COLLIN COUNTY

Adult Mental Health Court

Participant Handbook



2100 Bloomdale Road, McKinney, TX 75071
Updated 2026

Honorable Jennifer Edgeworth
219th District Court

Honorable Lance Baxter
County Court at Law #3

Welcome to the Adult Mental Health Court

We are glad you are here. Joining this program takes courage, and we know that coming to court is not easy. This handbook was written to walk you through what to expect, step by step.

You are not just a case number to us. You are a person with your own story, your own strengths, and your own path forward. Our team — the judges, your attorney, the prosecutor, your Community Supervision Officer, and your Program Coordinator — is here to work with you, not against you.

You Have a Say

This program works best when you are an active partner in your own recovery. Your voice, your goals, and your choices matter here. If something in this handbook is unclear, or you have questions at any point, ask your Program Coordinator or Community Supervision Officer. We would rather explain something twice than have you feel left in the dark.

Why This Program Exists

The Collin County Adult Mental Health Court (AMHC) exists because we know that mental illness and involvement with the criminal justice system are often connected — and that treatment, not just punishment, gives people the best chance at a stable, healthy life. Our goal is to help you manage your mental health, build stability, and move forward without your case following you for the rest of your life.

If you complete the program successfully, your case(s) will be dismissed, and we will help you begin the process of clearing your record through expungement.

Our Core Values

Everything we do together is built on three values. We ask you to hold yourself to them, and we hold ourselves to them too:

- Dignity and Respect — for yourself and for others.
- Personal Responsibility — owning your choices, both the wins and the setbacks.
- Honesty — with your treatment team, and with yourself.

How We Work With You

Because many of our participants have experienced difficult or traumatic events, our whole team is trained to approach this program with that in mind. This means we try to:

- Create a space where you feel physically and emotionally safe.
- Be honest and clear with you, and expect the same in return.
- Connect you with peer support when it's helpful.
- Give you real choices and a real voice in your own treatment planning whenever possible.
- Pay attention to how culture, history, gender, and past trauma may shape your experience — and respond with that understanding, not judgment.

If a rule or a moment in this program ever feels re-traumatizing or unsafe for you, please tell someone on your team. We want to know, and we will work with you on it.

You Are Never Alone in This

Your treatment team meets regularly to talk about your progress — not to look for reasons to catch you doing something wrong, but to make sure you are getting what you need. Every recommendation about your case, from moving to the next phase to receiving extra support, is discussed by the full team.

Who This Program Is For

AMHC is open to adults age 17 and older, of any gender, who have a pending misdemeanor or felony case in Collin County and a mental health diagnosis that existed before the offense. Eligible diagnoses include, among others, Bipolar Disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Schizoaffective Disorder, and Schizophrenia.

To take part, you must:

- Have a pending case in Collin County (charges already resolved are not eligible).
- Physically live in Collin County.
- Have a qualifying mental health diagnosis.
- Be willing to participate voluntarily and follow the program's requirements.
- Be approved by the presiding judge and the District Attorney's Office.

A few situations make someone ineligible for the program — for example, certain serious violent offenses, sexual offenses, or an active need for inpatient psychiatric care at the time of application. If you are not approved for admission, you will still be connected with community resources that may help you, and the reasons for the decision will be explained to you.

How You Get Started

Getting into AMHC involves a few steps, and we try to move through them as quickly as we responsibly can:

Step 1: Referral

Most participants are referred by their defense attorney or the District Attorney's Office. An application is submitted and reviewed by the Program Coordinator and the Assistant District Attorney.

Step 2: Clinical Evaluation

A licensed mental health professional will complete an evaluation. This includes an assessment, a diagnosis, and treatment recommendations. This step makes sure the program — and the right kind of treatment — is a good fit for you.

Step 3: Screening Interview

You, your attorney, the Program Coordinator, and your Community Supervision Officer will meet to talk through the program in detail. At this meeting, you will:

- Receive and review this Participant Handbook, and sign to confirm you received it.
- Learn about the program requirements.
- Get a copy of the court schedule.
- Have the chance to ask any questions you have.

