

Why Family Treatment Court?

Drugs and alcohol wreck lives. For those who want to change their life and reunify with their children, FTC may be the answer. Participants will receive drug and alcohol treatment as well as other interventions and treatment as needed to help them become a healthy parent. Active participation in the program is beneficial to the parent-child relationship; even if you aren't parenting full-time, your children will feel better about you and you will feel better about yourself if you are clean and sober.

They will have learned skills that will allow them to parent AND continue a drug-free life that is fulfilling and productive. Participants will have the support of the Court system, the FTC team, and the community because they have succeeded.

How is FTC Different?

In FTC, the Judge, an Assistant Attorney General, defense attorneys, Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) case workers, CASA, Parent Partners and a treatment case manager are a team who work together in a non-adversarial way to help you change your life and achieve personal goals such as working towards reunification with your children and a clean and sober lifestyle. The team meets every week to review your progress based on shared information from treatment, DCFS, CASA, schools, employers, and others. During your weekly court hearing, you receive reinforcements based on your progress for that week.

Reinforcements:

A primary component of Family Treatment Court is reinforcing positive behavior. Family Treatment Court offers many positive reinforcements, including praise from the judge and team, to increased privileges, to activities and rewards aimed to strengthen the family.

Although positive reinforcements are desired, if a participant breaks the rules of the program, appropriate responses will be given out by the court. These responses may include, but are not limited to, a letter to the child, completing calendars, support meetings, community service or work crew. If discharged from FTC, you will return to the normal dependency process.

What Does it Cost?

The cost of participation in FTC is \$100. FTC participants get credit for accomplishments or behaviors that allow them to lower their cost of participation, possibly to \$0.

You are welcome to come observe FTC hearings every Monday at 3:00 p.m. at the Clark County Family Law Annex, 601 W. Evergreen Blvd, Vancouver, WA or contact the FTC Coordinator for more information.

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/courts/superior/therapeutic.html>



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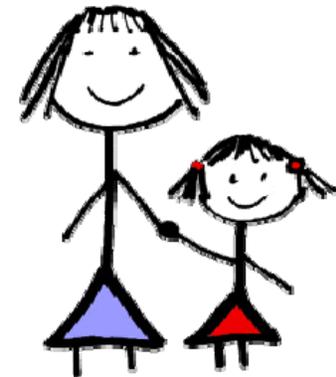
FOR ALTERNATIVE FORMATS
Clark County ADA Compliance Office
V (360) 397-2025; Washington Relay
Service 711 or (800) 833-6388;
E-mail: ADA@clark.wa.gov

Clark County Superior Court
Therapeutic Specialty Courts

FAMILY TREATMENT COURT

Striding Towards
Excellent Parenting

FTC-STEP



INFORMATION
PAMPHLET

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What is FTC-STEP?

FTC is a court-supervised program designed to ensure the nurturing and well-being of children by providing comprehensive, collaborative services for parents and families. Its goals are to: 1) increase reunification; 2) decrease length of dependency; 3) increase recovery/stability of parent; and 4) decrease relapse. The FTC is a resource rich program offering parents opportunities for success and providing a safety net when they stumble. FTC promotes family reunification, accountability, effective parenting skills, long-term sobriety, and productive lifestyles.

Who is Eligible?

Basic Eligibility Criteria:

- * Volunteer for FTC and abide by program rules
- * Must admit to alcohol and/or drug issues and want treatment
- * Must be seeking custody of child(ren)
- * Within 6 months of Dependency being filed . (Over 6 months will be taken on a case by case basis)

Disqualifying Criteria:

- * Sex offense—conviction or current allegation
- * Severe mental health issues
- * Serious violent offenses—conviction or current allegation
- * Pending charges with greater than 30 days jail disposition

The FTC team will meet weekly to review and discuss each referral. If you are eligible and wish to participate, you must sign a Release of Information and a FTC Contract agreeing to abide by all rules and interventions the FTC team imposes.

What Are the Requirements?

The FTC program is an intensive program that will help you obtain the tools to succeed in becoming a sober and productive parent with a greater possibility of reunification of your child. If you have an honest desire to rid yourself of drugs/alcohol and become an effective parent and healthy community member, this program is for you. The program lasts **at least one year**.

You are required to do the following:

- ⇒ Attend court regularly to report on your progress
- ⇒ Attend individual/group drug/alcohol treatment
- ⇒ Attend other therapeutic programs as determined by FTC
- ⇒ Submit to multiple, random, supervised drug tests
- ⇒ Check in with a DCFS case manager
- ⇒ Agree to a curfew and home checks
- ⇒ Attend support meetings (i.e. AA, NA, Ca, GA, etc.)
- ⇒ Abide by the FTC case plan including visitation schedule

Why “FTC-STEP?”

In 2009, the Family Treatment Court went through a redesign process. Part of that process was having a contest for participants to rename FTC in a way that described what the program meant to the participant. Out of the contest, one of the program's current graduates came up with the name STEP or Striding Towards Excellent Parenting.

The Enhanced Services Program

Family Recovery

While you get help, we work with your child so they get to recover also. Then we help you and your child reconnect so you have real family recovery.

Child Therapy

We work with your child to get a personal recovery roadmap for them.

Family Therapy

We help you and your child rebuild trust, get beyond the past, and find what works while moving forward as a recovering family. The more help we can give you, the better. We know it is hard work and we will work as hard as you do. We are ready to help you reconnect and want to help you succeed in recovery!

The program utilizes neuro-psych testing to find and address areas of need for the children and the birthparent, then providing hands-on evidenced based services to the children and parents with the hope of reconciling the family, and treating the impact of substance abuse for the long term.

