

**Local Rules of Court  
Columbiana County Court of Common Pleas**

**Rule 5.02 -Specialized Docket**

- A. *Establishment of the Columbiana County Court of Common Pleas Drug Court Program***—This specialized docket has been established by Judge Megan L. Bickerton and the Director of Specialty Dockets under the authority of Sup. R. 36.02, Specialized Docket Standards, Appendix I Rules of Superintendence, and Local Rule 5.02 which states that the Columbiana County Court of Common Pleas Drug Court Program Judge Megan L. Bickerton will preside over the Specialized Docket.
- B. *Placement in the Columbiana County Court of Common Pleas Drug Court Program***—The potential participant in the specialized docket program may be identified pre- or post-conviction, or if the participant is eligible for “Intervention in Lieu of Conviction.” Law enforcement officers, probation officers, prosecutors, defense counsel, case managers, or substance abuse treatment providers can identify potential participants. Once identified the presiding Judge will do an official entry requiring the individual to be assessed for the requirements of the specialized docket.

Legal criteria can include but are not limited to the participant must be at least 18 years of age, is determined that there is a substance abuse issue, is charged with a felony charge of the fourth or fifth degree, and one of their initial charges must have been related to substance abuse.

Clinical criteria to enter the program would include but are not limited to, the participant being assessed and assigned a diagnosis related to a substance use addiction. This diagnosis would include alcohol, prescribed prescription medication being abused, and illicit street substances.

Criteria that would disqualify an individual from admission into the Common Pleas Drug Court Program would be if the participant is currently enrolled in a similar program within the same county, or if the individual is not a resident of Columbiana County. The participant’s criminal history will also be reviewed to help determine if the participant would be eligible to participate in the Common Pleas Drug Court Program.

- C. *The Columbiana County Court of Common Pleas Drug Court Program***—If the participant is eligible for admission into the Recovery Program, they must adhere to all terms and conditions set forth in the participant agreement, participant handbook, and program description. Once entered the program, the participant must comply with all substance use and mental health treatment, complete all medical, mental health, and substance use assessments, as well as take all medications as prescribed. The participant will need to complete their substance use and mental health treatment, as well as any medical treatment through an approved licensed treatment provider. Mandatory meetings with the participant’s probation officer, as well as frequent status review hearings before the Judge to ensure the participant’s compliance with the Common Pleas Drug Court Program.

**D. Termination from the Columbiana County Court of Common Pleas Drug Court Program**—Termination criteria for the participants are listed within the Program Description, Participant Handbook, as well as Participant Agreement. The participant within the program would be subject to *Successful Termination, Neutral Termination, or Unsuccessful Termination*. Criteria can include but are not limited to:

**Successful Completion:** *Demonstrating a period of abstinence, completing community service, paying all fees, regular attendance at sober support meetings, demonstrating ability in the community, etc.*

**Neutral Discharge:** *A serious medical condition, death, or other factors that would prohibit the individual from successfully completing the program.*

**Unsuccessful Discharge:** *Ongoing non-compliance with treatment, probation, or program rules, non-compliance with prescription medication, continued use of illegal substances, new criminal convictions, continued program infractions resulting in graduated sanctions, etc.*