Step 4: Team Decision

The judges and the full treatment team review your case together and decide whether to admit you, always with your safety, the community's safety, and your treatment needs in mind. Your attorney will be notified of the decision.

What Admission Means

By entering the program, you agree to admit to the offense, and you give up your right to a speedy trial (and speedy indictment, if applicable) while you're in the program. Your attorney will walk you through exactly what this means for you before you agree to anything.

How the Program Works: Three Phases

The program typically takes between 9 months and 2 years, broken into three phases. Each phase lasts at least 90 days. How quickly you move through them depends on your progress, your compliance, and your individual needs — this isn't a race, and the team will work with you at a pace that fits your situation.

To move up to the next phase, you generally need to be in full compliance with your current phase's requirements. Your team looks at things like attendance, medication compliance, participation in treatment, and progress toward your personal goals.

Phase One: Intervention and Maintenance

This phase is the most structured, because it's where we focus on getting you stabilized and connected to the right care.

- Court: twice a month.
- Community Supervision Officer visits: twice a month.
- Field visits will occur during this phase (see the Field Visits section).
- Travel requests are not approved during this phase, except in extenuating circumstances.

Focus areas: getting connected with mental health treatment and medication management, addressing housing, finances, or other basic needs, and building your individualized treatment plan together with your team.

Phase Two: Active Recovery and Maintenance

As you build on the progress from Phase One, your court requirements ease up a bit as a way of recognizing that progress.

- Court: once a month.
- Community Supervision Officer visits: twice a month.
- Field visits continue during this phase.
- Travel requests are not approved during this phase, except in extenuating circumstances.

Focus areas: continued medication compliance, sobriety, and growth in stability at home, at work, and in your relationships.

Phase Three: Preservation and Reintegration

This final phase is about preparing you for life after the program, with less supervision as you show sustained stability.

- Court: once a month.
- Community Supervision Officer visits: once a month.
- Travel requests may be submitted and will be reviewed case by case.

Focus areas: completing your treatment goals and working with your team on a Transition to Discharge Plan that sets you up for continued success after graduation.

What's Expected of You — In Every Phase

No matter which phase you're in, here is what we ask of you:

- Attend mental health treatment and counseling as recommended, consistently.
- Take prescribed mental health medications exactly as directed by your provider.
- Submit to random drug testing as directed.
- Stay abstinent from alcohol, marijuana, CBD, Delta products, Kratom, Spices, misuse of prescription medication, and other recreational or unauthorized substances.
- Attend all court hearings and Community Supervision Officer appointments in person. Remote attendance (phone or video) is not allowed unless the Court specifically approves it.
- Avoid any new criminal offenses or arrests.
- Avoid contact with people known to be involved in harmful, criminal, or disreputable activity.
- Not form personal relationships with other AMHC participants — this keeps the focus on everyone's individual recovery.
- Work toward employment, school, or pro-social community activities.
- Keep your address and phone number current with program staff.
- Sign consent forms allowing the team to access the medical and mental health information needed to support you.

Court Appearances

AMHC holds court on the first and third Thursday of each month. Dates can occasionally change, and you'll be notified in advance if that happens.

Phase	Court Frequency
Phase One	Twice per month
Phase Two	Once per month, plus Recall Docket as directed
Phase Three	Once per month, plus Recall Docket as directed

What We Ask of You in Court

- Arrive on time and stay until the judge dismisses you.
- Call ahead if you can't make it or will be late — a missed check-in without notice can lead to a sanction.
- Silence your phone and put it away.
- Be respectful to everyone in the courtroom.
- Follow courtroom rules: no smoking, no hats, no profanity, and no weapons.

Because of privacy, only participants are allowed in the courtroom during regular sessions — family and friends can't attend, with one exception: graduation day, when your loved ones are welcome to celebrate with you.

In-Person Attendance
All court appearances must happen in person. Remote attendance by phone or video is not allowed unless the judge specifically authorizes it.

