Amherst Drug and Therapeutic Courts
Judge Mark G. Farrell

Orientation

April 15, 2010

- **Welcome and introduction of Drug Court Staff. Jim Cavanaugh, Therapeutic Courts Coordinator for Amherst Court.**
- **The role of your attorney, both retained and assigned. Erie County Assigned Counsel Program. Melissa Reese from Erie County Assigned Counsel program.**
- **The requirements that are needed to successfully complete the Amherst Drug Court.**
- **Information on the Gambling Court and Gambling Education, and why it is required. Judy Munzi of Jewish Family Services.**
- **A review of the Rules in the Amherst Therapeutic Courts, Carrie & Jim.**
- **Sanctions and Rewards, what they are, and how they are applied in Court.**
- **The Amherst Therapeutic Courts Alumni Group, a perspective, from O'Dell, Drug Court Graduate.**
- **Self-Help what is it and why it is mandatory.**
- **Reminder that cell phones are not permitted in court.**
- **Open discussion and questions**
- **Treatment medications & rules, specifically methadone & buprenorphine (Suboxone)**

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The Rules

- All Court Dates must be kept, this comes before work, childcare must be arranged, and only a verified medical excuse will be acceptable.
- All Treatment Appointments must be kept, group, 1:1 and urine tox requests.
- Any attempt to adulterate, dilute or substitute any tox samples in court or at treatment may result in dismissal from the therapeutic court and charges being returned to criminal court with prejudice. An observed toxicology test may include a search of the donor.
- Failure to lead a law-abiding life as exemplified by a new arrest or conviction may result in a sanction and/or removal from the therapeutic court.
- All participants are expected to be honest about any relapse or slip by immediately calling their counselor and/or the court coordinators before being asked for a toxicology test or Alco-sensor test. Continued use of substance is sanctionable. Be honest and ask for help if needed.
- Failure to be honest with the court about any issue is a sanctionable offense.
- Any change in address or phone contact information must be reported to the Court immediately.
- A failure to comply with the court or treatment agency when a toxicology test or Alco-sensor test is requested will be considered to be a positive result that is a sanctionable offense. An observed toxicology test may include a search of the donor.
- Attendance at self help is required, any attempt to mislead or forge self help attendance slips is sanctionable. First time forged slips are found six months will be added to time required in the Amherst Drug Court, second time one year will be added.
- Proper dress is required at both court and treatment, (no t-shirts, shorts, provocative dress, apparel that promotes drugs, alcohol or violence).
- Any assault on a court or treatment staff member, or verbal threats will lead to immediate dismissal and return to criminal court with prejudice.
- Any weapons, prohibited drugs or alcohol brought into the court or treatment will result in dismissal and return to criminal court with prejudice.
- The use of any prescribed medication must be reported to the court and treatment with a copy of the prescription immediately.
- You are to be responsible for all and any substance you take, the use of another persons medication is prohibited. The use of any amphetamine based cold, allergy, or sinus medication is prohibited. Any alcohol-based products such as mouthwash, tooth whitening products or cold medicine (Nyquil),NA beer, poppy seed products such as bagels rolls or cake, body spray, some gums (Orbitz) and hand sanitizers are prohibited. Check with your pharmacist for banned ingredients, even in “over-the-counter” medications and some cosmetic products.
- Avoid other persons that are using any substance, this is never an excuse for a positive tox.
- Any warrant issued may result in your case being returned to the criminal court,

Be honest and if you are struggling ask for help, it will be given. Our goal is for you to be a graduate of the Amherst Therapeutic Court and to have a drug free fulfilling life with true happiness. Jim Cavanaugh can be contacted at the Amherst Court at 689-4255.

I acknowledge the above was read and explained to me during an orientation session and I was given an opportunity to ask any questions I may have had to clarify any rule or expectation.

_____ _____ _____ ***Date***_____

(Participant signature) ***(Print Name)***

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