
JEFFERSON COUNTY

Specialty Court Programs

Drug Court

Birmingham

Judge Fortune

Bessemer

Judge Thrash

Mental Health Court

Birmingham

Judge Wallace

Bessemer

Judge Hobby

Veteran's Court

Birmingham

Judge Streety

Bessemer

Judge Carpenter

Theft Court

Birmingham

Judges Ross, Bell & Fortune

Bessemer

Judge Carpenter

Participant Handbook

Jefferson County Specialty Court Programs represent a collaborative effort between UAB Psychiatry and the County Judicial System

The purpose of this handbook is to provide general information about Jefferson County's Specialty Court Programs including an overview of services and summary of requirements for successful completion. Requirements may vary for each program. Participants should refer to the plea agreement for a comprehensive list of terms and conditions.

Specialty courts, also known as treatment courts, combine therapeutic interventions with judicial oversight and personal accountability to help individuals make positive life changes. These specialized dockets aim to address the underlying issues that contribute to justice-system involvement by extending opportunities for rehabilitation in lieu of incarceration.

Comprehensive, individualized case management and support in lieu of incarceration...



A team of case managers and certified peer recovery support specialists connect participants to community-based services to address mental health, substance abuse, housing, vocational and educational needs. Participants receive support and guidance throughout program duration to reduce barriers and ensure seamless and timely linkage to treatment and other essential resources.

LAB HOURS AND LOCATIONS

401 Beacon Parkway West
Birmingham, Alabama 35209

Mon-Thurs 8am to 5:45pm, Fri-Sun 8am to 4:45pm

801 Richard Arrington Jr. Blvd.
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

1801 3rd Avenue North
Bessemer, Alabama 35020

Mon-Fri 8am to 4:30pm, Sat & Sun - Closed

CONTACT US

Bessemer Specialty Court Programs
Paul Holmes, 205-497-8545

Birmingham Drug, Theft & Veteran's Court
Rotasha Madden, 205-325-5842 ext 0738

Birmingham Mental Health Court
Jonathan King, 205-325-5842 ext 0756

www.uab.edu/medicine/substanceabuse

Color code line 205-934-9644

OUR SERVICES

Specialty Courts are specialized dockets that offer treatment, comprehensive case management, and support in lieu of traditional court processing and incarceration. Specialty courts combine treatment, recovery support and case management with judicial oversight and personal accountability to help individuals make positive changes in their lives. Case managers work one-on-one with each participant to develop individualized case plans. Honesty with your case manager is important to ensure you receive the services and support you need to meet your goals and successfully complete the program. Services include –

- Comprehensive screening and assessment
- Individualized case planning and case management
- Referrals to community providers for substance use treatment, mental health and medical needs
- Referrals to address emergency needs (i.e. shelter, clothing, food)
- Bus passes and referrals for housing assistance
- Employment preparation, job search & placement assistance
- Assistance with obtaining ID, birth certificate, social security card
- Application assistance for SSI/SSDI, food stamps & other benefits
- Peer support: one-on-one and group settings
- Linkage to community resources

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Participants must comply with the terms and conditions of the plea agreement. Adhering to your case plan is paramount to your recovery and success. Requirements include but are not limited to –

- Follow case plan recommendations and referrals
- Maintain contact with case manager
- Abstain from alcohol and illicit drug use
- Attend classes
- Submit to random urine drug testing
- Complete community service
- Pay fees & court costs
- Attend all court hearings

PROGRAM TRACKS

All programs, with the exception of Mental Health Court, utilize a system of tracks. Program duration, fees and community service requirements vary for each track.

Track 1 (3 months)	Track 2 (6 months)	Track 3 (9 months)	Track 4 (12 months)
\$650	\$750	\$1,125	\$1,500
25 hrs	50 hrs	75 hrs	75 hrs

DRUG TESTING

Participants are required to submit to observed, randomized urine drug testing. Testing frequency varies and may be modified based on progress and compliance with program requirements.

Color Code: Participants must call the color-code hotline every day and report on assigned color as instructed. A recording announces the color of the day along with instructions on when to report.

Disputing Positive Results: Participants may dispute positive results through GC/MS confirmation testing. The cost is \$35 for each drug (\$65 for heroin). Request for re-test and payment must be made within 10 business days from testing date. Specimens are discarded on the 11th business day.

Specimen Tampering: Testing methods are designed to detect adulterated and diluted samples. Any attempt to dilute, adulterate, substitute or tamper with specimen will be reported to the Judge.

Prescription Medication Policy: Prescriptions for controlled substances schedules II – V, must be documented through a verification process. Participants will be asked to sign a medical consent authorizing the release of health information from the physician(s) to the case manager. Participants are responsible for providing a current list of medications to their case manager and updating the list when changes are made

COURT

Participants are required to attend court reviews as scheduled. Court reviews are in place to monitor progress, celebrate success and address concerns. Prior to court, case managers provide the judge with a report summarizing progress and compliance with requirements.

Court Schedule: Frequency of court appearances vary for each participant and may increase or decrease based on individual circumstances, progress and compliance with requirements.

Failure to Appear: Failure to appear in court as scheduled may result in the judge issuing an arrest warrant. Participants must contact courtroom staff and/or their case manager as soon as possible if they miss court or cannot appear as scheduled. Note – making contact does not guarantee that court date will be rescheduled or that a warrant will not be issued.

FEES

Program fees cover services provided by UAB Community Justice Programs. Restitution and court fines are separately assessed and should to be paid to the county clerk's office located in the courthouse. Participants should refer to the plea agreement for balance and payment details. Fees may be reduced/waived for disabled participants or those experiencing financial hardship. Final determination is at the discretion of the judge. Check with case manager for more information.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

All participants are required to complete a minimum number of community service hours. Additional hours may be ordered by the Judge for non-compliance with program requirements. Community service site must be approved by case manager.

Fees, community service hours, frequency of drug testing and court schedule vary for each program and individual. Participants should refer to their plea agreement and court documents for details.

SANCTIONS & INCENTIVES

Judges utilize a wide range of sanctions and incentives to emphasize individual accountability and reinforce positive change.

Examples of incentives –

- Reduced frequency of reporting
- Reduced frequency of testing
- Reduced frequency of court appearances
- Reduced Community Service
- Reduction of fees
- Gift cards
- Early completion of program

Examples of sanctions –

- Extra community service
- More frequent court reviews
- More frequent drug testing
- Longer program duration
- Jail time
- Electronic monitoring
- Presentation or assignment
- Termination from program

PROGRAM COMPLETION

Graduation: Participants are eligible for graduation once all case plan objectives have been completed and program requirements have been met. Achievements are recognized and celebrated at a graduation ceremony hosted by the Judge and specialty court team. Participants are encouraged to invite family and friends.

Case Dismissal: Individuals with deferred prosecution status must pay their fees in full in order for the case to be dismissed. Note – the record will show case dismissal but documentation of charge(s) and arrest will not be removed from the record.

Termination: Continued non-compliance with court requirements may result in termination from the program. Participants who fail to complete the program are returned to court for adjudication of case(s) and sentencing. Termination policy may vary for each court. All decisions regarding termination from the program are made by the judge.