

ENGROSSED SENATE  
BILL NO. 504

By: Crain and Easley of the  
Senate

and

Balkman of the House

[ drug courts - eligibility - hearings - allowing  
objection - effective date -  
emergency ]

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 22 O.S. 2001, Section 471.2, is amended to read as follows:

Section 471.2 A. The initial opportunity for review of an offender for a drug court program shall occur within four (4) days after the arrest and detention or incarceration of the offender in the city or county jail, or if an immediate bond release program is available through the jail, the initial opportunity for review shall occur in conjunction with the bond release program. When a drug court is established, the following information shall be initially reviewed by the sheriff or designee, if the offender is held in a county jail, or by the chief of police or designee, if the offender is held in a city jail:

1. The offender's arrest or charge does not involve a crime of violence against any person, unless there is a specific treatment program in the jurisdiction designed to address domestic violence and the offense is related to domestic violence and substance abuse;

2. The offender has no prior felony conviction in this state or another state for a violent offense, except as may be allowed in a domestic violence treatment program authorized by the drug court program. It shall be sufficient for this paragraph that a criminal

history records name search was conducted and indicated no apparent violent offense;

3. The offender's arrest or charge does not involve a violation of the Trafficking In Illegal Drugs Act, ~~Section 2-414 et seq. of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes;~~

4. The offender has committed a felony offense; and

5. The offender:

- a. admits to having a substance abuse addiction,
- b. appears to have a substance abuse addiction,
- c. is known to have a substance abuse addiction, or
- d. the arrest or charge is based upon an offense eligible for the drug court program.

B. If it appears to the reviewing officer that the offender may be potentially eligible for the drug court program based upon a review of the information in subsection A of this section, the offender shall be given an eligibility form which may be voluntarily completed by the offender, and the reviewing officer shall file the criminal case record within the time prescribed in subsection E of Section ~~2~~ 471.1 of this ~~act~~ title. The offender shall not automatically be considered for the program based upon this review. The offender must request consideration for the drug court program as provided in subsection C of this section and shall have approval from the district attorney before being considered for the drug court program. The eligibility form shall describe the drug court program for which the offender may be eligible, including, but not limited to:

1. A full description of the drug court process and investigation;

2. A general explanation of the roles and authority of the supervising staff, the district attorney, the defense attorney, the treatment provider, the offender, and the judge in the drug court program;

3. A clear statement that the drug court judge may decide after a hearing not to consider the offender for the drug court program and in that event the offender will be prosecuted in the traditional manner;

4. A clear statement that the offender is required, before consideration in the program, to enter a guilty plea as part of a written plea agreement;

5. A clear statement that the plea agreement will specify the offense to which the guilty plea will be entered and will state any penalty to be imposed for the offense, both in the event of a successful completion of the drug court program, and in the event of a failure to complete the program;

6. A clear statement that the offender must voluntarily agree to:

- a. waive the right to a speedy trial,
- b. waive the right to a preliminary hearing,
- c. the terms and conditions of a treatment plan, and
- d. sign a performance contract with the court;

7. A clear statement that the offender, if accepted into the drug court program, may not be incarcerated for the offense in a state correctional institution or jail upon successful completion of the program;

8. A clear statement that during participation in the drug court program should the offender:

- a. fail to comply with the terms of the agreements,
- b. be convicted of a misdemeanor offense which reflects a propensity for violence,
- c. be arrested for a violent felony offense, or
- d. be convicted of any felony offense,

the offender may be required, after a court hearing, to be revoked from the program and sentenced without trial pursuant to the punishment provisions of the negotiated plea agreement; and

9. An explanation of the criminal record retention and disposition resulting from participation in the drug court program following successful completion of the program.

C. 1. The offender may request consideration for the drug court program as follows:

- a. if the offender is incarcerated, the offender must sign and complete the eligibility form and return it to the sheriff, if the offender is held in the county jail; or to the chief of police, if the offender is held in a city jail. The sheriff or chief of police, upon receipt of the eligibility form, shall file the form with the district attorney at the time of filing the criminal case record or at any time during the period of incarceration when the offender completes the form after the criminal case record has been filed, or
- b. after release of the offender from incarceration, the offender must sign and complete the eligibility form and file it with the district attorney or the court, prior to or at the time of either initial appearance or arraignment.

2. Any offender desiring legal consultation prior to signing or completing the form for consideration in a drug court program shall be referred to the defense attorney of the drug court team, or a public defender, if the offender is indigent, or allowed to consult with private legal counsel.

3. Nothing contained in the provisions of this subsection shall prohibit the drug court from considering any offender deemed eligible for the program at any time prior to sentencing whose case has been prosecuted in the traditional manner, or upon a violation of parole or probation conditions relating to substance abuse, upon

recommendation of the district attorney as provided in Section ~~9~~  
471.8 of this ~~act~~ title.

