

MENTAL HEALTH COURT (MHC) PROCESS

Sept. 2009

Case Referred to MHC for Look-See/Courtesy Hearing: May occur at any stage of a case; referral may come from police, prosecutor, defense, jail, case manager, family

Court Monitor/Liaison decides with input from MHC team members (prosecutor and defense), interviewing defendant and any current treatment providers: Is defendant eligible for MHC?

1. Axis I Diagnosis?
2. Amenable & Defendant wants MHC Probation
3. Defendant's drug or alcohol issues do not outweigh mental health issues

Defendant placed on MHC Conditions of Release (COR); monitored by Court Monitor with status hearings

Defendant found eligible by Court Monitor -AND- defendant wants case in MHC

Defendant found not eligible by Court Monitor -OR- defendant does not want case in MHC

Opts in to MHC (Plead Guilty, Enter Diversion or Probation Transferred into MHC)

Case sent back to mainstream / traditional court for next hearing. Defendant may want a trial or plead guilty. If plead or found guilty the court has the authority to order non-MHC probation and expect the defendant to be in treatment, report to a Probation Officer and attend Review Hearings

MHC Conditions of Sentence ordered and MHC Probation Officer assigned (Probation supervision for up to 2 years)

Frequent appointments with Probation and Review Hearings to monitor compliance and provide structure. Court uses positive reinforcement and graduated sanctions to gain compliance

Revocation may occur if not compliant

Graduation

King County District MHC

Room E338, King County Courthouse
3rd Ave and James St, Seattle, WA
Hearings: Tues, Weds, Thurs @ 1:30pm
Court Monitor: Heather Robinson, 206-296-3690
Defense Agency: Associated Counsel for the Accused
Amy King - Lead Attorney, 206-624-8105, Ext 290
Anna Samuel - Attorney, Ext 260
Roopali Dhingra - Social Worker, Ext 224

Seattle Municipal MHC, Room 902

Seattle Municipal Courthouse, 5th Ave & James St.
Hrgs: M, T, W, Th @ 1:30pm & Fri 10:30am
Court Liaison: Judy Ashley, 206-296-3690
Defense Agency: ACA 206-624-8105
Russell Kurth - Lead Attorney, Ext 244
Abbey Perkins - Attorney, Ext 265
Rochelle McKenzie - Social Worker, Ext 354
Kerry Bramhall - Social Worker, Ext 264