

Participating Agencies

Seventh Judicial District
State Public Defenders Office

Stearns County
Attorney's Office

Stearns County
Community Corrections

Stearns County
Community Services

MN Gang Strike Task Force
St. Cloud Police Department

Stearns County
Sheriff's Department

Major Crimes Investigation Unit
Central MN Drug Task Force

Stearns County Substance Abuse Court
Brigid Murphy, Coordinator
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St. Cloud, MN 56303
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STEARNS COUNTY DISTRICT COURT



SUBSTANCE

ABUSE

COURT

Seventh Judicial District
of Minnesota

MISSION STATEMENT

To bring together the criminal justice and the public health systems to meaningfully treat chemically dependant offenders, thereby reducing drug use, increasing public safety, and improving the quality of life for the community.



QUALIFYING FACTORS

- ❖ The defendant's criminal record is the first factor considered.
- ❖ Anything OVER THREE prior felony convictions DISQUALIFIES the defendant.
- ❖ ANY conviction for a crime of violence DISQUALIFIES the defendant.
- ❖ Defendants charged with a presumptive prison commitment (including some non-drug offenses) will be considered, except First and Second Degree Controlled Substance crimes and felony DUI offenses.
- ❖ Once a defendant has been identified as appropriate based on his/her other charges, he/she is immediately scheduled for an assessment. The screening relies on an assessment administered by a trained clinician.
- ❖ THE DEFENDANT MUST BE FOUND IN NEED OF DRUG TREATMENT.
- ❖ The defendant must agree to participate at the level of treatment deemed to be necessary at the assessment (outpatient, intensive outpatient or residential). We are sensitive to family, social situations, culturally specific needs and geographical locations when placing defendants.

LEGAL ASPECTS

- ❖ To enter the program a defendant must ADMIT his/her guilt (guilty plea), or be found guilty at a trial. Eligible persons are allowed to contest evidence presented against them in Substance Abuse Court (SAC).
- ❖ Performance, compliance and sobriety determine how long a defendant remains in the program. All defendants spend at least one year under the supervision of the SAC to achieve the goal of abstinence for one year.
- ❖ Although relapse may prolong a participant's stay, only chronic use or a combination of infractions will result in termination from the program. The SAC program employs escalating sanctions, which range from writing an essay to "the penalty box" (jury box) to incarceration.
- ❖ Termination from SAC results in the defendant's case being referred to the traditional court system.

Throughout the program, the other treatment needs of the defendant are addressed. Coordinators who work with the SAC help to find participants educational programs, family counseling, housing, job training, life/social skills and employment.

For additional information contact:
Brigid Murphy
SAC Coordinator
320-656-6364

THE PROGRAM

Phase I: (3 months)

- Call-in *every day* (5:30-6:30 a.m.)
- **Testing 8-12 times per month (U.A.s and/or P.B.T.)**
- 3 Formal probation appointments per month
- **Court once per week**
- Complete primary treatment
- Petition for advancement to next phase
- Imposed curfew

Phase II: (3 months)

- Call-in *every day* (5:30-6:30 a.m.)
- **Testing 5-7 times per month**
- 2 Formal probation appointments per month
- **Court twice per month**
- In aftercare and/or half-way house
- Attend AA/NA , provide documentation
- Other counseling/classes underway
 - Anger, grief, parenting, employment, job search, volunteering, social/life skills, cognitive/behavioral therapy, education (GED), S.C.I.P., etc.
- Medications administered, stabilized and documented
- Petition for advancement to next phase

Phase III: (6 months)

- Call-in *every day* (5:30-6:30 a.m.)
- **Testing 3-5 times per month**
- 1 Formal probation appointment per month
- **Court once per month**
- AA/NA and documentation
- Other conditions set by court's sentence
- Complete a Community Service project
- Employed at level of ability

Testing:

SAC court staff administer both standard and random drug tests for at least eight different controlled substances.