



# **HARRIS COUNTY DWI S.O.B.E.R. COURT CLIENT HANDBOOK**

Welcome to the Harris County DWI SOBER Court program. This handbook is designed to answer your questions and provide overall information about the SOBER Court program. As a participant in the program, you must follow the instructions given in court by the Judge, follow all of the **Terms** and **Conditions of Probation**, and comply with the treatment plan developed for you. Throughout the time you are in Sober Court, your case manager and treatment provider will be working closely with you and with each other. They will also promptly report all of your progress and any problems to the Sober Court Judge.

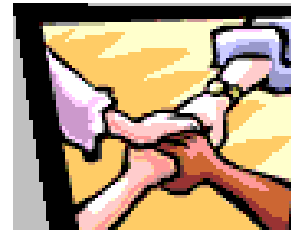
### ☐ **What is a Sober Court?**

- Program of treatment and rehabilitation monitored by the SOBER Court Judge and team
- Intensive supervision by your case manager
- Partnership between the criminal justice system and the alcohol/drug treatment community
- Dedicated treatment team of case managers and staff
- Provide a variety of programs that support and help you maintain an alcohol and drug free lifestyle
- Four phase intervention program for high-risk DWI offenders
- Frequent court appearances
- Random alcohol and drug testing
- Substance abuse counseling, in individual and group sessions

### ☐ **What is the Sober Court Team?**

Sober Court is a unique non-adversarial program that involves working with a team of individuals who are all dedicated to your recovery. The team consists of:

- Judge
- Case Manager
- Assistant District Attorney
- Criminal Defense Attorney
- Sober Court Supervisor
- Specialty Court Coordinator
- Treatment Providers
- Law Enforcement Representative



### ☐ **HOW LONG WILL I BE IN THE PROGRAM?**

The amount of time you spend in the program will be determined by **your individual progress**, but will be no less than 9 months and a maximum of 16 months. Probation supervision will continue after successful completion of the Sober Court Program. Once you graduate from Sober Court you will be expected to follow all aftercare requirements and continued conditions of supervision.

### ☐ **HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?**

As a participant, you must pay monthly SOBER Court fees in addition to other fees. You may also be required to pay for some or all of the costs of your alcohol testing equipment.

### ☐ **ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT**

After your TAIP evaluation and assessment, a recommendation will be made for treatment based on your needs. You will be required to follow treatment plan that will include group and individual counseling and will focus on developing goals for you to achieve and maintain your sobriety.

### ☐ **PHASES OF SOBER COURT**

The SOBER Court Treatment Program is a four-phase, highly structured, abstinence and accountability program lasting a minimum of 9 to 16 months, depending upon your individual progress. Each phase consists of specified treatment objectives, therapeutic and rehabilitative activities, and specific requirements for promotion into the next phase. The components and requirements for advancement to each phase are included in advancement forms. ( see phase advancement form)

Once you have successfully completed the criteria for each phase you will graduate from SOBER Court. Promotion to each phase and graduation from the program shall be determined by the SOBER Court Judge. The graduation ceremony will be a celebration of completing all established program requirements.

## ■ WHAT ARE THE RULES OF THE PROGRAM?

### ▶ Appear in court as scheduled

You will be required to appear in front of the Judge on a regular basis. The Judge will be given progress reports regarding your drug tests, attendance and participation in your treatment program. The Judge will ask you about your progress, homework assignments and address any current or ongoing non-compliance issues. **Complete & keep all required paperwork.** At each Court appearance you will be required to bring:

- 1) Your SOBER Court notebook, which will contain all of your important papers: appointments, goals and certificates of program completion. You will be provided with a notebook.
- 2) Proof of financial responsibility for your automobile, if applicable
- 3) A current paycheck stub from employer
- 4) Receipts for any payments made
- 5) A Probationer Monthly Report (PMR) form

### ▶ Follow your treatment plan

If you are late or miss treatment sessions, you will be unsuccessfully discharged from treatment. Unsuccessful discharge from treatment is a serious violation and will result in a sanction or termination from the program.

### ▶ Appropriate behavior in court and at treatment

- Inappropriate physical and/or verbal behavior will not be tolerated and may result in your termination from the program
- Do not make threats or behave in a violent or aggressive manner toward other participants, counselors or SOBER Court Team members
- Completely turn off cell phones in Court
- No gum or food is allowed in the courtroom
- Dress appropriately in Court and at treatment. Remove your hat and sunglasses. Wear shirts, pants, dresses, etc. of reasonable length. No shorts, tank tops or flip flops allowed

### ▶ Comply with drug and alcohol screening

You will be tested throughout the treatment process. The frequency of the random tests will be determined by your current phase and is subject to change based on violations and the recommendation of the SOBER team and your treatment counselor.

