

MMRMHC

- Potential reduced charges
- Potential deferral of the charge
- Reduced cost to your client
- Appropriate treatment for your client
- Potential reduced incarceration time

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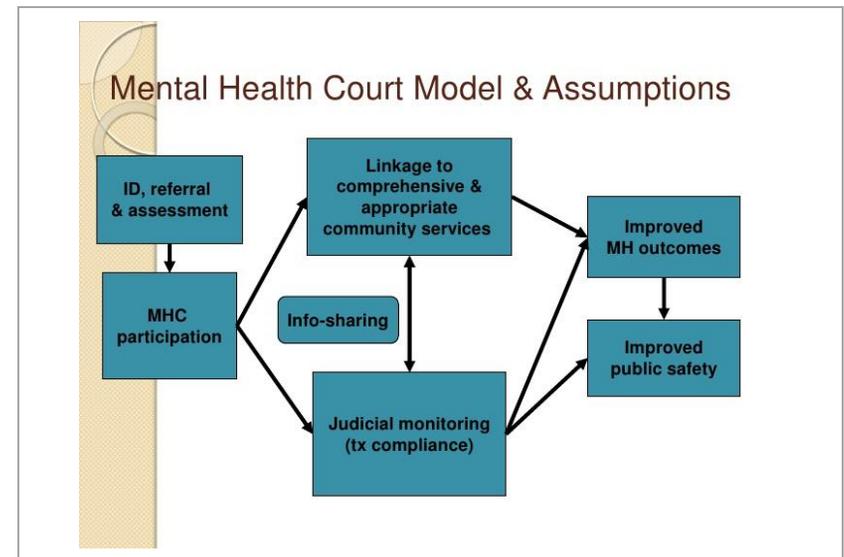
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The Defense Attorney's Guide to the Mid-Michigan Regional Mental Health Court



MMRMHC

Serving Gratiot, Montcalm, and Clinton Counties

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Common Client Concerns

Electronic Monitoring

Phase 1 of the program requires completion of the electronic monitoring program through OCC. MMRMHC covers the cost of the program for your client. EM is used to increase stability for your client as he or she begins achieving clinical treatment goals.

There are too many things to do

Some clients are overwhelmed at the thought of attending counseling, seeing the coordinator, completing testing, and attending review hearings. We will work with your client to combine as many appointments as possible, and will help with transportation issues.

I don't need help

A mental illness is a medical condition that disrupts a person's thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others and daily functioning. Just as diabetes is a disorder of the pancreas, mental illnesses are medical conditions that often result in a diminished capacity for coping with the ordinary demands of life. Wanting to resolve problems is wise, not weak. Seeking therapy allows you to get support and help with issues that are common for many people.

MHC facts

Mental Health Courts improve quality of life for the client, increase public safety, and reduce costs for the community.

"...one study conducted in 2004 did show a dramatic improvement in recidivism levels. Portland State University researcher Heidi Herinckx followed 368 cases in the Clark County, Wash. Mental Health Court. Mental health court alumni were 4.1 times less likely to re-offend, and probation violations dropped by 62 percent. The percentage of those in the group with three or more arrests dropped from 26 percent to an astonishing 3 percent. In Broward County, statistics have shown that defendants are twice as likely to get counseling and other forms of psychiatric help -- and no more likely to be re-arrested for another crime -- if they choose mental health court rather than the traditional judicial process, even though they spend far fewer days in jail."-PBS.org

- An estimated 15-20% of inmates have a mental illness
- Clients with untreated mental illnesses are more likely to be homeless, unemployed, and have a criminal history
- If they adhere to treatment: fewer arrests/revocations, decreased jail/prison days, fewer emergency visits, and less hospital stays

Benefits for your client

Mental Health Treatment

Your client will be connected to needed services such as:
Individual, group, and family therapy
Medication Assisted Therapy
Behavioral Treatment Services
Case Management Services

Reduced incarceration time; potential reduced charge

In some cases prosecutors are willing to offer reduced charges if your client completes the MMRMHC program.

Reduced jail time for participants (versus traditional probation) is part of the MMRMHC program design.

Reduced out-of-pocket expenses

MMRMHC helps cover some of the costs that your client would incur on traditional probation, such as: Electronic monitoring counseling, drug testing, transportation

Possibility of a deferral under MCL 600.1095

With prosecutor approval, some cases qualify for a mental health court deferral under MCL 600.1095. A full description of the deferral is available under MCL 600.1098.

Getting Started

What qualifies my client for MHC

Legal: Cannot be charged with or have been convicted of a violent crime resulting in great bodily harm or death, or any CSC offense. Must live in Gratiot, Montcalm, or Clinton County.

Clinical: Must have an axis 1 diagnosis that is severe and persistent, for which there is a known treatment, and which contributes to the criminal behavior.

Commonly known axis 1 diagnoses: bi-polar disorder, schizophrenia, and depression.

Mental illness is a substantial disorder of mood or thought which significantly impairs judgment, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, and the ability to cope with the ordinary demands of life

Talk to the prosecutor about MHC for your client

- Possibility for reduced charges and/or dismissal of some charges
- May make a recommendation for reduction in jail time
- May qualify for the mental health court deferral

MMRMHC Mission Statement

The Mid-Michigan Regional Mental Health Court's mission is to improve mental health, promote self-sufficiency, reduce recidivism, and offer cost effective alternatives to incarceration and hospitalization for participants. The Mid-Michigan Regional Mental Health Court (MMRMHC) provides community protection with an integrated continuum of care through the development and utilization of community resources. The MMRMHC holds defendants accountable and assists offenders to achieve long-term stability, become law-abiding citizens, and become successful family/community members.

What does your client have to do while in the program?

- Attend review hearings 1-3 times/month
- Complete treatment as directed
- Meet with the program coordinator 1-5 times/month
- Complete drug testing as directed
- Spend the first 90 days on an electronic monitor*
- Program duration is 12-18 months

* While most participants will only have 90 days of electronic monitoring, some participants may be required to spend more than 90 days. This varies based on the discretion of the MMRMHC team.