

Judge A. Dee Morris
State Court of Cherokee County

STATE OF GEORGIA

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Cherokee County
Misdemeanor Drug Court
State Court of Cherokee County

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MISD. DRUG COURT OPERATING PROTOCOL FOR COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS)

Misdemeanor Drug Court participants are expected to adhere to the following protocol in response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) public health emergency effective March 16, 2020. *If any participant is sick or displaying any symptoms of COVID-19 (fever, cough, shortness of breath), we ask that you notify your case manager immediately and stay at home.* If a participant is unable to meet the program requirements due to illness, they will be placed on medical leave until medically cleared. We encourage all participants to educate themselves on COVID-19 and protect themselves through frequent handwashing, social distancing, and staying home if you are sick. This protocol can be updated as we continue to monitor COVID-19. Participants will be required to routinely check their e-mail and check the DUI/Drug Court website for additional information.

Counseling: Price Counseling will continue to conduct group and individual counseling sessions as regularly scheduled. Additional counselors will be available to reduce the group size to less than 8 participants.

12-step attendance: As of March 17, 2020, the twelve-step attendance requirement will be suspended until further notice. We encourage participants to still attend twelve-step online or by phone. Resources will be provided.

Drug Testing: Participants are still required to call the hotline daily and will be subject to random drug/alcohol testing. Positive or missed drug screens will be sanctioned accordingly. Additional precautions for cleanliness are currently in place at the Drug Lab.

Case Management: Case management appointments will be conducted remotely via phone or e-mail. Appointments can be done in person by appointment only, if necessary. There will be no payment deadline for the month of March or April. Participants can mail in payments to the Court office or slide a check/money order under the door. Mail payments to DUI/Drug Court, 90 North Street, Suite 370, Canton, GA 30114 (please make the check or money order payable to CCDC and ensure your name is clearly written). Travel will only be permitted in extreme circumstances. For medication approval or travel questions, you must contact Angela D'Agata at amdagata@cherokeega.com.

Probation/Scram: Participants are to report to their probation officer as directed at their scheduled time. If you need to reschedule your appointment time, please contact the probation office at (678) 493-4300.

Home Visits: Home visits will continue to be conducted with additional safety precautions in place.

Drug Court Status Conference: Participants will not attend status conference until further notice. If a participant is eligible to move in the next Phase, they are still responsible for submitting the phase movement form along with essay (if needed) and MRT checklist. The team will staff that participant's case and if in compliance, the participant will move into the next phase. A copy of the phase movement certificate will be emailed to the participant. However, if a participant is not in compliance with program requirements or refuses to accept a sanction, they will be required to attend a hearing. The probation officer will notify the participant in writing of the date and time. DUI/Drug Court is in the process of establishing a way for participants to teleconference into the status conference. Once this is set up, participants will be notified and given instructions. In the meantime, participants are encouraged to have access to Wi-Fi at home and a smart phone, laptop, or computer. If you do not have Wi-Fi and are unable to afford Wi-Fi or do not have a smart phone, please notify the DUI/Drug Court office immediately so accommodations can be made.

Community Service Work: DUI/Drug Court is aware that most organizations have suspended community service workers. Extensions will be given for those who are unable to complete community service work during this time.

Last updated 03/16/20 by Angela D'Agata