

Rule 8: Specialized Dockets-Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court and Individualized Disposition Docket

Pursuant to Rules 36.20 through 36.28 of the Rules of Superintendence for the Courts of Ohio, and Appendix I "Specialized Docket Standards" of the Rules of Superintendence, Hamilton County Juvenile Court created the following specialized dockets: Family Treatment Drug Court and the Individualized Disposition Docket.

1) Family Treatment Drug Court

- A. Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court began operations in September 2002. The goals and objectives of the program are outlined in the Program Description, which is available upon request and is incorporated herein by reference.
- B. The target population for admission into the Family Treatment Drug Court includes parents or custodians who lost custody of their child(ren) or are at risk of losing custody of their child(ren) due to drug or alcohol abuse. Legal and clinical eligibility criteria are contained in the Program Description. Any disqualifying factors are also listed in the Program Description. Disqualifications are assessed on a case by case basis. The Family Treatment Drug Court Judge/Magistrate has the ultimate discretion to determine whether a parent or custodian may participate in the Family Treatment Drug Court.
- C. Hamilton County Juvenile Court is a multi-judge court that employs a random case assignment model. Hamilton County Family Treatment Drug Court follows the parallel model. All Family Treatment Drug Court participants appear on a regular basis for status review hearings before the Family Drug Court Judge or Magistrate.
- D. Family Treatment Drug Court's Program Description contains the guidelines for participation in the Family Treatment Drug Court, including the operations, policies, and procedures for the Program. Upon acceptance in Family Treatment Drug Court, each participant receives a Participant Handbook and signs a Participant Agreement. These documents are available upon request and are incorporated herein by reference.
- E. Successful completion of the Family Treatment Drug Court includes completion of all phases of the program, including treatment and aftercare. A participant may be terminated from Family Treatment Drug Court for failure to comply with Family Treatment Drug Court rules and requirements as outlined in the Program Description. If a Family Treatment Drug Court participant is terminated from the program, the underlying abuse, neglect, or dependency case will continue on the traditional docket.

2) Individualized Disposition Docket

- A. Hamilton County Individualized Disposition Docket began operations in February 2004. The goals and objectives of the program are outlined in the Program Description, which is available upon request and is incorporated herein by reference.
- B. Target Populations for placement in the Hamilton County Individualized Disposition Docket include:
 1. Hamilton County residents;
 2. Males and females;
 3. Age 12-17 years (consult with review team on eligibility for youth under age 12 years);
 4. Adjudication of delinquency;
 5. Serious emotional disorders/neurobiological disorders [including but not limited to the following: affective disorders (e.g. bi-polar and major depressive episode); anxiety disorders (e.g. phobias and

- post-traumatic stress disorder); psychotic disorders (e.g. schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder); severe attention deficit hyperactivity disorder; and co-occurring severe emotional disorder and substance abuse disorders];
6. Rule out diagnoses and diagnoses not otherwise specified will be reviewed by the team prior to admission;
 7. Identified caregivers willing to engage in treatment with the youth; and
 8. Voluntary admission with the consent of the parent/custodian.

If a youth meets the criteria for participation in Hamilton County Individualized Disposition Docket, the youth will be placed in the program unless he or she is disqualified from participation. A youth may be disqualified from participation in the Hamilton County Individualized Disposition Docket for the following:

1. Adjudication of a sex offense; or
2. Youth engaged in effective mental health treatment including case management, therapeutic interventions and psychiatric services; or
3. Youth is in the custody of the Hamilton County Department of Job & Family Services or the subject of court ordered Protective Supervision; or
4. Youth requires residential placement (may be eligible upon discharge).

Disqualifications are determined on a case by case basis. The Individualized Disposition Docket Judge/Magistrate has the ultimate discretion to determine whether a youth may participate in the Individualized Disposition Docket.

- C. Although admission to the Individualized Disposition Docket is voluntary, discharge from the program is not voluntary and requires court approval.
- D. Hamilton County Juvenile Court is a multi-judge court that employs a random case assignment model. All participants in the Individualized Disposition Docket will appear on a regular basis for status review hearings before the Individualized Disposition Docket Judge or Magistrate.
- E. The Individualized Disposition Docket's Program Description contains the guidelines for participation in the Individualized Disposition Docket, including the operations, policies, and procedures for the Program. Upon acceptance in the Individualized Disposition Docket, each participant receives a Participant Handbook and signs a Participant Agreement. These documents are available upon request and are incorporated herein by reference.
- F. A participant will receive a successful discharge and graduation from the Individualized Disposition Docket after demonstrating a pattern of compliance with court orders, consistent court appearance, and progress completing the behavioral health treatment plan. A participant will receive an unsuccessful discharge from the Individualized Disposition Docket for failing to make progress in all phases of the program or failure to demonstrate progress on individualized treatment goals which includes youth and families who have not demonstrated an improved ability to resolve family issues with minimal oversight; or a failure to demonstrate overall progress with Court orders and rules of Probation. If an Individualized Disposition Docket participant is terminated from the program, the disposition will be addressed through traditional delinquency sanctions and the juvenile justice process will resume. A participant will receive a neutral discharge if he/she is unable to make progress in the program for a variety of reasons. These reasons may include: death; moving out of county; being AWOL; lack of participation on the part of the parent; minimal progress toward treatment goals on the part of the youth; a need for a higher level of care by the client or an extenuating circumstance that occurs prior to treatment being initiated which results in termination.