

## Who is eligible for the Mental Health Court?

Most minors begin the program by being referred by their Probation Officer. Mental Health Court is looking for participants who:

- Are 10-17 years old;
- Have a DSM-5 mental health diagnosis, other than or in addition to: substance abuse, ADHD, IDD, autism, or pervasive development disorder;
- Are involved in the juvenile justice system, but not adjudicated for a sex crime;
- Have an IQ of 70 or greater.



In addition, both the family and the child must be motivated to participate in the program and commit to the program requirements.

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# Juvenile Mental Health Intervention Program



**COLLIN COUNTY**  
collincountytx.gov

## What is Mental Health Court?

The Collin County Mental Health Court program is a juvenile specialty court developed to support youth involved in the juvenile justice system that are dealing with mental health issues. The goal is to help the youth successfully complete probation, while helping them get connected to services to benefit the youth and family. The mental health court team will guide the juvenile and family by coordinating treatment, counseling, community resources, supervision, and accountability.

The team members include:

- Juvenile Court Judge Cynthia Wheless
- Program Coordinator Sheila Shaw
- Probation Officer Bill Hale
- Clinical Supervisor Michelle Morris, LCSW
- Psychologist Robert D. Lackey, PhD
- Treatment Providers
  - Lifepath Systems
  - Private Therapists
- Family-based Workers
  - Angela Nicholson
  - Reggie Lewis
- Juvenile Prosecutors
  - Kelly Ludy
  - Paul Anfosso
  - Sarah Cary
- Defense Attorneys
  - Karen Haywood
  - Linda Landers
  - Maria Tu
- Educational Liaison Juli Ferraro



## The Program

Our Mental Health Court emphasizes community-based treatment, meaning participants usually remain at home while in the program, with the support of intensive supervision, counseling and supportive case management.

The program is strength-based; so is focused on the strengths of participants and their families, providing support, where needed, to remove barriers. Youth are rewarded for their accomplishments, while being held accountable for negative behaviors.

Accountability and treatment are the hallmarks of the Mental Health Court model.

### Program Components:

- Supportive Case Management with Home Visits;
- Frequent Court Appearances and increased supervision;
- Academic Advocacy;
- Individual and/or Group Counseling;
- Family counseling and/or Parent groups;
- Referrals may be made to community resources, as needed, such as mental health services, home based services, substance abuse treatment, and/or additional services and resources.



## How is Mental Health Court Different?

The mental health court approach differs from traditional court, in that the judge, prosecutor, and defense attorneys all work together, as a team, sharing in the decision-making process. The team members are dedicated to helping young people.

## What happens now?

Your Probation Officer may refer you to the program. A thorough evaluation, including recommendations, will be completed by one of our licensed therapists. The team will meet to discuss possible acceptance.

Family participation is essential to success. The participant and their parents attend regular court appearances throughout the program.

## Program Phases:

The **Mental Health Court program** averages one year in length, and consists of 4 phases.

**Bronze** (minimum of 30 days) - Orientation

**Silver** (minimum of 90 days) - Stabilization

**Gold** (minimum of 60 days) - Transition

**Platinum** (minimum of 60 days) - Aftercare/Maintenance