

What is the Mental Health Court Program?

Tempe Mental Health Court is a specialized court designed to:

- Address the unique needs of participants with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities.
- Provide appropriate services that will reduce the possibility of recidivism.
- Improve public safety through improved monitoring.
- Reduce the number of jail days spent in custody.
- Provide accessible treatment and support services to participants with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities.

Purpose:

Individuals with mental illness and/or developmental disabilities can choose to be placed in a specialized mental health court program where they will be staffed for individualized treatment and services. The mental health team composed of the judge, prosecutor, defense attorney and treatment team address the participant's behavioral health and other needs and create treatment and service referrals. Participants will be monitored during the

time that their case is pending and upon successful completion of the program, may have their sentence reduced or the charges dismissed.

Who qualifies?

Participants must be enrolled and case managed by the local Regional Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA), the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD), the Veterans Administration or have another provider that is willing to monitor their case and provide treatment information to the court.

Some exceptions are made for participants who qualify, but have no case manager.

How Does the Program Work?

When eligibility is determined, the participants will be offered the option of having their case transferred to the Mental Health Court program. If the participant voluntarily enters into the program and accepts the "Conditions for Participation", he/she will be scheduled in the next available Mental Health Court docket and the case will be set for a hearing. The therapeutic team will then be notified and invited to a Mental Health Court team staffing where treatment plans will be developed and presented to the participant in court.

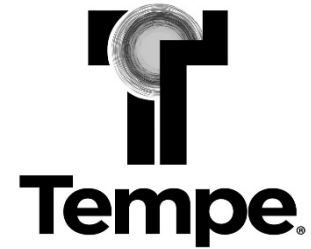
Future hearings will be scheduled as needed for the duration of the participant's involvement with the court. These appearances will include rewards and recognition for positive behavior and program successes. If the participant successfully completes the Mental Health Court program, he/she will receive a certificate of completion from the court and charges may result in a reduction in sentence or dismissal of charges. If unsuccessful, the completion date may be extended to allow the participant to meet necessary requirements or the participant can be removed from the Mental Health Court program and the case will resume with regular court proceedings.

What are the Conditions for Participation in the Tempe Mental Health Court?

- The participant must remain actively involved in case management through their provider, case manager or therapist.
- The participant must cooperate with their treatment provider and attend all scheduled services as directed.
- The participant must take medications as provided or prescribed and submit to medication checks as directed by their treatment staff.
- The participant agrees to complete the treatment program provided by the Mental Health Court staffing team.
- The participant must appear at any scheduled court hearings unless their presence is waived by the Court.

Benefits to the Community

The Mental Health Court's goal is to return the participant back to a mentally healthy status. During participation in the Mental Health Court program, various goals are set for each court date. Accomplishing these goals and being compliant with medication helps improve the quality of life for people with mental illness who are charged with crimes and reduces the possibility of reoffending.



Tempe Municipal Court

Mental Health Court Program

Tempe Municipal Court
140 East Fifth Street, Suite 200
Tempe, AZ 85281
Main Phone: 480-350-8270
FAX: 480-350-2789