

West Michigan Regional Sobriety Court Program

The West Michigan Regional Sobriety Court Program is for individuals who have been arrested for *at least* their second offense of drinking and driving. The intensive program is approximately 14 months long *at minimum* and requires a variety of components that participants must complete. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Random alcohol and drug testing which can occur up to 7 days per week at 62B
 2. Intensive Outpatient Counseling
 3. Attendance at support group meetings up to 5 times a week
 4. Weekly probation appointments
 5. Bi-monthly and monthly court review sessions
 6. Community service
 7. Wear a SCRAM alcohol tether
 8. Any other conditions the case manager and/or Judge deems is necessary.
- Individuals who are accepted into the program are not allowed to operate a motor vehicle for the first 60-90 days of the program *and* not until the program case manager and Judge decides this is allowed. All individuals **MUST** have a breath alcohol ignition interlock device (“blow and go”) installed in their vehicle before SOS will grant a restricted driver’s license.
 - **THERE IS NO GUARANTEE YOU WILL BE GRANTED A RESTRICTED DRIVER’S LICENSE! SOS DOES HAVE THE ABILITY TO BLOCK AN INDIVIDUAL FROM OBTAINING A RESTRICTED DRIVER’S LICENSE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS.** It would be the participants responsibility to find out what these “holds” are and how they can be lifted if they are in place.
 - It is the participants responsibility to make sure that they are able to get to all appointments for the first 60-90 days while they cannot drive.
 - It is the participants responsibility to make sure they make it to all scheduled appointments and court dates. If this means that arrangements need to be made with your employer, that is your responsibility.

Application requirements include, but are not limited to:

- MUST be a legal resident with a valid social security number.
- MUST be able to read, understand, and participate in all program requirements (including counseling, support group meetings, etc.).
 - If needed, MUST provide their own interpreter for outside services that are required.
 - All participants are required to attend services outside of the court. They must be able to participate and understand what is required in these services. If the individual does not speak or understand English, and an agency cannot be located that can provide services in the needed language, the individual MUST provide and pay for their own interpreter to attend all session with them. If this is not possible, the individual will not be eligible to participate in the program.
- MUST be emotionally, mentally, intellectually, and physically capable to participate in the program.
 - If an individual has major medical issues which will keep them from being able to meet the minimum requirements for the program, they will not be accepted into the program.
- MUST reside within Kent County (but *not* within the City of Grand Rapids).
- MUST have an identifiable substance abuse issue.
- MUST have NO pattern of past violent behavior.
- Cannot be a registered sex offender or have prior convictions for crimes under any subsections of Michigan Legislature section 750.145.

Application Process and Form

Applying for the West Michigan Regional Sobriety Court Program is very specific. **All application conditions must be met regardless of circumstances.** This is to maintain a fair and equal opportunity for every client, whether being represented by an attorney or representing themselves. **The West Michigan Regional Sobriety Court team is responsible for making the final decision for applicant entry.** As a regional program, we accept clients with cases from all over the state, however, the individual MUST reside within Kent County (but *not* in the direct City of Grand Rapids).

- Client may plea before being further considered for the program but is not required to do so.
- Provide a police report, substance use evaluation, and prosecutorial statement offering no objection to Sobriety Court to Andrea (zufelta@kentwood.us).
- THE CLIENT MUST then schedule an appointment with Andrea for a risk and needs assessment and program interview after all required documents are received (616-554-0722).
- The team must vote on approval or denial of entry.
- The client CANNOT be sentenced prior to the team decision.
- All up-front jail time must be served before the client starts the program in the jurisdiction in which the case is out of.

If you have questions about these requirements, please contact Andrea Zufelt at 616-554-0722 or at zufelta@kentwood.us.

Please Note: If the resources are not available or the applicant is unable to meet these requirements, they will not be accepted into the program. ALL participants are required to meet the same program requirements. These elements are required by the State of Michigan.

Process for Application

- All actions must be done PRIOR TO SENTENCING.
- **No client will be accepted if they have already been sentenced.**
 - **A client with a withdrawn sentence will also not be accepted. THIS IS A PROGRAM AND GRANT REQUIREMENT!**
- Please allow 4-5 weeks for this process due to calendar scheduling for the team discussion.
- All fees associated with this process are the responsibility of the client.
 1. Forward the application, police report, substance use evaluation, and prosecutorial statement to Andrea Zufelt (Fax: 616-698-6428 or email: zufelta@kentwood.us).
 2. THE CLIENT MUST contact Andrea at 616-554-0722 to schedule a date and time to complete a risk and needs assessment, interview and review of the program.
 3. Once steps 1 & 2 are completed and all required documentation has been received, the team will discuss the individual's potential entry into the program.
 4. You will be notified of the team's decision via email.

West Michigan Regional Sobriety Court Program



Application for Screening

Case # _____ Jurisdictional Court _____

Defense Attorney _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Defendant FULL Name _____

Other names used in the past _____

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YYYY) _____ Last four of SS# _____

Driver's License or State ID Number _____

Current **COMPLETE** Address _____

Applicant Phone Number _____ Applicant email _____

I understand that this screening is only the first step in seeking entrance into the 62B District Court Regional Sobriety Court Program. Acceptance by the prosecutor does not guarantee admission into the program. If there are any questions regarding the screening application you can contact Andrea Zufelt at 616-554-0722.

I declare that the above statements are true to the best of my information, knowledge and belief.

Signature _____ Date _____

PLEASE NOTE:

- **THE CLIENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR CONTACTING ANDREA TO SCHEDULE A PROGRAM INTERVIEW**
- **Minimum 60 day post program entry wait time before RDL approval**
- **\$1200.00 participant fee in addition to any fines and costs imposed by the transferring court**
- **Minimum 60 days SCRAM alcohol tether to be paid for by the participant.**