase of the program participants will attend once per month. Track 3 will attend court as directed but usually once every other month.

Treatment

Each participant accepted into the Douglas County DUI/Drug Court Program Track 1 or 2 will be required to attend treatment sessions at the DUI Court treatment facility, which is located at 12431 Veteran's Memorial Highway LOWER LEVEL, Douglasville, GA 30134. **Group treatment** sessions figure prominently into all phases of the program. When you inquire about the program you will be informed of the treatment days and times. You will also be required to attend individual sessions as deemed appropriate by your treatment provider but at a minimum of 1 time per month until the final phase. Track 3 will attend as required by their provider for ASAM Level I classes.

Alcohol/Drug Testing

Drug testing is performed on a random basis; however, a breath or urine specimen may be required at any time. All Drug testing will be conducted at the DUI/Drug Court Office, Douglas County courthouse on DUI/Drug court days, or at your residence during home visits by the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

Support Group Meetings

Participants are not required to attend formal support group meetings, such as those offered by Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, SMART Recovery, and/or other organizations; however, you will be encouraged to reach out to community support groups as you progress through the program. You may be required to attend such meetings should the team deem it to be appropriate for your treatment.