




Recovery Court

Court Changing Lives



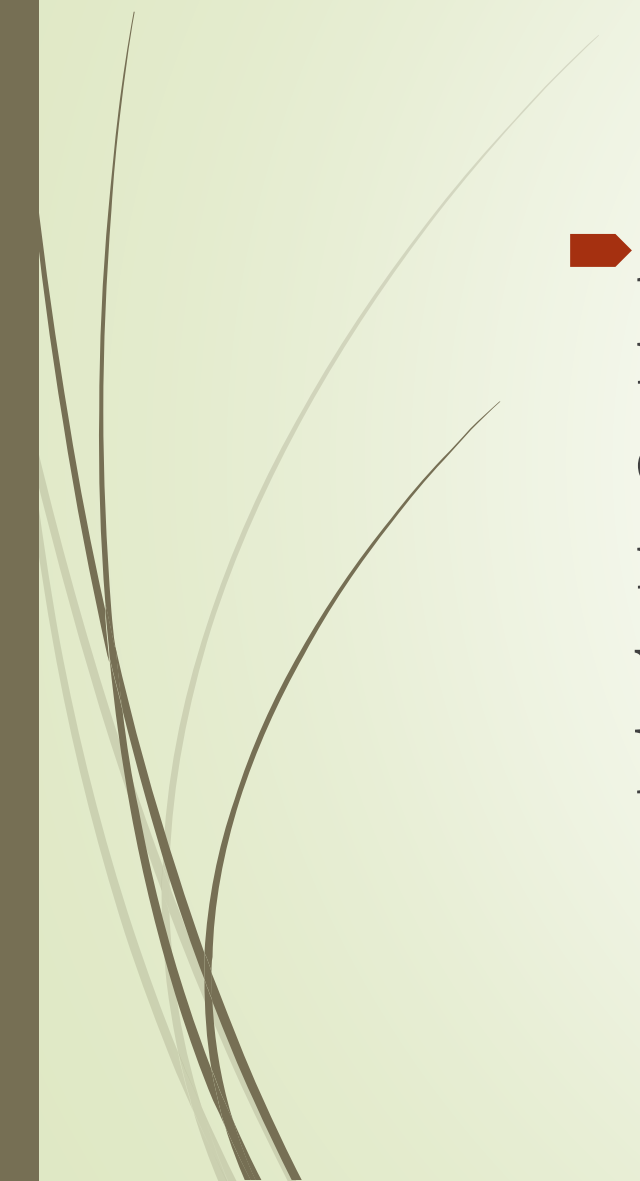
Types of Treatment Courts.

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- ▶ Recovery Courts
 - ▶ DWI Courts
 - ▶ Safe Baby Courts
 - ▶ Veterans Courts



Recovery (Drug) Court

What is it?

- A problem solving court using a specialized model in which the judiciary, prosecution, defense bar, probation, law enforcement, mental health and treatment communities work together to help addicted offenders into long-term recovery.
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We have to fix the problem.

- ▶ We can't just send them all to jail or prison.
- ▶ They will re-offend soon after release.
- ▶ We need to address the underlying problem – ADDICTION.
- ▶ Addiction is a disease – Substance Use Disorder.

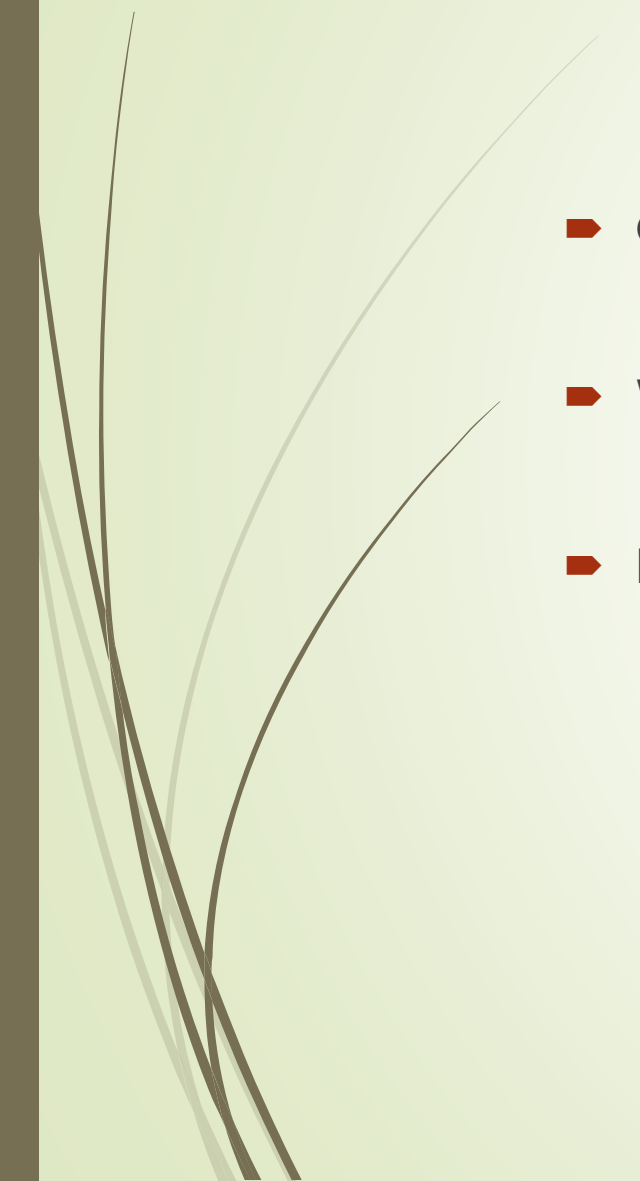


How powerful is the addiction.

