



Circuit Court for Prince George's County Re-Entry Court Program

**HONORABLE LAWRENCE V. HILL, JR.
ASSOCIATE JUDGE, RE-ENTRY COURT JUDGE**

OVERVIEW

- ▶ On June 6, 2011, the Honorable Sheila Tillerson Adams issued an Order establishing the Re-Entry Feasibility Committee whose purpose was to “determine, evaluate, and assess the feasibility of developing Re-Entry programs and/or a Re-Entry Court”. Thereafter, a broad array of community, criminal justice, business and faith-based organizations, as well as returning citizens were assembled to explore the issues faced by the ex-offender population and the community’s response. In its report, the Committee concluded that court centered re-entry programming is needed in order to provide optimal transitional opportunities to ex-offenders and to ensure public safety in Prince George’s County. The Committee further agreed to utilize the Court’s existing drug court model for the establishment of a pilot re-entry substance use program. The Court’s program application was approved by the Court of Appeals in August 2013.

Program Summary

▶ The Prince George's County Circuit Court Adult Re-Entry Court Program is a voluntary, supervised, sanction and incentive based, eighteen to twenty-four month comprehensive court program. **The target population for the Re-Entry Court Program includes incarcerated individuals who, through their attorneys, request reconsideration of sentences, and have substance use related offenses or dependency which requires a commitment under Section 8-507 of the Maryland Health General Article.** Upon admission, participants are committed to court ordered treatment and enter into a treatment program. Thereafter, they transition into the community with intensive supervision and treatment services along with case management. Participants attend regular court hearings before a presiding Judge, maintain curfew, participate in substance use treatment/ mental health treatment if needed, and participate in frequent, random, monitored drug testing and intensive case management provided by a probation officer, Re-Entry Court case manager and the Health Department.



Juvenile Lifers

- ▶ Re-Entry Court Program's target population also includes Juvenile Lifers, who are incarcerated and have requested a reconsideration of sentencing but may not have a substance use related offense or dependency that would require a commitment under Section 8-507 of the Maryland health General Article. Upon admission, these participants are court ordered to work release. Thereafter, clients will be placed in transitional housing as they continue to become acclimated with society and their obligations to the court. Participants are required to attend court hearings before a presiding judge, maintain curfew, participate in any groups or counseling sessions deemed necessary, and participate in frequent, random, monitored drug testing and intensive case management provided by a probation officer, Re-entry court case manager and the Health Department

The Phases

- ▶ The Re-Entry Court Program is divided into three (3) phases . For individuals committed under section 8-507 of the Maryland health General Article, phase I requires completion of a three to six months of Pre-Release training in the Prince George's County Detention Facility and placement in an In-patient treatment facility as determined by intake of treatment facility (3-6 months normally) or an intensive outpatient treatment as determined by an HG8505 evaluation. Phase II includes a transition from inpatient treatment to outpatient treatment while in a Community supervision setting with GPS monitoring. The client is supervised by Reentry Court staff and the Department of Parole and Probation. The third and final phase of the Re-Entry Court Program focuses on transition from the intensive supervision with GPS to community supervision, and succession planning to secure stable housing, a support system, assess ancillary needs, and monitor relapse and discharge plans.

Non Substance Abuse Track

- ▶ For the Juvenile Lifers, who do not require substance use treatment, Phase I requires completion of six months of work release through Prince George's County Detention facility and 3 months of residing in transitional housing. Phase II includes transitioning into the community under the close supervision of the Re-Entry Court Case Manager, continuing to attend support groups while under GPS monitoring.
- ▶ Upon successful completion and graduation from the Re-Entry Court Program, participants remain on standard probation as directed by the court. While this is no longer a phase of the program, the participant uses this period of supervision as aftercare. Through the continued support of the team, participants can access services in the early stages of their re-entry.

