

# Mental Health Court Facts

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

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

*"...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*

## Contact Us

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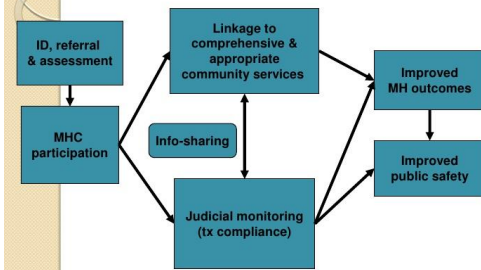
**MID MICHIGAN REGIONAL  
MENTAL HEALTH COURT**  
245 E Newark St.  
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## MID MICHIGAN REGIONAL MENTAL HEALTH COURT

*Serving Gratiot, Montcalm  
and Clinton counties.*

## Mental Health Court Model & Assumptions



## What is mental health court?

The Mid-Michigan Regional Mental Health Court is a twelve to eighteen month program that integrates criminal justice resources, case management, and mental health treatment services in Gratiot, Montcalm, and Clinton counties.

### Reasons to complete the mental health court program:

- Possibility of reduced charge\*
- Possibility of less jail time\*
- Possibility of a deferral under MCL 600.1095\*
- Treatment that you need & the program helps with the cost
- Help with medications
- Help getting into other programs or receiving other services that would benefit you

\*Subject to approval from the prosecuting attorney, and the court as necessary.

### What do I 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 a tether\*

\* While most participants will spend only 90 days on tether, some participants may be required to spend more than 90 days on a tether-this varies based on the discretion of the MMRMHC team.

### Who will know about my participation in the program?

The review hearings are open to the public, and anyone may attend those hearings. However, only general progress is discussed. Nothing specific about your treatment is mentioned in court.

Your court file is also open to the public, unless you are on deferred probation. One of the conditions of your probation will be that you complete the Mid-Michigan Regional Mental Health Court program as directed, and that will be public record.

Treatment will be completed through the county community mental health program. Your assessment results will be shared with the mental health court team. Once you are accepted into the program you will begin treatment. At that point you will be asked to sign a release that will allow your treatment provider to discuss your case with the following members of the Mental Health Court team:

- The program coordinator
- The MMRMHC judge(s)
- Your probation officer
- The prosecuting attorney
- The sheriff or representative
- Office of Community Corrections
- MMRMHC defense attorney
- The program manager

If you decide to, you may also sign a release to allow your treatment provider to discuss your case with other people who may be supportive of your participation in the program, such as:

- Your spouse
- Your child who is over the age of 18
- Your employer
- A church member
- A close friend
- Other friends and family members of your choosing