- ▶ For someone suffering from addiction, the need to use is **TEN TIMES** stronger than the need to eat when you are starving.
 - ▶ That is why young women use while pregnant.
 - ▶ That is why it is almost impossible to stop the addiction cycle without professional help, including Recovery Courts.
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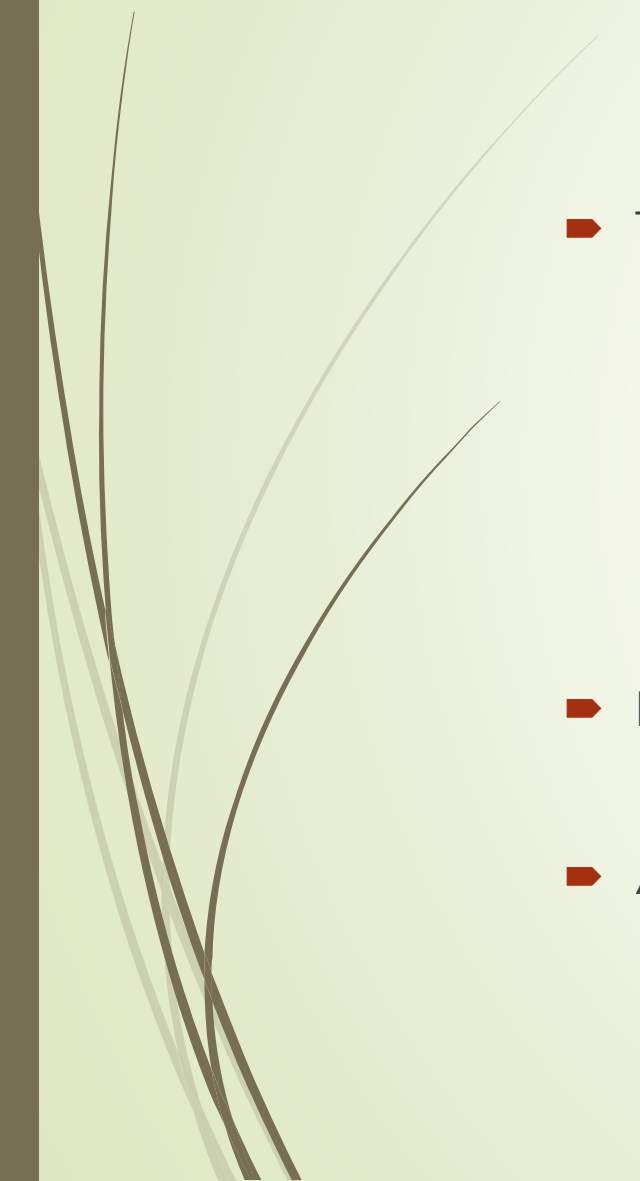


How long is our Recovery Court program?

- ▶ Our Recovery Court typically takes 18 – 24 months to reach graduation.
 - ▶ We are a felony, post plea Recovery Court.
 - ▶ Recovery Court is difficult.
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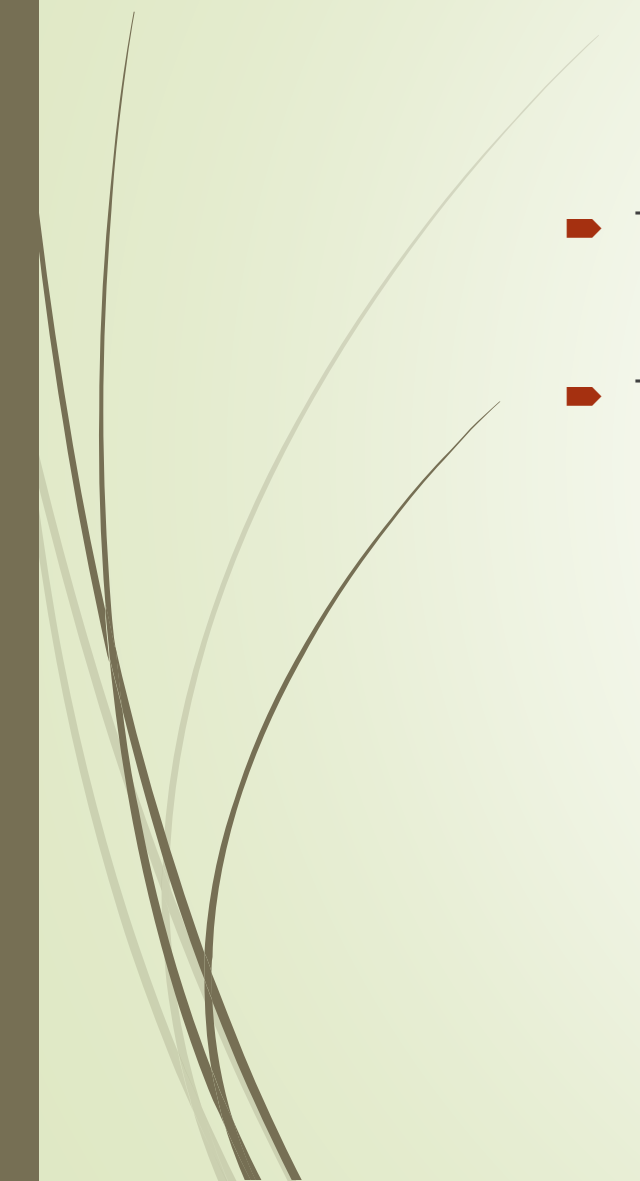


Initial Participant Interview

- ▶ The typical Participant initial interview:
 - ▶ Tired of the drug lifestyle.
 - ▶ Want to get control of their life.
 - ▶ Want their family back.
 - ▶ They are ready for a change.
 - ▶ Really, they just want out of jail.
 - ▶ And that's ok with us.
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Where the Participant begins.