- If you skip or miss a test, it will count as a positive test and you will be sanctioned
- If you skip or miss a test, you must immediately submit to a test, the next day
- Any detectable level of alcohol, drug, or other intoxicating substances is considered a positive test
- If you have relapsed and used alcohol or prohibited drugs, inform your Case Manager
- Positive test as a result of a prescription drug, will be considered a positive test if you fail to submit prescription documentation to Case Manager

### ▶ Mandatory field visits

By entering this program, you have agreed to waive certain rights to privacy and have given consent to searches of your home, vehicle, property and person. A Sober Court law enforcement officer will visit your home and workplace.

### ▶ DON'T BREAK THE LAW

You are required to refrain from any further violations of the law. New arrests, whether or not they lead to formal charges, may result in being terminated from Sober Court or revocation. Any arrest must be reported to your Case Manager immediately

► **Reliable transportation**

There are numerous activities such as Court Reviews, treatment sessions and drug testing appointments for which you must be on time. This is not negotiable. **You must have reliable transportation to participate in this program.**

► **Occupational driver's license (optional)**

An occupational driver's license is a special license that is used for driving during your suspension period for purposes of your employment, education, treatment, essential household duties, and probation responsibilities. You can only drive within the hours and purposes listed in your court order. If you are driving outside of those hours or for a purpose not listed in your order, you are not driving with a valid license. **If you have two DWI convictions that involve arrest dates within five years of each other, you will have a one year waiting period for your occupational license.** The SOBER Court team will assist you with your occupational license.

The certified copy of the court order granting the license is a temporary driving license for 30 days. The court order is not the occupational license. If you do not complete the occupational process with DPS, you do not have a valid occupational license. Once you receive the court order, make sure to follow the instructions given to you such as sending in proof of insurance, reinstatement fees, and the occupational license fee to DPS. Once you receive your occupational license in the mail from DPS, you must continue to keep a copy of the court order in your vehicle at all times. If you have license questions for DPS, please contact the DPS Compliance Department at 512-424-2600

► **Interlock device**

While in SOBER Court, you are **required** to have an alcohol monitoring system. If you have a Texas driver's license or an occupational license, you must have an interlock device on your vehicle. **Do not drive any vehicle unless it is equipped with a Court-approved ignition interlock device.**

The device must have a camera. If you do not have any type of driver's license, you must have an in-home alcohol monitoring device, equipped with a camera. You must blow into the machine, as instructed by the interlock vendor, at prescribed times throughout the day. Failure to follow vendor's instructions will be considered a violation, and you will be sanctioned.

► **Fines, court cost, and sober court fees**

As a participant, you must pay monthly SOBER Court fees in addition to other fees. You may also be required to pay for some or all of the costs of your alcohol testing equipment.

► **Non-compliance sanctions**

Sanctions for non-compliance include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Verbal admonishment by the Judge
- 2) Community service
- 3) House arrest/electronic monitoring
- 4) Driving restrictions
- 5) Curfew
- 6) Jail

► **Program termination/revocation**

- 1) Serious or repeated violation of the rules of the Sober Court
- 2) New arrest
- 3) Failure to attend scheduled Sober Court sessions or treatment
- 4) Driving under the influence of alcohol or any mind altering substance
- 5) Tampering or falsifying any required drug /alcohol test
- 6) Threatening, abusive or violent verbal/physical behavior towards anyone

## SOBER COURT PHASE I BENCHMARK REQUIREMENTS

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Case Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

### ADVANCEMENT CRITERIA

1. Completed substance abuse assessment.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Set a long term goal and complete the goal worksheet.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Developed a personalized case plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Addressed any Ignition Interlock, In-Home breathalyzer or SCRAM violations and completed all assignments as directed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Proof of completing and being certified in at least <b>14</b> group sessions	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Verbalized and demonstrated understanding of Behavioral Chain.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Addressed any issues with substance use or missed UA and completed all assignments as directed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Sanction free for a minimum of 14 days prior to phase advancement.	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Must have at least 2 ratings of a 2 or higher.	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Completed Pre-Treatment Module. (if determined necessary)	<input type="checkbox"/>

As of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ has completed all criteria  
(Date) (Client)

for advancement to phase II.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client Case Manager

## SOBER COURT PHASE II BENCHMARK REQUIREMENTS

Participant: \_\_\_\_\_

Case Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

### ADVANCEMENT CRITERIA

1. Proof of completing and being certified in all group sessions Total of 39 group session completed on _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Demonstrated adequate progress towards goals and case plan.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Addressed any issue with substance use of missed UA and completed all assignments as directed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Addressed any Ignition Interlock, In-Home breathalyzer or SCRAM violations and completed all assignments as directed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Established a sober support network.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Sanction free for a minimum of 14 days prior to phase advancement.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Must have at least 2 ratings of a 2 or higher.	<input type="checkbox"/>

