

The Juvenile Department/Superior Court is committed to providing innovative, comprehensive, and effective services to youth, families, schools and the community within a quality work environment, by professional, caring staff.

Mental Health Courts

Modeled after drug courts and developed in response to the overrepresentation of people with mental illnesses in the criminal justice system, mental health courts divert select defendants with mental illnesses into judicially supervised, community-based treatment. Currently, all mental health courts are voluntary. Defendants are invited to participate in the mental health court following a specialized screening and assessment, and they may choose to decline participation. For those who agree to the terms and condition of community-based supervision, a team of court staff and mental health professionals works together to develop treatment plans and supervise participants in the community.

Any further questions concerning Drug Court may be directed to:

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Kitsap County Juvenile Department Individualized Treatment Court (ITC)





Program Description

Individualized Treatment Court (ITC) is a program that provides intensive supervision and mandatory mental health (and substance abuse treatment if deemed appropriate) to youth who have committed a criminal offense. Participation in ITC requires a minimum of nine-months (misdemeanor) or one-year (felony) and is voluntary.

ITC provides an opportunity for youth to obtain mental health treatment and therapy. Parent participation is expected. Youth will also be involved in treatment for drug and/or alcohol issues if deemed necessary. Upon successful completion, the charge that has been brought against him or her will be dismissed as if it never happened.

Eligibility

Youth can be referred to ITC if he or she has been charged with a crime by the prosecutor. Youth are ineligible if the crime is a sex offense, serious violent offense, violent offense involving the use and/or possession of a firearm, or use or threatened use of physical force or if there is a criminal history containing an adjudication for one of these crimes. Youth must be at least 13 years old to participate in ITC. The youth must have a qualified mental health diagnosis that is confirmed by a mental health evaluation.

Requirements

- Participation in individual and/or family therapy
- Participation in substance abuse treatment if appropriate and maintain abstinence of drugs and alcohol use
- Random urinalysis testing
- Comply with all treatment recommendations including taking medications as prescribed
- Follow the rules at home
- Attend school with no unexcused absences or tardies
- Attending ITC hearings every Thursday at 2:45 PM
- Curfew 6:00 PM to 6:00 AM
- Weekly contact with probation officer



Getting into ITC

If a youth decides to explore the ITC option, he or she will be required to observe one or two ITC hearings before signing an ITC contract. Releases of information will need to be signed so probation can obtain the necessary information to determine eligibility and whether or not the youth is an appropriate candidate for ITC. The first two hearings after the contract has been signed into ITC is the "opt out" period. During this time, the youth can choose not to participate in ITC and the case is returned to the juvenile criminal calendar without the loss of any rights. If a youth wants to get out of ITC after the "opt-out" period, a request can be made to the Judge.