- ▶ The Participants are generally detoxed by the time they get to us.
 - ▶ Their brains are damaged as a result of their drug use.
 - ▶ The brain's reward system is hijacked by the drugs.
 - ▶ Their decision making is short-sighted and generally bad.
 - ▶ It takes over a year for the brain to heal.
- 



Phase One Six Weeks

- ▶ Random drug screens 2-3 times per week.
- ▶ Individual weekly meetings with Coordinator.
- ▶ Appear in Recovery Court twice monthly.
- ▶ Attend at least four self-help meetings per week.
- ▶ Complete assessments for Intensive Out Patient Program.
- ▶ Remain compliant with Recovery Court Requirements.
- ▶ Meet with treatment team.
- ▶ **Fourteen consecutive days** of sobriety to move to Phase Two.



Phase Two Twelve Weeks

- ▶ Random drug screens 2-3 times per week.
- ▶ Attend at least four self-help meetings per week.
- ▶ Individual weekly meetings with Coordinator.
- ▶ Appear in Recovery Court twice monthly.
- ▶ Must get a job.
- ▶ Must provide proof of high school diploma or sign up for High School Equivalency classes.
- ▶ Complete Intensive Outpatient Program.
- ▶ **Thirty consecutive days** of sobriety to move to Phase Three.



Phase Three Eighteen Weeks

- ▶ Random drug screens 2-3 times per week.
- ▶ Attend at least four self-help meetings per week.
- ▶ Attend Aftercare for a minimum of six weeks.
- ▶ Attend Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT).
- ▶ Begin developing Community Project.
- ▶ Appear in Recovery Court twice monthly.
- ▶ Maintain employment.
- ▶ **Forty-five consecutive days** of sobriety to move to Phase Four.



Phase Four Eighteen Weeks

- ▶ Random drug screens 2-3 times per week.
- ▶ Attend at least four self-help meetings per week.
- ▶ Complete Relapse Prevention Therapy Group.
- ▶ Complete Moral Reconciliation Therapy.
- ▶ Appear at Recovery Court monthly.
- ▶ Maintain employment.
- ▶ **Sixty days of sobriety** to move to Phase Five.



Phase Five Eight Weeks

- ▶ Random drug screens 2-3 times per week.
- ▶ Attend at least three self-help meetings per week.
- ▶ Appear at Recovery Court monthly.
- ▶ Complete and present Community Project.
- ▶ Maintain employment.
- ▶ **Ninety days of sobriety** to complete Phase Five.
- ▶ Graduation.

The Best Ever!!!!!!!!!!

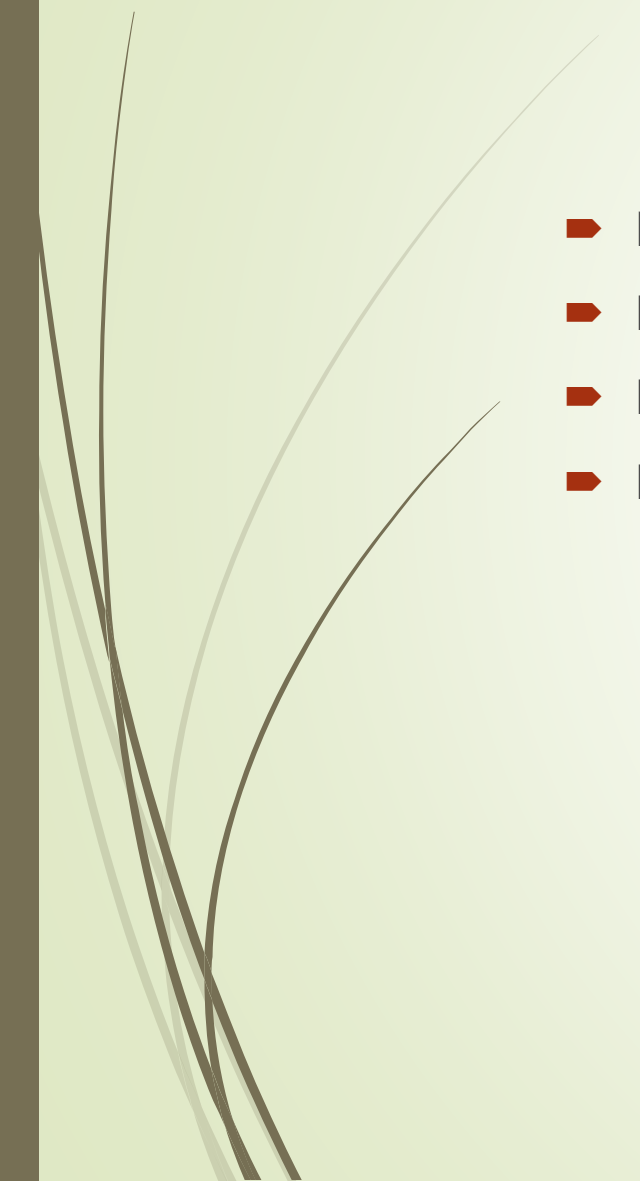


22nd Judicial District Recovery Court Graduation – 2021





Who qualifies for Recovery Court?

