



**INTRODUCTION**

Have you lost control in your life? Would you like to regain that control? The key to working toward the resolution of your problems, and the improvement of your future, is within your reach. If you are addicted to drugs, or have a problem with substance abuse; and if you are sick and tired of a life of drugs, being on the wrong side of the law, and all that surrounds that lifestyle, consider the Hernando County Drug Court.

Prior to the implementation of the Hernando County Drug Court, there was no affordable, effective treatment for substance abuse in Hernando County. Even if an individual is motivated for treatment and has limited means to pay, there are lengthy waiting lists for both inpatient beds and outpatient treatment. Successful, affordable treatment for offenders is even more rare. Additionally, denial that a problem exists and lack of motivation to change are characteristic of substance abusers.

These problems are exacerbated in offenders in a number of ways. They are reluctant to admit there is a problem from fear that admissions can be construed as guilt. Commonly, they have experienced

failure throughout their lives and thus have no belief that they can change. They are more concerned about what is going to happen with their charges than they are interested in changing their lives. Even those who are initially motivated to participate in treatment may drop out when they experience the relapse that is common in substance abusers. Frequently abusers who are experiencing relapse are afraid to admit they need additional help because they fear further sanctions. Treatment of substance abuse, at best, is a difficult proposition, and these factors hinder recovery, even when treatment is available.



**LEVEL I TREATMENT  
8 WEEKS (Minimum)**

Level One Treatment is intensive outpatient treatment lasting a minimum of eight weeks. During this phase, each participant attends an orientation session. Psychosocial assessments and initial treatment plans will be completed. Participants are required to attend counseling and AA/NA meetings three times per week. Urine testing is provided a minimum of two to three times weekly on a random basis; and the participant is required to attend a Court Status Hearing weekly.



**LEVEL II TREATMENT  
22 WEEKS (Minimum)**

After successfully completing Level I treatment, the treatment plan for each participant is reviewed and specific goals are developed for each individual, who will continue to participate in counseling at least twice a week. Random urine testing is conducted once or twice a week, and participants must meet attendance goals prior to progressing to the next level. Vocational and educational assessments occur to identify individual needs and to refer clients to specialized resources. Bi-weekly attendance at Court Status Hearings is required, as well as attendance and participation at a community support group, such as Narcotics Anonymous or Alcoholics Anonymous, three times each week.



**LEVEL III TREATMENT  
22 WEEKS (Minimum)**

Regular participation is required during this phase in group or individual counseling, depending on the individual's needs, as demonstrated by the treatment plan. It is during this phase that emphasis will be placed on case management and continued participation in fellowship groups, such as NA and AA. Focus is given to the client returning to the work force or

other vocational needs, as well as for those who are dependent on family for housing, to encourage them to seek independent living. Level III treatment continues until the participant has met specific goals consistent with the treatment plan and has demonstrated a drug-free lifestyle. Group counseling shall be required a minimum of once a week, with regular random urine drug screenings. All services and frequency of contact depends on the overall progress of the client.



**AFTERCARE  
12-52 WEEKS**

The aftercare program is a separate phase that will be tailored to the specific needs of the participant, when it is required.



Don't let drugs or substance abuse rule your life. Take control. Help is available for those who have a desire to improve their lifestyle. Only YOU hold the key to your future!

This is an opportunity provided through the joint efforts of the Hernando County Circuit Court and Court Administration for persons who have a substance abuse problem to receive help and support in turning their lives around. For someone who seriously wants to conquer their addiction and who needs help doing so, this program may be the answer.



**HERNANDO COUNTY DRUG COURT**  
Hernando County Judicial Center  
20 N. Main Street, Room 205  
Brooksville, FL 34601  
Phone 352-540-6279



**HERNANDO COUNTY**

**HERNANDO COUNTY  
DRUG COURT**

**RICHARD TOMBRINK, JR.**  
Presiding Judge

**KATHLEEN LONERGAN**  
Drug Court Coordinator

