

TASC at a GLANCE

WHAT IS TASC?

The **Treatment and Support Court (TASC)** is a specialty court for defendants who have a Moderate to Severe Mental Illness who because of their mental illness become engaged in the court system.

GOALS OF TASC?

- 1.) Provide you with support and services to successfully meet your current court obligations and reduce your future involvement with law enforcement.
- 2.) Offer you a supportive team and a court process that is considerate of your needs.

WHO QUALIFIES?

- Defendants residing in Kent County MI.
- Defendants who have been charged and intend to plead guilty to a misdemeanor charge with a maximum penalty of a year in jail or a felony charge.
- Defendants who meet legal eligibility criteria as determined by the prosecutor's office.
- Defendants who have a mental health diagnosis that seriously impacts their ability to function in most areas of life.
- Defendants with moderate impairment due to a mental health diagnosis who also have a co-occurring substance use disorder when combined seriously impact their ability to function in most areas of life.
- You should discuss TASC as an option with your attorney if you haven't done so.

WHAT IS IN IT FOR ME?

- In exchange for complying to TASC requirements you **MAY** be offered a plea from the prosecutor's office. The plea **MAY** include the following if TASC is successfully completed.
 - Delayed or deferred sentence
 - Reduction or dismissal of charge
 - No change in charge but you will be able to serve your sentence in the community instead of jail or prison.

WHAT IF I DON'T SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE TASC? If you are unsuccessfully discharged from TASC your case will return to the jurisdiction of the original judge. This Judge will accept your previously entered plea and either dispose or sentence you accordingly to the standard sentencing guidelines for the crime committed.

WHAT DOES TASC PARTICIPATION LOOK LIKE?



HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE? TASC can be completed in as little as 15.5 months but may take longer if a participant needs more time.

WEEKLY LOG. You will complete and submit a weekly log to verify you are meeting the requirements in your phase plan.

Positive behavior is **rewarded** and undesirable behavior is **sanctioned**.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF TASC? Please see handbook for more detail and additional rules.

- **TREATMENT** You must follow the treatment plan developed by the psychiatrist and behavioural health team. This means that while you are in TASC you must:
 - Take all medications as prescribed.
 - Attend and participate in all treatment sessions including counselling and group sessions.
 - Submit to mental health, neurological, substance use assessments as requested to guide treatment.
 - Attend Recovery Community Supports if ordered by the Judge.
- **ABSTAIN FROM ALCOHOL AND SUBSTANCES:**
 - Refrain from using any medications, including over-the-counter medications, that have not been prescribed for you. Any medications that you take, including over-the-counter medications, must first be approved by the treatment team.
 - Abstain from alcohol and illegal substances including marijuana. Medical Marijuana must be approved, in advance, by the Judge to exempt you from sanctions for using marijuana with a medical marijuana card. The marijuana must be authorized by the doctor monitoring your Michigan qualifying medical condition.
 - To begin, you will undergo random drug testing three time a week. This may be reduced depending on substance use history and demonstrated abstinence (by negative drug tests) from substances.
- **COURT HEARINGS.** You must initially come to court once a week to report to the judge. This will decrease to once every other week, and then once per month, depending on multiple factors including whether your mental health has been stabilized and if you've been compliant with court orders.
- **CONDITIONS OF PROBATION.** You must follow standard (same as in regular probation- not unique to TASC) bond and probation conditions, which include not using alcohol or any illegal drugs and no substances or weapons in the home. Probation officers must approve where you live and you must agree to allow them to search the premises without a warrant.