- ▶ Non-violent offender who has a substance abuse addiction.
 - ▶ Participants are post plea felony offenders.
 - ▶ Participants are high need and high risk – per admission assessment.
 - ▶ District Attorney's Office must approve their admission.
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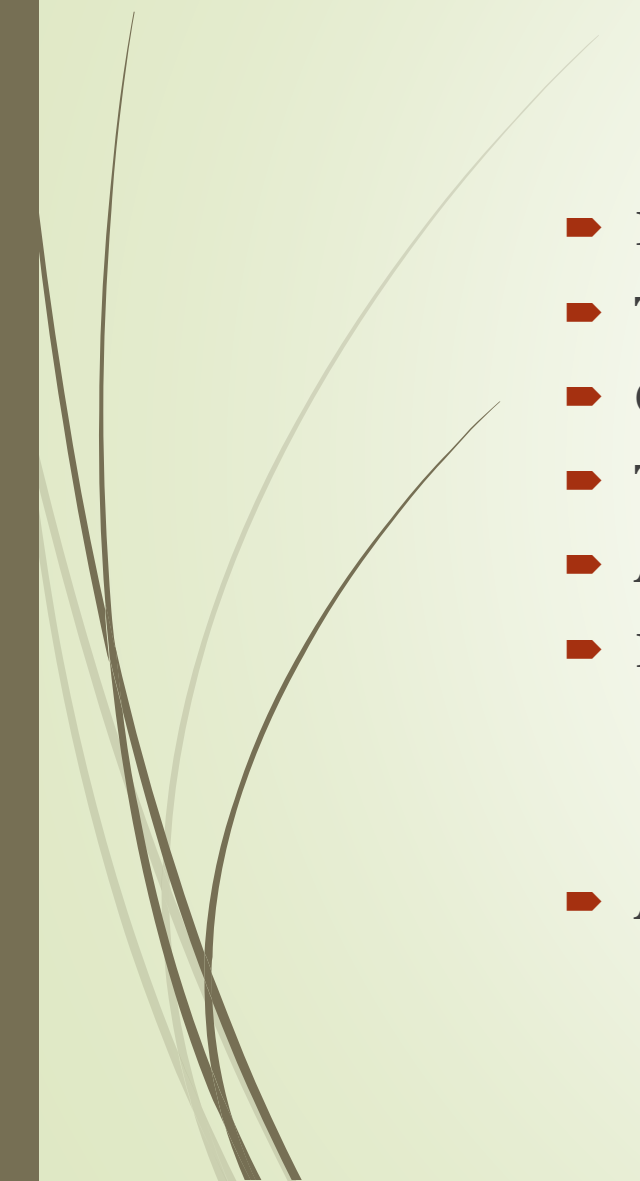
Participant Requirements.

- ▶ Cannot reside or associate with a drug user or seller.
- ▶ Must maintain total sobriety – including from use of alcohol.
- ▶ Agree to be drug tested at any time without any notice.
- ▶ Failure to report to drug screening is a positive screen.
- ▶ A “dilute” urine specimen is a positive drug screen.
- ▶ Poppy seeds may not be consumed.
- ▶ Must be respectful to team members and staff.
- ▶ May not go out of town without permission.
- ▶ Must be honest at all times.



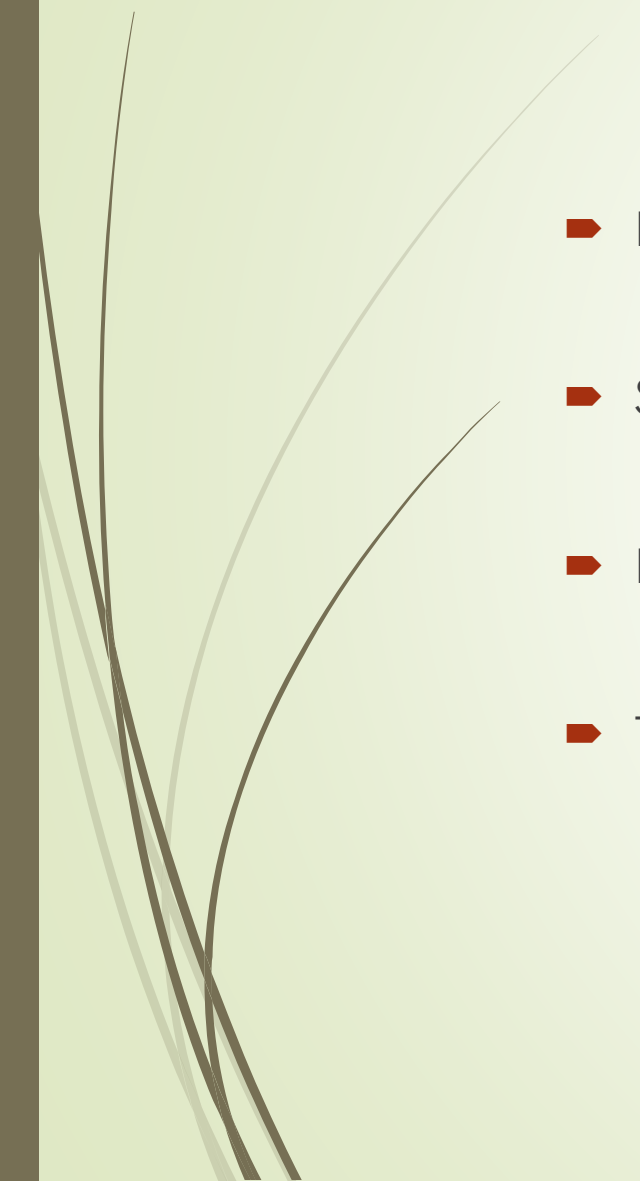
What makes it work?

- Frequent monitoring for drug use.
 - Therapy to teach how to recognize and deal with triggers.
 - Change in environment.
 - Therapy to change method of thinking.
 - Attending Recovery Court sessions.
 - Peer pressure from Court sessions.

