

## Mission Statement

The mission of Mental Health Court is to build a stronger and safer Tacoma. Mental Health Court serves community members with mental health diagnoses who are at risk of repeat criminal offenses. We use a holistic approach that promotes well-being, independence, accountability, and safety in our community.

## Program Goals

- Foster better outcomes by providing equitable access to treatment services and community resources
- Ensure public safety and reduce recidivism
- Increase collaboration between the court and behavioral health providers
- Create a dignified, respectful space for court participants to resolve their legal cases

TACOMA MUNICIPAL COURT

# Mental Health Court

**Mental Health Court is held every Wednesday at 10:30 am or 1:30 pm.**

The court will inform participants when they should arrive.

## CONTACT US

Tacoma Municipal Court  
930 Tacoma Avenue South Room 841  
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## What is Mental Health Court?

Mental health court is a 12-month therapeutic program designed to help individuals address behavioral health needs while also addressing legal concerns.

## What are the benefits compared to traditional court?

Mental Health Court offers wrap-around support from court staff, a case manager, and treatment providers who all want you to succeed. Your case manager will assist you in accessing community resources such as transportation assistance, education/employment services, housing, and more.

Participants who successfully complete all Mental Health Court requirements will have charges **dismissed** at the end of the program.

## Program Requirements

- Complete mental health evaluation and all recommended treatment services
- Complete substance use disorder evaluation and treatment (when applicable)
- Take medications as prescribed
- Attend regular court appearances
- Maintain law-abiding behavior
- Complete random drug and alcohol testing—participants must abstain from alcohol, marijuana, and all other non-prescribed mood- and mind-altering substances

Participants may be asked to engage in additional enrichment activities when appropriate, such as:

- Community service
- Education programs
- Employment services

## Who is eligible?

Prospective participants interested in Mental Health Court must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Have a diagnosis of a serious mental illness. Examples of qualifying diagnoses include schizophrenia and other psychotic disorders, bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder
- Be charged with criminal behavior that is related to or caused by the individual's mental illness
- Be willing and able to meet the time commitments of the program by attending all hearings, case management appointments, and treatment sessions in person
- Be willing to engage in recommended assessments, treatment, and other program activities
- Be willing to abstain from alcohol, marijuana, and all other mood- and mind-altering substances