D. When an offender has filed a voluntary request to be considered for a drug court program on the appropriate form, the district attorney shall ~~indicate his or her approval of the request by filing~~ file the form with the drug court judge. ~~Upon the filing of the request form by the district attorney,~~ an initial hearing shall be set before the drug court judge. The hearing shall be not less than three (3) work days nor more than five (5) work days after the date of the filing of the request form. Notice of the hearing shall be given to the drug court team, or in the event no drug court team is designated, to the offender, the district attorney, and to the public defender. The offender shall be required to notify any private legal counsel of the date and time of the hearing.

SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 22 O.S. 2001, Section 471.3, is amended to read as follows:

Section 471.3 A. At the initial hearing for consideration of an offender for a drug court program, the district attorney, subject to appeal to the presiding judge of the judicial district, or a designee, shall determine whether or not:

1. The offender has ~~approval~~ filed a voluntary request on the appropriate form to be considered for the drug court program;

2. The offender has been admitted to the program within the preceding five (5) years; and

3. Any statutory preclusion, other prohibition, or program limitation exists and is applicable to considering the offender for the program.

The district attorney may object to the consideration of an offender for the drug court program at the initial hearing.

B. If the offender voluntarily consents to be considered for the drug court program, and has signed and filed the required form requesting consideration, ~~and no objection has been made by the~~

~~district attorney,~~ the court shall refer the offender for a drug court investigation as provided in Section ~~5~~ 471.4 of this ~~act,~~ title and set a date for a hearing to determine final eligibility for admittance into the program.

C. Upon any objection of the district attorney for consideration of an offender for the program, the court shall ~~deny consideration of~~ determine whether the offender's ~~request for participation in the drug court program~~ offense is prohibited by law from participating in drug court. Upon denial for consideration in the drug court program at the initial hearing for a prohibited offense, the criminal case shall proceed in the traditional manner. ~~An objection by the district attorney and the subsequent denial of consideration of the offender for the program shall not preclude any future consideration of the offender for the drug court program with the approval of the district attorney.~~

SECTION 3. AMENDATORY 22 O.S. 2001, Section 471.4, is amended to read as follows:

Section 471.4 A. When directed by the drug court judge, the supervising staff for the drug court program shall make an investigation of the offender under consideration to determine whether or not the offender is a person who:

1. Would benefit from the drug court program; and
2. Is appropriate for the drug court program.

B. The drug court investigation shall be conducted through a standardized screening test and personal interview. A more comprehensive assessment may take place at the time the offender enters the treatment portion of the program and may take place at any time after placement in the drug court program. The investigation shall determine the original treatment plan which the offender will be required to follow, if admitted to the program. Any subsequent assessments or evaluations by the treatment provider, if the offender is admitted to the program, may be used to determine

modifications needed to the original treatment plan. The investigation shall include, but not be limited to, the following information:

1. The person's age and physical condition;
2. Employment and military service records;
3. Educational background and literacy level;
4. Community and family relations;
5. Prior and current drug and alcohol use;
6. Mental health and medical treatment history, including substance abuse treatment history;
7. Demonstrable motivation; and
8. Other mitigating or aggravating factors.

C. The drug court investigation shall be conducted after the initial hearing for consideration and before the hearing for final determination of eligibility for the drug court program. When an offender is appropriate for admittance to the program, the supervising staff shall make a recommendation for the treatment program or programs that are available in the jurisdiction and which would benefit the offender and accept the offender. The investigation findings and recommendations for program placement shall be reported to the drug court judge, the district attorney, the offender, and the defense attorney prior to the next scheduled hearing.

D. The district attorney and the defense attorney for the offender shall independently review the findings and recommendations of the drug court investigation report. For an offender to remain eligible for consideration in the program, both the district attorney and the defense attorney must accept the recommended treatment plan, and shall negotiate the terms of the written plea agreement with all punishment provisions specified before the scheduled hearing date for determining final eligibility. Upon failure of the district attorney and defense attorney to negotiate

the written plea agreement, the court shall determine the appropriate punishment or the criminal case shall be withdrawn from the drug court program and processed in the traditional manner. The punishment provisions of the written plea agreement shall emphasize reparation to the victim, community, and state.

E. The hearing to determine final eligibility shall be set not less than three (3) work days nor more than seven (7) work days from the date of the initial hearing for consideration, unless extended by the court.

F. For purposes of this act, "supervising staff" means a Department of Corrections employee assigned to monitor offenders in the drug court program, a community provider assigned to monitor offenders in the program, a state or local agency representative or a certified treatment provider participating in the program, or a person designated by the judge to perform drug court investigations.