 - And most of all . . .
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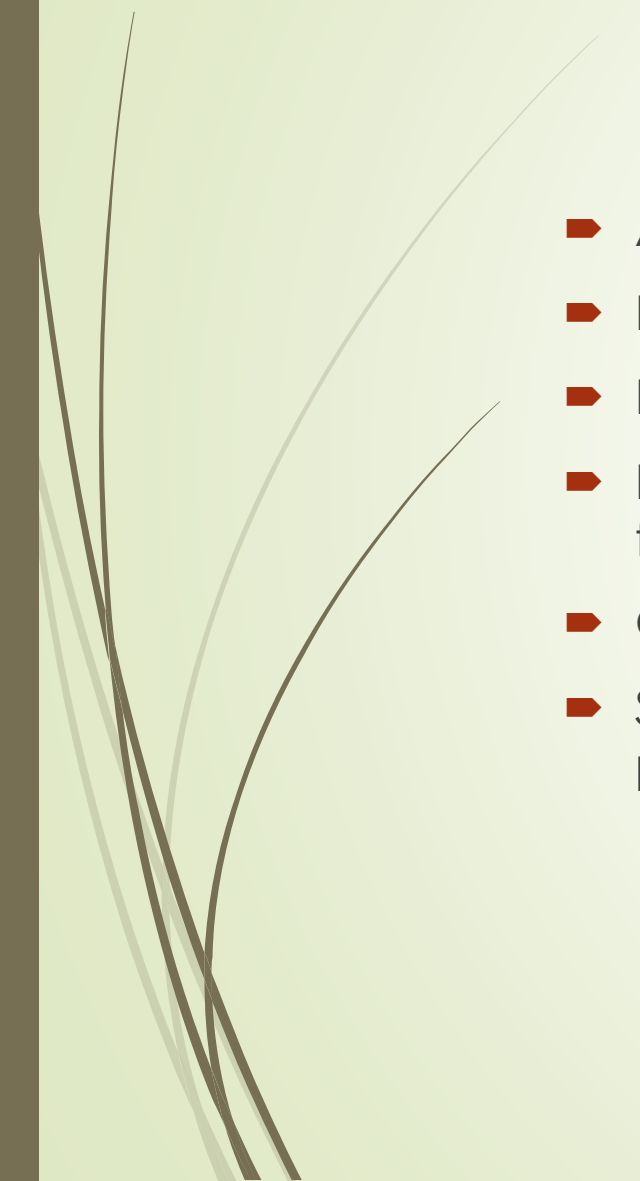


...The Judge

- ▶ Positive reinforcement from Judge.
 - ▶ Sanctions from Judge.
 - ▶ Praise from the Judge.
 - ▶ The interaction with the Judge is the most powerful component.
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The Power of the Judge.

- ▶ Authority figure.
 - ▶ Participants have never received anything good from a Judge before.
 - ▶ Participants generally have very low self-esteem.
 - ▶ Probably seldom bragged on or encouraged – not even by their own family.
 - ▶ Getting bragged on by a Judge literally shakes their world.
 - ▶ Sanction is focused on the bad conduct – not on the Participant as a person.
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Do you get a cookie?

- ▶ Immediate gratification.
 - ▶ Or
- ▶ Immediate adverse event.
- ▶ Face to Face and hand to hand contact with Judge.



Here are some pictures.











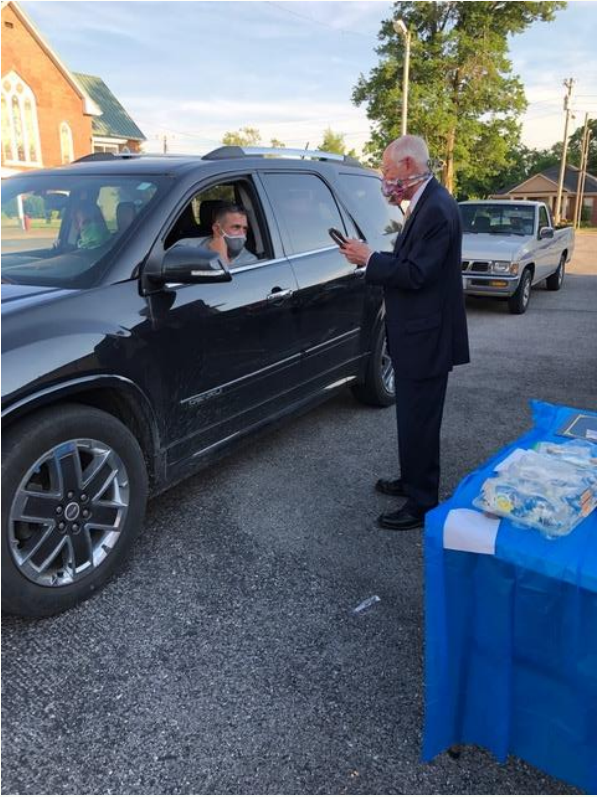
2021 Graduates



2022 Graduates















How our Recovery Court operates.

- Staffing sheet emailed to Team prior to Court session.
- Staffing meeting to discuss Participants progress or problems.
- Each discipline offers insight into how to deal with that Participant in Court.
- Discuss Phasing Up when appropriate.
- Discuss Incentive.
- Discuss Sanction.
- Discuss change in treatment.
- All Staffing sheets and notes are stored in my iPad.
- Meeting lasts around an hour.