Phase I - Track I (w/In Patient Treatment)

- Six-month Phase
- First 3 months in Pre-Release Group/Work Detail
 - Completion of Vision Board
 - Re-Entry Court Program Orientation;
- Admission to Residential Substance Use Treatment Program; Placement by Maryland Behavioral health
- Random Drug Testing;
- Residential Treatment which includes group/individual counseling and Mental Health Treatment, if needed;
- Case Management Meetings - Minimum once weekly;
- Court Hearings - Weekly or Bi-weekly as assigned, and
- Attendance at a minimum of one (1) Support Group Meetings weekly.

Phase I - Track II (w/Out Patient Treatment)

- Six-month Phase
 - First 3 months in Substance Use (SA) Treatment & Sexual Health in Recovery-SHIR
 - Second 3 months in Pre-Release Group/Work Detail
- Re-Entry Court Program Orientation;
- Random Drug Testing;
- In custody Treatment which includes group/individual counseling and Mental Health Treatment, if needed;
- Completion of Vision Board
- Case Management Meetings - Minimum once weekly;
- Court Hearings - Weekly or Bi-weekly as assigned, and
- Attendance at a minimum of one (1) Support Group Meetings weekly.

Phase II - Treatment Planning and Implementation Component

- Six-month Phase;
- Random drug testing;
- GPS monitoring 6 months;
- Treatment services based on assigned level of care as required by American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) criteria;
- Attendance at Support Group meetings as needed;
- Meetings with Reentry Court Case Manager – minimum once per week in addition to Court Status Hearing;
- Meetings with Parole and Probation Agent as directed;
- Attendance at all Court Status Hearings;
- Enrollment and participation in GED Courses and attempted completion of testing if participant does not possess High School Diploma or GED, and
- Completion of and /or enrollment in Behavioral Health or life skills classes recommended by the Re-Entry Court Team.

PHASE III - Transition Component

- ▶ Upon successful completion of Phase II, participants are released from GPS monitoring. During this phase, participants follow established protocols of the Prince George's County Re-Entry Court Program. Phase III consists of six months of intensive supervision and case management, including but not limited to ancillary service referrals, random drug testing, monitoring recovery needs, employment verification and/or disability assignment.
- ▶ Upon successful completion of the program requirements and individual goals, each participant completes a graduation application. The Re-Entry Court Team assesses the application for completeness and measurable outcomes from ancillary and treatment services and the documented period of sobriety and positive behavioral changes.
- ▶ Upon approval of the graduation application, the participant receives a successful completion certificate and graduates from the Prince George's County Re-Entry Court Program. The participant then proceeds to standard probation for a period designated in their sentencing structure.

Phase III - Ongoing Treatment Phase

- Six-month phase and until graduation;
- Frequent, random, monitored drug testing;
- Substance Use treatment as determined by current provider's assessment of participant's progress and ASAM criteria as needed;
- Attend Support Group Meetings as required;
- Meet with Parole and Probation as directed in addition to Court Status Hearings;
- Attend Court Status Hearings as directed;
- Completion of and/or enrollment in Behavioral Health or life skills classes recommended by the Re-Entry Court Team;
- Employed, enrollment in job training, and/or assessment of disability status;
- Abide by curfew requirements, and
- Meet with Case Manager as directed.

Requirements to Graduate

- Consecutive negative drug test results within Phase III for 6 months;
- No unexcused appointments (demonstrated responsible management of program and personal schedule);
- Demonstrated insight and improved behavior evidenced by a decrease in identified relapse behaviors and no instances of pending cases, stet cases or convictions during Phase III;
- Demonstrated ability to follow probation requirements by successfully completing curfew, employment and community service checks;
- Documented successful completion of treatment;
- Clinical Relapse Plan/Discharge Plan;
- Documented measurable completion of Case Management goals and ongoing case plans, including but not limited to community resources, support group contacts, community treatment options and crisis services;
- Stable living arrangement;
- Provide a copy of High School Diploma, GED or Confirmation from an acceptable source that the GED is not attainable;
- Payment of all treatment fees
- Demonstrated efforts to pay any court fees if required;
- Demonstrated efforts to pay restitution if required;
- Demonstrated efforts to pay child support, if required;
- Continued employment for at least 3 consecutive months prior to immediate time of graduation;
- Completion of any other Court imposed obligation.