As of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ has completed all criteria  
(Date) (Client)

for advancement to phase III.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client Case Manager

## SOBER COURT PHASE III BENCHMARK REQUIREMENTS

Participant:		Case Manager:	
<b>ADVANCEMENT CRITERIA</b>			
1. Has completed a minimum of <b>3</b> booster sessions.			<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Develop and update continuous sobriety plan and submit to court for final approval.			<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Demonstrated the ability to manage a high risk situation effectively.			<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Addressed any issue with substance use of missed UA and completed all assignments as directed.			<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Addressed any Ignition Interlock, In-Home breathalyzer or SCRAM violations and completed all assignments as directed.			<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Established a sober support network.			<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Sanction free for a minimum of 14 days prior to phase advancement.			<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Must have at least 2 ratings of a 2 or higher.			<input type="checkbox"/>

As of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ has completed all criteria  
 (Date) (Client)

for advancement to phase IV.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Client Case Manager

## SOBER COURT PHASE IV BENCHMARK REQUIREMENTS

Participant:	Case Manager:
<b>ADVANCEMENT CRITERIA</b>	
1. Has completed a minimum of <b>4</b> aftercare sessions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
1. Finalized continuous sobriety plan and approved by the court.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Presented the continuous sobriety plan in court	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Addressed any issue with substance use of missed UA and completed all assignments as directed	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Addressed any Ignition Interlock violations and completed all assignments as directed.	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Compliant with treatment plan as directed	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Sanction free for a minimum of 30 days prior to graduation.	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Must be rated as a 2 or higher to graduate.	<input type="checkbox"/>

As of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ has completed all criteria  
 (Date) (Client)

of the SOBER Court program and is eligible for graduation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Client Case Manager



## USEFUL SOBER COURT ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

### **County Criminal Court at Law #1, Judge Paula Goodhart**

Address: 1201 Franklin, 8th floor, Houston, TX 77002  
Court Coordinator: Karen Harrison, 713-755-6180  
Case Manager: Joseph Collins, 713-755-2272  
Address: 49 San Jacinto, 4th floor, Room 434, Houston, TX 77002  
Email: [Walter.Velasquez@csc.hctx.net](mailto:Walter.Velasquez@csc.hctx.net)

### **County Criminal Court at Law #3, Judge Natalie Fleming**

Address: 1201 Franklin, 8th floor, Houston, TX 77002  
Court Coordinator: Carol Cummings, 713-755-6188  
Case Manager: Humberto Hernandez, 713-755-2254  
Address: 49 San Jacinto, 4th floor, Room 461, Houston, TX 77002  
Email: [Humberto.Hernandez@csc.hctx.net](mailto:Humberto.Hernandez@csc.hctx.net)

### **County Criminal Court at Law #11, Judge Diane Bull**

Address: 1201 Franklin, 10th floor, Houston, TX 77002  
Court Coordinator: Rachel Ferrel, 713-755-7780  
Case Manager: Veronica Veliz, 713-755-2158  
Address: 49 San Jacinto, 4th floor, Room 467, Houston, TX 77002  
Email: [Veronica.Veliz@csc.hctx.net](mailto:Veronica.Veliz@csc.hctx.net)

### **County Criminal Court at Law #12, Judge Robin Brown**

Address: 1201 Franklin, 10th floor, Houston, TX 77002  
Court Coordinator: Stephanie Spears, 713-755-7738  
Case Manager: Latasha Baylor, 713-755-4360  
Address: 49 San Jacinto, 4th floor, Room 468 A, Houston, TX 77002  
Email: [Latasha.Baylor@csc.hctx.net](mailto:Latasha.Baylor@csc.hctx.net)

### **County Criminal Court at Law #13, Judge Don Smyth**

Address: 1201 Franklin, 11th floor, Houston, TX 77002  
Court Coordinator: Mary Smith, 713-755-7950  
Case Manager: Nina Juarez, 713-755-2566  
Address: 49 San Jacinto, 4th floor, Room 460, Houston, TX 77002  
Email: [Nina.Juarez@csc.hctx.net](mailto:Nina.Juarez@csc.hctx.net)

Alternate HCCSCD Contact Person: Kelly Doyal, 713-755-2548 [Kelly.Doyal@csc.hctx.net](mailto:Kelly.Doyal@csc.hctx.net)

Alternate HCCSCD Contact Person: Trina Willis, 713-755-2709 [Trina.Willis@csc.hctx.net](mailto:Trina.Willis@csc.hctx.net)

IVR: 713-220-3497

County Clerk, Public Service: 713-755-8297

Jail: 713-755-5300