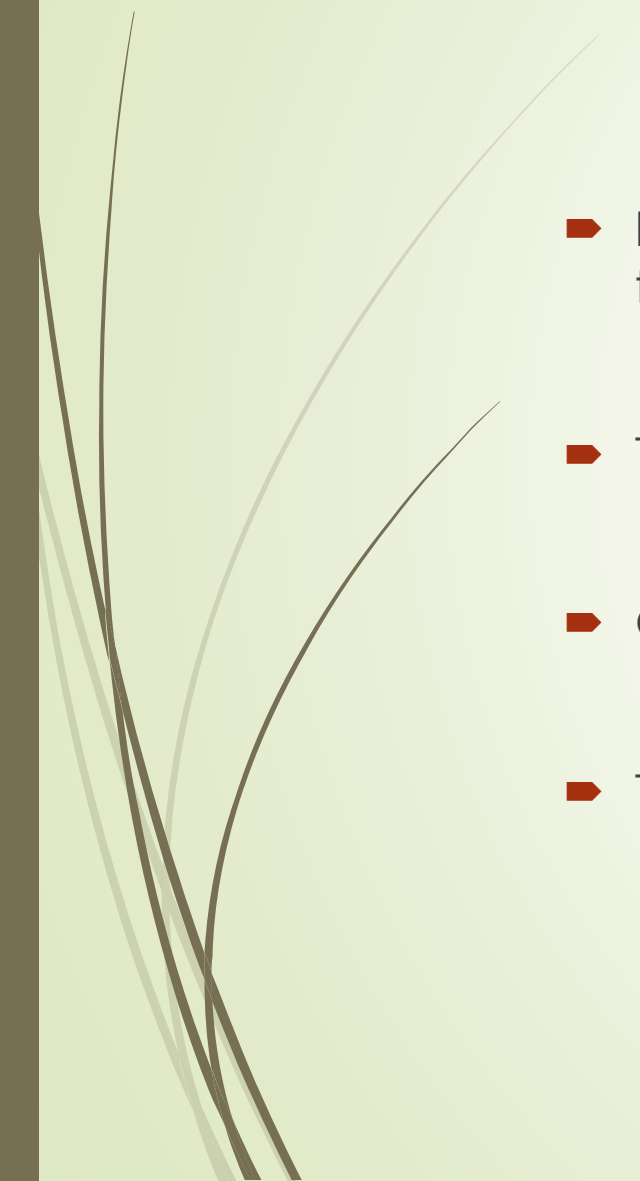


Recovery Court is in session.

- Bailiff opens Recovery Court, just like regular criminal court.
- I call each of the Participants to the podium for one on one discussion.
- Address good accomplishments.
- Address negative behavior.
- Spend a minimum of three minutes per participant.
- Give Incentive or give Sanction.
- No sanction = cookie and applause.
- Must sign acknowledging sanction.



Prize Drawing

- ▶ If Participant has received no sanction for an entire month, they are eligible for the drawing.
 - ▶ The names of those eligible are read aloud before the drawing.
 - ▶ Gift card.
 - ▶ Tee shirt.
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Incentives

- Praise from the Judge in front of the other Participants.
- Handshake from the Judge.
- Picture taken with the Judge.
- Candy for milestones.
- Gift cards.
- Food coupons.
- Advancement coins. CHANGE YOUR THINKING – CHANGE YOUR LIFE
- Certificate for moving to a new Phase.
- Get to leave court early card.



Sanctions

- ▶ A 500 word writing assignment on a topic relevant to the sanction.
- ▶ Attending extra AA or NA meetings, i.e. 14 meetings in 14 days.
- ▶ The Judge's disapproval of the conduct and discussion on who to change it.
- ▶ Community service work.
- ▶ Jail.
- ▶ Maximum jail time – five days.
- ▶ Goal: At least five incentives to one sanction.



What's in it for the tax payers?

- ▶ A LOT!!!!!!!!!!!!
- ▶ The financial ripple effect is profound.
- ▶ No longer in jail.
- ▶ Employed – become tax payers.
- ▶ Getting children back – no need for appointed counsel, GALs, etc.
- ▶ Stopped committing crimes to support their habit.
- ▶ Become good citizens and contribute to the community.



Meet some of our Participants.













