

# Drug Court Information and Applicant Process

## What is a “Drug Court”?

A special purpose court that combines mandatory drug treatment with a strict court – structured follow – up. It is used as an alternative to incarceration (jail or prison), demands accountability and responsibility, uses graduated sanctions (punishments) for violations, and graduated incentives (rewards) for compliance. It is under the direct control of a Circuit Judge who develops a relationship with the participants through regular and frequent appearances with the Judge, and who takes an active part in the rehabilitation and management of the participant’s progress. The individual participant is well aware that they remain out of jail only by strictly adhering to the requirements imposed by the Drug Court Judge: In essence, they stay out of jail one day at a time. Some of the Drug Court requirements are as follows: unannounced and random drug screenings, scheduled court appearances, full time job, regular payment of fines, fees and or restitution, chemical treatment, enrolment in a self-help program (AA, NA, etc.) and becoming a clean, sober and productive citizen.

## How to apply to Drug Court?

Persons who qualify and are accepted into the Drug Court program must be brought in by a court order resulting from a non-violent, criminal charge. Most cases are on the felony level, although some misdemeanors are considered and accepted. To begin the application process, one must ***fully complete*** the Drug Court Application and mail, fax, email or turn it into the physical location of the Drug Court. All questions on the application must be answered legibly and honestly. Once the Drug Court receives the application, contact will be made for a telephone interview. During the telephone interview, specific questions will be asked concerning your application and pending charge and a time will be scheduled to come in for a formal interview and SASSI treatment assessment. A non-refundable charge of \$75 must be paid by money order or cashier’s check before the assessment or interview is conducted; check should be made out to “8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Drug Court”. Acceptance into the Drug Court is not guaranteed and must be approved by the arresting officer/agency, victim(s) if any, District Attorney, Drug Court and the Circuit Judge.

## Information for the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Drug Court

Mailing Address:

8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Drug Court  
PO Box 279  
Walnut Grove, MS 39189

Physical Address:

155 Main Street  
Walnut Grove, MS 39189

Phone Number:

601-253-2833

Email and Website:

[drugcourt@co.leake.ms.us](mailto:drugcourt@co.leake.ms.us)   <http://www.leakecountymississippi.org> (click on County Courts)