Dress Code for Court and Supervision Appointments

How we present ourselves reflects the dignity and respect at the heart of this program — for yourself and for the courtroom. Here's what we ask:

- Clothing must fully cover you — no exposed midsection, no see-through fabric, no tube tops or backless tops, and nothing very low-cut.
- No clothing with images or language about drugs, alcohol, weapons, or violence, or anything that could be offensive to others in the room.
- Pants should be worn at the waist, secured with a belt if needed.
- No hats inside the courtroom.
- Shoes must be worn at all times.

If you're ever unsure whether something is appropriate, it's okay to ask your Community Supervision Officer or Program Coordinator beforehand.

Meeting With Your Community Supervision Officer

Your Community Supervision Officer (CSO) is one of your main points of contact. They help connect you to community resources, track your progress, and support your case management.

Phase	Office Visits
Phase One	Twice per month
Phase Two	Twice per month
Phase Three	Once per month

Your CSO or the Court can increase how often you check in if that would better support you — this isn't a punishment, it's a way of making sure you're getting the right level of support.

Being Open With Your Team

We know honesty can be hard, especially when things aren't going well. But being open with your team about your progress — at home, at work or school, in treatment, and in the community — is one of the most important things you can do here. It's how we make sure you're getting the right support, and it reflects the honesty and personal responsibility this program is built on.

Field Visits

During Phase One and Phase Two, a Community Supervision Officer will visit you in person — usually at your home, but may also take place at your workplace, treatment provider’s office, or other locations relevant to your supervision plan. You'll have at least one field visit within the first 90 days of each of these phases.

Field visits are usually unannounced to provide an accurate assessment of your current circumstances and to ensure your safety and stability. This isn't about catching you off guard — it's part of how we verify that things are stable and identify any support you might need that hasn't come up yet. During a visit, the CSO may assess living conditions, your medication and treatment compliance, your support system, your overall safety, and any additional needs or convers that may affect your progress in the program.

If the CSO can't reach you for a scheduled visit, they will keep trying to make contact — a phone call or text does not take the place of an in-person visit.

Additional or increased field visits may be conducted at the discretion of the Court or CSO based on individual circumstances, identified needs, or program requirements.

Drug and Alcohol Testing

Testing is a required part of this program for every participant, regardless of your history or diagnosis. It's not about assuming the worst about you — it's a tool that helps us recognize when you're doing well and catch it quickly if you need more support.

Testing days are never fixed or predictable — you may be asked to test on any day, including weekends and holidays. Your CSO or the Court can also order additional tests at any time, for any reason, including a positive result, a noticeable change in your presentation, or simply as part of your individualized supervision plan.

Types of Testing

- Urinalysis (UA) — the standard method, conducted under staff-supervised conditions.
- Oral swab testing — used for quick, same-day results; carries the same weight as a UA if positive.
- SCRAM device (continuous alcohol monitoring) — may be used after a positive alcohol test or as part of your monitoring plan.

If a Test Can't Be Confirmed

Sometimes a test may be unable to be confirmed due to an issue with the sample. This may happen if a sample is diluted, Delta or other THC containing product is detected, or another testing concern prevents the results from being confirmed. When this happens, that test will be treated as a presumptive positive until a confirmed clean test is provided. You will be given a clear, written instructions and a specific deadline for completing a new test. You must have a confirmed clean test before moving to the next phase of the program.

If the deadline is missed, your treatment team will meet to review the situation and determine the most appropriate next steps. Depending on other circumstances, this may include additional support, extending your current phase, or other program responses, including possible removal from the program.

A missed test, refusal to test, or intentional tampering with a sample is treated as a positive test result.

The Program Pays for Testing

The program covers the cost of your required drug and alcohol testing, including UA, oral swabs, and SCRAM monitoring, through available grant funding. The program is not responsible for any costs related to SCRAM equipment damage or delinquent balances associated with such matters.

