

# Understanding Your Court Order for Mental Health Treatment



You have been court ordered to participate in mental health treatment. Your initial court order for mental health treatment will last 180 days. Before that order expires, you will have another hearing with the judge to determine if she will continue the court order. The second order will last 90 days. Before that order expires, you will have another hearing with the judge to determine if she will continue the court order for treatment. Any order after the second order will last for one (1) year.



The court order has listed the specific things you must do to be compliant. This may include Case Management, Medications, Labs, Day Program, Supervised Living (AFC), Vocational Training, Educational Training, Substance Abuse Treatment, or any other service the judge decides is necessary for your treatment. The judge makes the decision on what treatment to order based on the recommendations of your treatment team and the information that is received during the hearing.

To graduate from the AOT program, you will need to actively participate in all court ordered services. Meeting with your case manager regularly is important because they will help you with referrals to all the necessary court ordered treatment, and they will monitor your progress in order to report back to the judge on how well you are doing.

## You have rights at court.

- After a petition is filed, you will receive a Notice of Hearing. That is your time in front of the judge to discuss whether or not the court order will be continued or stopped.
- You will have a lawyer appointed to represent you. You can choose to hire your own lawyer to represent you. You have the right to be present at the hearing. If you fail to attend the hearing after having an opportunity to meet with your attorney, you will be considered to have waived your right to attend and the hearing may be held without you.
- You have a right to an independent clinical evaluation, except that if the petition is for judicial admission. You also have the right to an independent psychological evaluation instead of a clinical evaluation. If you believe you are unable to pay for this, and the court agrees, the evaluation will be paid for from public funds.
- You have the right to demand a jury trial. After consulting with an attorney, you may agree to the entry of an order for treatment.
- You should discuss your rights with your attorney.