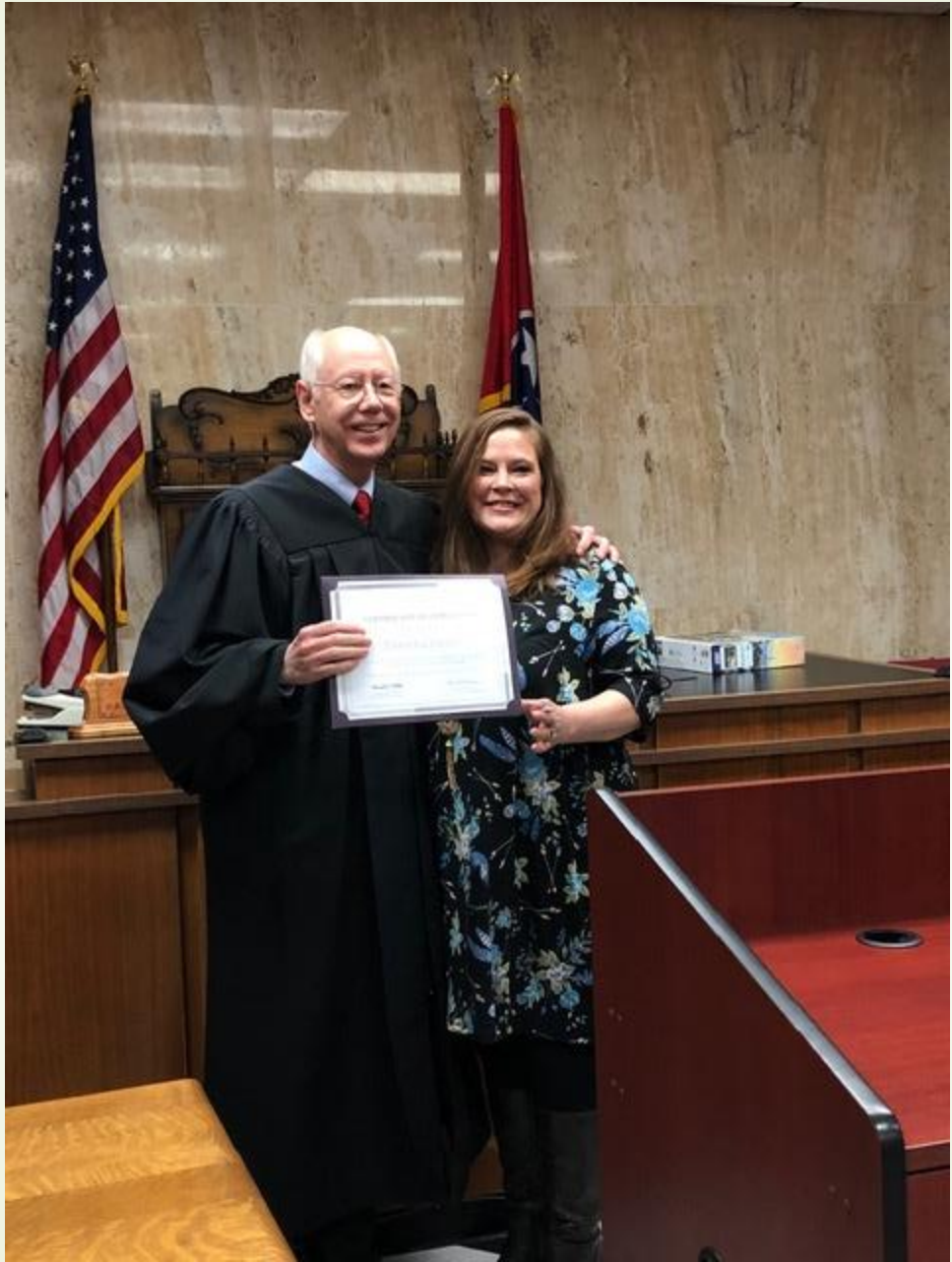




Laura got a
new car!










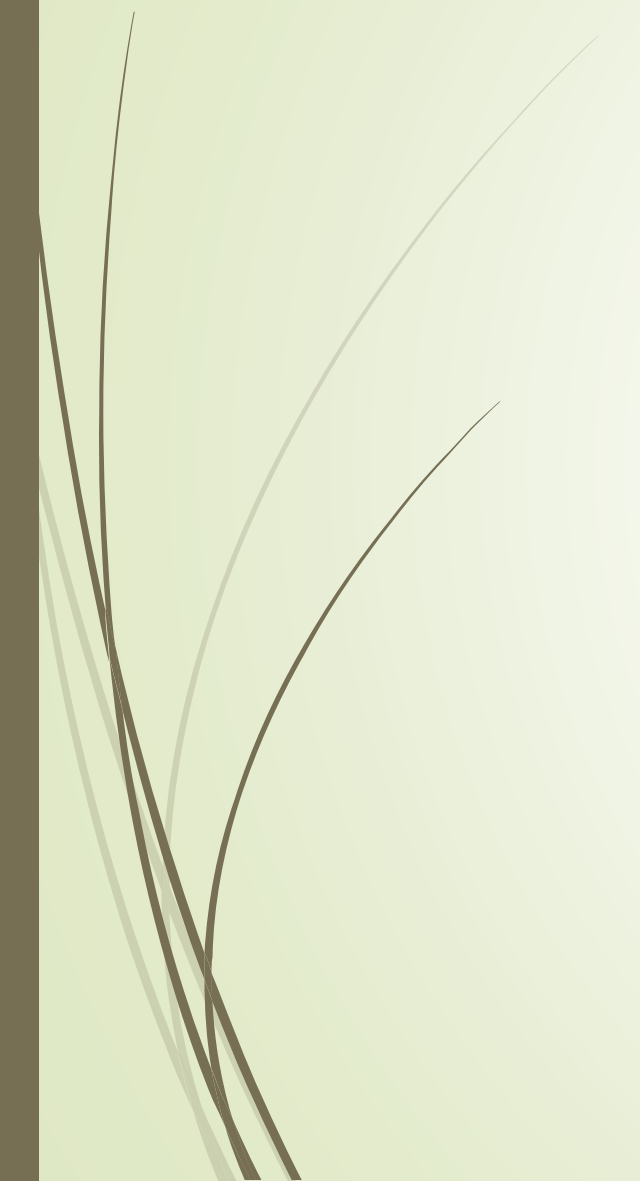


Family Restored





What is the day most likely
to result in a positive drug screen?






We tally consecutive negative drug screens.

- ▶ Some participants have as many as 150+ consecutive negative drug screens.
- ▶ Recently, the combined consecutive negative drug screens for those Participants in Court that night was **549**.
- ▶ We have had several complete Recovery Court with no positive drug screens.
- ▶ One Participant graduated with no sanctions.



Excuses.

- ▶ Second hand smoke – positive the THC.
- ▶ Not so, per the FBI Agents locked in small room for five hours breathing marijuana smoke (while wearing goggles).



Diluted Drug Screens Creatinine

- ▶ Creatinine is a muscle by product.
- ▶ Average is 130 mg/dL.
- ▶ If test is less than 20 mg/dl (1% of the population), it is intentionally diluted.
- ▶ If test is above 400 mg/dL (1% of the population), they are buying creatine.
- ▶ It takes rapid ingestion of 2-4 quarts of fluid in about an hour and a half.

