

## **What is the Mental Health Diversion Program?**

Tempe Mental Health Court is a specialized court designed to:

- Address the unique needs of Seriously Mentally Ill and Developmentally Disabled offenders
- Provide appropriate services that will reduce the possibility of recidivism
- Improve public safety through improved monitoring
- Reduce the number of jail days spent in custody
- Provide accessible treatment and support services to Mentally Ill / Developmentally Disabled clients

### **Purpose:**

Defendants with Mental Illness or Developmental Disabilities can choose to be placed in a specialized mental health court docket where they will be staffed for individualized treatment and services. The mental health team composed of the judge, prosecutor, public defender, and treatment team representative, address the defendant's psychological needs and

make assessments for treatment referrals. Defendants will be monitored during the time that their case is pending and upon successful completion of the program, will have their charges dismissed.

### **Who qualifies?**

A defendant must be enrolled and case managed with the local RHBA, the Division of Developmental Disabilities, the Veterans Administration, or have a private provider that is willing to meet monthly.

Some exceptions are made for defendants who qualify otherwise but have no case manager.

### **How Does the Program Work?**

When eligibility is determined, the defendant will be offered the option of diversion services through the Mental Health Court. If the defendant voluntarily accepts participation in the program and accepts the "Conditions for Participation", he/she will be scheduled in the next available Mental Health Court docket and the case will be set for a hearing. The therapeutic team will then be notified and invited to a mental health team staffing where case plans will be

developed and then presented to the defendant in court. Future hearings will be scheduled as needed for the duration of the defendant's involvement with the court. These appearances will include rewards and recognition for positive behavior and program successes.

If the defendant successfully completes the Mental Health Court Program, he/she will receive a certificate of completion from the court and **charges will be dismissed**. If unsuccessful, the completion date may be extended to allow the defendant to meet necessary requirements. Otherwise, the defendant will be removed from the diversion program and the case will resume with regular court proceedings.

### **What are the Conditions for Participation in the Tempe Mental Health Court?**

- The defendant must continue to participate in case management through their provider.
- The defendant must cooperate with their treatment provider and attend all scheduled services as directed.
- The defendant must take medications as provided or prescribed and submit to medication checks as instructed by their treatment staff.

- The defendant agrees to complete the treatment program provided by the court staffing team.
- The defendant must appear at any scheduled court hearings, unless their presence is waived by the court.

### **Benefits to the Community**

The Mental Health Court docket's goal is to get the person back on their medication and treatment plan. During the time that the person is in the docket, various goals are set for the person for each court date. Accomplishing these goals, and being compliant with medication, helps ensure that the person will not re-offend.

### **Contact Information**

**Tempe Municipal Court**  
Judge MaryAnne Majestic  
Municipal Court Building  
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#### **Mental Health Diversion Program**

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