

MONTGOMERY COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH COURT SERVICES



MENTAL HEALTH COURT SERVICES

Our office receives a report of defendants who are currently in jail or on bond supervision, and have been diagnosed with a mental health issue.

Theresa Flenna will email the assigned attorney a letter that offers our services to that attorney and his client.

The attorney will send back on letterhead the required verbiage to give us permission to work with their client.

Once permission is provided, we can keep it on file for future clients, if needed.

Once permission from the attorney is granted, Theresa will assign your client to a case manager (Emily Daniel or Andra Symmonds).

The Case Manager will meet with the client in the jail or ask them to come into the office. An intake will be completed with the client, to include signing of a Release of Information.

The Case Manager will request all records for your use during the case.

The Case Manager will be available attend court hearings with your clients.

The Director, Court Clinician and Case Managers will be available to answer any questions related to mental health issues that may help you while working with your clients.

Once the client is released, a Case Manager can further assist by providing resources to your clients such as mental health support, vocational support, disability applications, education resources, counseling resources and possible housing options.

The case will be closed in our office once the case is disposed in court, unless further services are needed.

Please note.... if you are retained, you will need to request our services via phone or email.

The following services are provided by Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC) at the Jail (for defendants, by referral in the jail):

* Anger Mgmt, Life Skills Training, Parenting classes and Substance Abuse Education at the MC Jail. Certificates can be obtained after completing the required number of classes. If defendants are released, they can choose to complete their classes at the Mental Health Court Services office.

MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT COURT

Completing a referral packet is the first step to having your client's case considered for the Mental Health Treatment Court. The following is the step-by-step process for consideration into the Mental Health Treatment Court:

1. Referral packets can be requested from the Mental Health Court Services Department in person, via email or phone call. The referral is also available at www.mctx.org, then click on Mental Health Court Services from the directory menu and print out referral packet.
2. Please complete the 4 page referral packet with your client, as they will need to indicate why they want to enter the Mental Health Treatment Court.
3. The referral packet will then be sent back to Mental Health Court Services (through email, fax or in person), along with mental health records (if available). Once reviewed for clinical appropriateness, the packet will then to be forwarded to the District Attorney for review. **Please do not send to the District Attorney directly.**
4. The legal case and the mental health records will be reviewed for case appropriateness. If the case meets the inclusion criteria, the client will be seen by the Mental Health Treatment Court Clinician (Gloria Kessler or Ellen Dement) for a clinical evaluation. If the case does not meet the inclusion criteria, the referring party will be notified.
5. Once your client is accepted or denied, you will be notified by our office via email, letter or phone call.
6. Upon acceptance, a Transfer Order needs to be signed by both the Home Court and the Mental Health Treatment Court Judges. The Participant will be scheduled to attend orientation for the Mental Health Treatment Court. The referring attorney must attend orientation with their client to explain court orders to the participant. The client will not be placed on the docket until the court orders are signed.
7. Accepted cases will then be placed on the next Mental Health Treatment Court docket.

****Please note...**if your client is denied into the Mental Health Treatment Court, our department will still be available through Mental Health Court Services to assist you with your client in requesting mental health records, explaining your client's illness, answering questions, attending court and providing links to community resources.