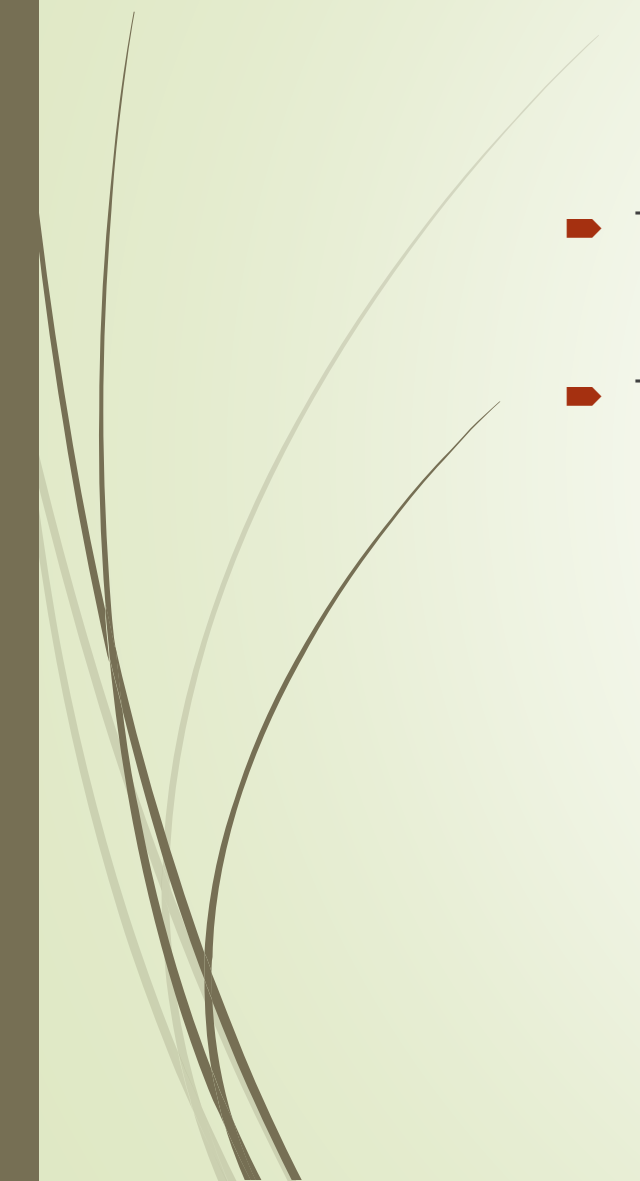


Poppy Seeds

- Yes.
 - Poppy seeds from a muffin will give a positive drug screen for opiates.
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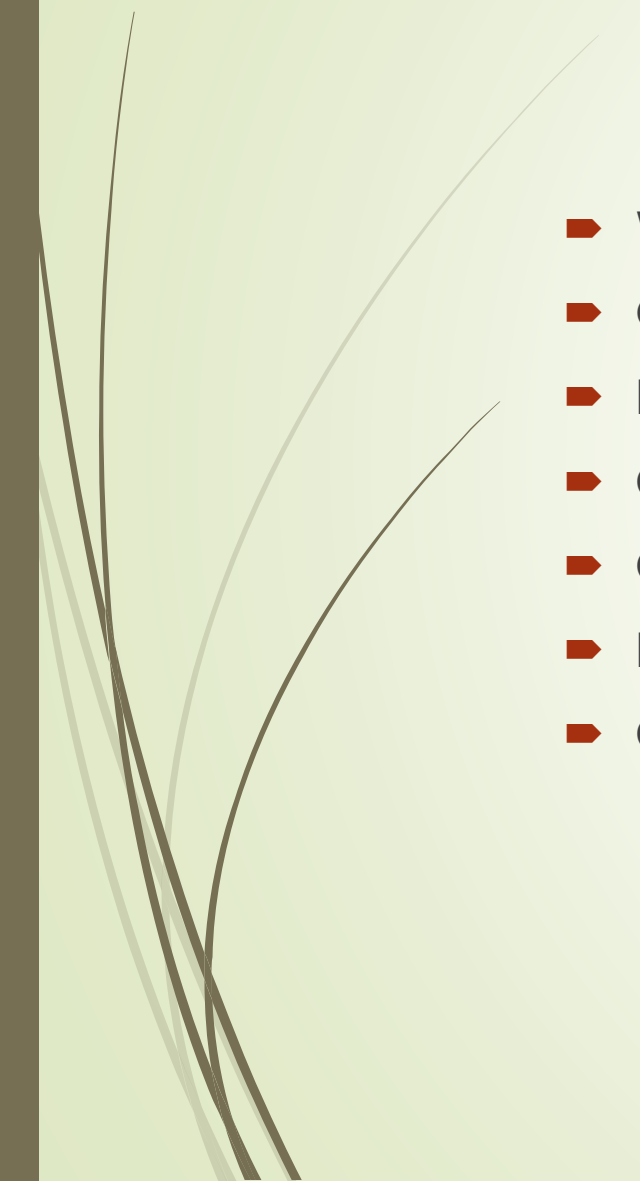


They bring their children.

- ▶ Their children see them succeed.
 - ▶ Their children see them being held accountable.
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Public Service Projects

- ▶ Washed car if listen to their Recovery story.
 - ▶ Gave away furniture.
 - ▶ Prepared Federal income taxes.
 - ▶ Cleaned fence row – then painted the entire fence.
 - ▶ Clothes give away.
 - ▶ Painting rooms at a half-way house.
 - ▶ Cleaned the banks of creeks.
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Team Members Are Volunteers.

- ▶ Work 1 month for free.
 - ▶ Only Coordinator and Case Manager are paid.
 - ▶ Recovery Court is the most rewarding part of our jobs.
 - ▶ Your Honors, I hope some day you will be a Recovery Court Judge.
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