Your Mental Health Treatment

Mental health treatment is at the center of this program. If you have a diagnosed mental illness, you're required to complete an evaluation before entering the program and to stay actively engaged in treatment for as long as you're enrolled.

Staying actively engaged means:

- Attending your scheduled appointments consistently.

- Following through on your treatment provider's recommendations.
- Taking medications as prescribed.
- Telling your CSO or Program Coordinator promptly if something is getting in the way of your treatment.

If you miss treatment without a documented reason, it will be reported to the team and may lead to a graduated sanction — but our first response will always be to understand what's getting in the way and help remove that barrier, not to punish a mental health symptom.

You Get to Choose Your Provider

Your Choice, Your Care

You are not required to use a specific agency or provider. You can choose any qualified mental health professional you'd like, as long as they meet Texas licensing requirements and are willing to share your treatment progress with the team, with your signed authorization.

Qualified providers include licensed psychiatrists, psychiatric nurse practitioners, psychologists, licensed professional counselors, licensed clinical social workers, licensed marriage and family therapists, and other licensed behavioral health professionals under Texas law. Your primary care provider may continue to provide your regular medical care but cannot provide the mental health services required by the program.

To help keep your care consistent, we ask that you stick with the same mental health treatment provider throughout the program unless there's a good reason to change — for example, your provider is no longer available, a specialist referral is recommended, you've moved, or the relationship has broken down. If you want to change providers, let your CSO or Program Coordinator know within 48 hours, and get the team's approval before starting with someone new.

Your provider will be asked to share progress notes at least monthly so the team can stay informed and support you well — this information sharing only happens with your signed authorization.

Prescription Medication Policy

Medication can be an important part of recovery, and this program supports appropriate medication-assisted treatment and psychiatric medication. However, two categories of medication carry a high risk of misuse and can interfere with the goals of this program, so they are restricted while you're enrolled:

- Stimulant medications (for example: Adderall, Ritalin, Concerta, Dexedrine, Vyvanse, and similar medications).
- Benzodiazepines (for example: Xanax, Valium, Ativan, Klonopin, Restoril, and similar medications).

If you're currently prescribed one of these medications, tell your team right away. You must also let your CSO know within 48 hours of any new prescription you receive.

Incentives, Support, and Consequences

Progress here is met with recognition, and setbacks are met with a fair, consistent response — never a surprise. Everything is discussed by the full team before any decision is made, and the judge always considers the team's input.

When Things Are Going Well

Examples of how the team may recognize your progress:

- Verbal recognition and praise from the judge.
- Certificates for phase promotion and graduation.
- Gift cards.
- Fewer required court appearances or CSO check-ins.
- Applause and encouragement from the team and your peers in court.

When Extra Support Is Needed

Sometimes the team recommends additional support rather than a sanction — for example, more frequent contact with your CSO, a referral to individual or group therapy, a substance use evaluation, or a connection to workforce resources.

If Program Rules Aren't Followed

Consequences increase gradually, based on the pattern and seriousness of what's happening — a first-time slip is treated differently than a repeated pattern.

You may be given a behavior contract to help you understand what needs to change. It will explain any problems or violations and what you need to do to stay in the program. The goal is to support you and make sure you understand what is expected. We will review the contract with you and give you a written copy to keep.

Consequences may include:

- A verbal reminder or admonishment from the judge
- More frequent meetings with the judge or your CSO
- Community service hours
- A curfew
- Placement on the Recall Docket
- Increased drug testing, or use of a SCRAM device
- An essay or workbook assignment
- Speaking with the judge in court
- A phase extension
- In serious situations, jail time

If Removal From the Program Is Considered

Removal from the program is always a last resort, used only when other responses haven't worked, and it is decided by the full team with the judge's approval. It may be considered if there are repeated missed appointments or tests, ongoing substance use that isn't responding to other consequences, a new criminal offense, or an ongoing risk to community safety. If you are removed from AMHC, you are not able to reapply.