SECTION 4. AMENDATORY 22 O.S. 2001, Section 471.6, is amended to read as follows:

Section 471.6 A. The drug court judge shall conduct a hearing as required by subsection E of Section 471.4 of this title to determine final eligibility by considering:

1. Whether or not the offender voluntarily consents to the program requirements;

2. Whether or not to accept the offender based upon the findings and recommendations of the drug court investigation authorized by Section 471.4 of this title;

3. Whether or not there is a written plea agreement, and if so, whether the terms and conditions of the written negotiated plea by the court or between the district attorney, the defense attorney, and the offender are appropriate and consistent with the penalty provisions and conditions of other similar cases;

4. Whether or not there is an appropriate treatment program available to the offender and whether or not there is a recommended treatment plan; and

5. Any information relevant to determining eligibility; provided, however, an offender shall not be denied admittance to any drug court program based upon an inability to pay court costs or other costs or fees.

B. At the hearing to determine final eligibility for the drug court program, the judge shall not grant any admission of any offender to the program when:

1. The required treatment plan and plea agreement have not been completed;

2. The program funding or availability of treatment has been exhausted;

3. The treatment program is unwilling to accept the offender;

4. The offender was ineligible for consideration by the nature of a violent offense at the time of arrest, and the charge has been modified to meet the eligibility criteria of the program; or

5. The offender is inappropriate for admission to the program, in the discretion of the judge.

C. At the final eligibility hearing, if evidence is presented that was not discovered by the drug court investigation, the district attorney or the defense attorney may make an objection and may ask the court to withdraw the plea agreement previously negotiated or determined by the court. The court shall determine whether to proceed and overrule the objection, to sustain the objection and transfer the case for traditional criminal prosecution, or to require further negotiations of the plea or punishment provisions. The decision of the judge for or against eligibility and admission shall be final.

D. When the court accepts the treatment plan with the written plea agreement, the offender, upon entering the plea as agreed by

the parties, shall be ordered and escorted immediately into the program. The offender must have voluntarily signed the necessary court documents before the offender may be admitted to treatment. The court documents shall include:

1. Waiver of the offender's rights to speedy trial;
2. A written plea agreement which sets forth the offense charged, the penalty to be imposed for the offense in the event of a breach of the agreement, and the penalty to be imposed, if any, in the event of a successful completion of the treatment program; provided, however, incarceration shall be prohibited when the offender completes the treatment program;
3. A written treatment plan which is subject to modification at any time during the program; and
4. A written performance contract requiring the offender to enter the treatment program as directed by the court and participate until completion, withdrawal, or removal by the court.

E. If admission into the drug court program is denied, the criminal case shall be returned to the traditional criminal docket and shall proceed as provided for any other criminal case.

F. At the time an offender is admitted to the drug court program, any bail or undertaking on behalf of the offender shall be exonerated.

G. The period of time during which an offender may participate in the active treatment portion of the drug court program shall be not less than six (6) months nor more than twenty-four (24) months and may include a period of supervision not less than six (6) months nor more than one (1) year following the treatment portion of the program. All participating treatment providers shall be certified by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and shall be selected and evaluated for performance-based effectiveness annually by the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Treatment programs shall be designed to be completed

within twelve (12) months and shall have relapse prevention and evaluation components.

H. The drug court judge shall order the offender to pay court costs, treatment costs, drug testing costs, a program user fee not to exceed Twenty Dollars (\$20.00) per month, and necessary supervision fees, unless the offender is indigent. The drug court judge shall establish a schedule for the payment of costs and fees. The cost for treatment, drug testing, and supervision shall be set by the treatment and supervision providers respectively and made part of the court's order for payment. User fees shall be set by the drug court judge within the maximum amount authorized by this subsection and payable directly to the court clerk for the benefit and administration of the drug court program. Treatment, drug testing, and supervision costs shall be paid to the respective providers. The court clerk shall collect all other costs and fees ordered. The remaining user fees shall be remitted to the State Treasurer by the court clerk for deposit in the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services' Drug Abuse Education and Treatment Revolving Fund established pursuant to Section 2-503.2 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes. Court orders for costs and fees pursuant to this subsection shall not be limited for purposes of collection to the maximum term of imprisonment for which the offender could have been imprisoned for the offense, nor shall any court order for costs and fees be limited by any term of probation, parole, supervision, treatment, or extension thereof. Court orders for costs and fees shall remain an obligation of the offender with court monitoring until fully paid.

SECTION 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 2005.

SECTION 6. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

Passed the Senate the 9th day of March, 2005.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate

Passed the House of Representatives the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_,  
2005.

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Presiding Officer of the House  
of Representatives