

SNOHOMISH COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH THERAPEUTIC COURT

Dear Candidate:

The District Court has a program called Mental Health Therapeutic Court (“MHC”). This program is designed to assist a person in leading a mentally stable and healthy drug and alcohol free life. The MHC team will help and support its participants in reaching this goal. Eligible participants are 18 years or older and residents of Snohomish County.

Your attorney and the Prosecutor have determined that you may be eligible for MHC. This is a voluntary program. There are a number of steps that must be completed before the MHC team can review your application and make a decision about your acceptance.

1. Your first step is to obtain an updated mental health assessment. A previous mental health assessment is acceptable if it is no older than six (6) months prior to your date of application to MHC. A list of assessment locations is attached, and the agencies have been grouped by insurance type.
2. You will also need to complete a substance use disorder assessment. A list of locations and assessment times is provided at the end of the application.
3. Once your mental health assessment has been provided to the MHC team, you will need to schedule an intake screening with the Mental Health Specialty Court Officer. Please contact the officer at (425) 262-2439 to schedule this appointment after your mental health assessment has been filed.
4. You will be invited to observe the weekly Mental Health Court hearings by your defense attorney. These hearings are held at 10:30 AM on Tuesdays. During each observation hearing, you will get to meet all team members, including the MHC Judge. You will have the opportunity to meet with the MHC Program Coordinator to discuss the program expectations and to ask any questions you may have about Mental Health Court. The observation period may last up to four weeks depending on how long it takes you to complete the screening appointment and obtain your assessments. You will be expected to observe every MHC hearing until you are accepted into the program.

These four tasks must be completed within **60** days of submitting your application, so you need to make sure you stay on top of your appointments. Once you complete these four tasks, your completed application will be reviewed by the MHC team (consisting of the Judge, Specialty Court Officer, Public Defender, Prosecutor, Court Coordinator and Clerk). If you are accepted to MHC, it is possible for the charges against you to be dismissed or for the sentence entered to be suspended upon successful graduation from the program. Our main goal as a team is to see you healthy and to help make the Snohomish County community a safe environment for future generations.

Sincerely,

The Mental Health Therapeutic Court Team