

Superior Court of California,
County of Sonoma

MISSION STATEMENT



*The mission of the Sonoma County
DUI Court is to enhance
community safety, reduce DUI
recidivism, and foster a healthier
and safer life for the participants
and their families by increasing
treatment, supervision and
accountability of the high-risk
impaired driver.*

ELIGIBILITY
REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must be charged with a second or third time misdemeanor DUI offense.

Applicants' current case(s) must originate from Sonoma County jurisdiction.

Applicants must not have any prior serious felony, "strike" or sales convictions. Also, no record of any sexual or violent crime.

Applicants must be Sonoma County residents.

Applicants must not be on parole supervision.

Applicants must acknowledge a substance abuse problem.



DUI
COURT



Sonoma County Superior Court in
collaboration with:

District Attorney's Office

Alcohol and Other Drug Services

Probation Department

Public Defender's Office

Sheriff's Department

DUI COURT



*Collaborating today, for successful
tomorrows.*

DUI Court is modeled after the County's successful Drug Court Program, which is a collaboration of several agencies including the Superior Court, Probation Department, AODS, the Public Defender's Office, the District Attorney's Office and the Sheriff's Department. The program participants will be given professional help in confronting substance abuse issues but also this program will facilitate life changing improvements in the participant's lives.



The DUI Court program stresses the rebuilding of family ties, creating a stable living environment, having a job, obtaining a GED and/or pursuing further education. A person wishing to enter the DUI Court program must be open to treatment and ready to acknowledge they have a substance abuse problem

THE PROCESS

- .. Arrest/Cite DUI offender by local law enforcement
- .. DA Review for eligibility for DUI Court
- .. Arraignment in normal alpha split courtroom
- .. If interested in DUI Court Program case is set over to Settlement Conference to meet with attorney. Attorney advises client of legal rights and describes the DUI Court Program. If interested in the program the plea is taken at this conference
- .. The case is referred to the next weekly DUI court session
- .. The Offender observes the DUI Court
- .. The eligible candidates are interviewed and assessed by Alcohol and Other Drug Services (AODS) prior to next week's DUI Court
- .. The DUI Team will review the case and make a recommendation on acceptance into the program before the next DUI Court session
- .. Offender agrees to terms and is accepted into program. Variable jail sentence is stayed pending successful completion of the programs. Participants are still expected to perform jail sentences, with credit for participation in certain programs (may be served by electronic monitoring)
- .. Offenders work through the minimum 12 month three phase program which includes regular visits to the probation officer, individual and group counseling sessions, frequent court appearances, frequent alcohol testing and self help meetings. Other programs and requirements are available and may be required depending on the offender's individual circumstances.

The DUI Court program has suitability requirements all participants have to meet. The intensive three-phase program entails weekly group and individual sessions with an assigned Health Care therapist along with regular meetings and testing with Probation to ensure sobriety and program compliance. In addition, the participant will also be expected to attend weekly 12 step meetings as well as enroll in a DMV approved SB1344 multiple offender program. Upon successful completion of the DUI Court and the SB1344 programs, participants will receive early termination of probation.



For more information please contact:

Superior Court	707-521-6501
Sonoma County Probation	707-565-2149
Alcohol and Other Drug Services	707-565-5480
Public Defender's Office	707-565-2791