Graduating From the Program

Graduation looks a little different for everyone, because your treatment plan and your circumstances are your own. In general, to graduate, you'll need to:

- Fully participate in treatment and complete your requirements across all three phases.
- Show consistent compliance with your medication plan and stay engaged in mental health treatment.
- Demonstrate sobriety.
- Be employed, actively looking for work, enrolled in school, or receiving disability benefits if you're unable to work.
- Complete your Transition to Discharge Plan with the team.
- Pay off any supervision fees owed.

When you graduate, your case is dismissed, and we begin the process to make your arrest records eligible for expungement. Your family and friends are welcome to join you in the courtroom on graduation day.

After You Graduate

For a period of time after graduation, the Collin County Adult Mental Health Court program and the Collin County District Attorney's Office will maintain participants' identifying information only to determine whether a participant has previously been in the program and to track and evaluate recidivism. This information is limited to these purposes and may not be used or disclosed for any other reason. You'll be told about this at admission and again before graduation.

Program Fees

There is no program fee to participate in AMHC. We don't want cost to be the reason someone can't get treatment.

That said, because you're placed on community supervision, you are responsible for the monthly supervision fee set by the Community Supervision and Corrections Department (CSCD). A few important points:

- No one is denied entry into AMHC simply because they can't afford the supervision fee.
- Fees from your current phase generally need to be paid before you move to the next phase.
- All fees must be paid in full 90 days prior to graduation.
- Fees are collected only by CSCD support staff — never handed directly to AMHC staff.

- CSCD accepts credit/debit cards, cashier's checks, and money orders.

Your Rights and Your Privacy

Confidentiality

Your medical and mental health information is protected under HIPAA and Texas law. Before any information is shared between your treatment provider and the AMHC team, you'll sign an authorization allowing it. Copies of any signed forms go in your file, and you can request a copy for yourself at any time.

If You Have a Concern or Complaint

If something isn't sitting right with you — about a decision, a staff member, or anything about your experience in the program — we want to hear about it. Start by talking with the person involved. If it isn't resolved, or you'd rather not go that route, you can contact the Program Coordinator or another member of the team.

Your Team's Contact Information

Role	Name	Phone	Email
Program Coordinator	Nessa Reid	(214) 491-4802	jreid@collincountytx.gov
Community Supervision Officer	Michelle Garcia	(972) 548-3841	mgarcia@collincountytx.gov
Defense Counsel	Rogan McDaniel	—	rogan@mcdanieljustice.com

Court Locations

All court proceedings are held at the Russell A. Steindam Courts Building, 2100 Bloomdale Road, McKinney, TX 75071.

- Honorable Jennifer Edgeworth, 219th Judicial District Court — Suite 20132 — (972) 548-4402
- Honorable Lance Baxter, County Court at Law No. 3 — Suite 10256 — (972) 548-3695

A Final Word

This program asks a lot of you, and we know that. It also means a team of people is in your corner, working alongside you toward a case dismissal, a clearer record, and — most importantly — your own stability and well-being. Take it one day, one phase, at a time. We're glad to be part of your journey.



A Specialty Courts Ombudsman Program

The Collin County Adult Mental Health program does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, and age. The Collin County Adult Mental Health program provides interpreter services per Collin County CSCD policies. Complaints alleging discrimination may be filed by contacting the Ombudsman.

The purpose of the Ombudsman is to serve as a central point of contact for any complaints or concerns regarding specialty court programs in Texas. If you have a problem or complaint about a specialty court, we encourage you to first discuss your complaint with the person, program, or office involved. If you need to contact the Ombudsman, the information can be easily found at the AMHC Office.

Participant Acknowledgement of Handbook

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have received and reviewed the Collin County Adult Mental Health Court Participant Handbook and have had the opportunity to ask questions regarding its contents.

I understand that I will remain under the supervision of the Adult Mental Health Court program until further order of this Court. I acknowledge that I understand my responsibilities and obligations as outlined in the Participant Handbook and agree to comply with the program requirements and rules contained therein.

Participant Name: _____

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Program Coordinator Signature: _____ Date: _____