

# T.A.S.C.



## Treatment and Support Court

Honorable J. Joseph Rossi

TASC is a Circuit Court (felony) mental health court to improve the functioning of individuals with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) ,who may also have a mild to moderate substance use disorder, who because of their mental illness become in the criminal justice system.

Alternative to Incarceration

Access to Treatment & Support Services

Enhanced Supervision and Monitoring

Compassionate Case Management

April 1, 2022

**TASC uses a Team Based Approach.** The team is led by the Honorable J. Joseph Rossi and consists of a Court Coordinator, a Prosecuting and Defense Attorney, a Probation Officer, 2 Clinical Liaisons, a Network of Treatment Providers, a Recovery Coach, and Circuit Court Personnel.

The Team works together for the common goal of helping participants improve their mental health and general well-being, promote self-sufficiency, and to reduce/eliminate future engagement with the legal system.

**Participation in TASC is Voluntary.** Defendants sign a Participation Agreement to demonstrate their desire to participate in TASC. Once admitted they will be ordered to the following requirements:

- ⚖ Regular TASC Court Reviews (weekly to biweekly, then monthly)
- ⚖ Participation in treatment for the duration of the time they are in TASC
- ⚖ Weekly drug testing (up to 3 a week)
- ⚖ Twice a month supervision with MDOC
- ⚖ Engagement with a TASC Clinical Liaison
- ⚖ Compliance to all conditions of bond and probation along with TASC requirements.

April 1, 2022

**Target population.** Participants must meet both legal and serious mental health (SMI) eligibility criteria.

⚖ **Legal eligibility** is determined on a case by case basis by the Kent County Prosecutor's Office. Current charges and prior criminal history is considered. Defendants with a past or current CSC, or violent crime that resulted in death or serious bodily harm, are NOT by law eligible to participate.

⚖ **Serious Mental Illness (SMI)** is defined through a mental health diagnosis and is chronic, disabling, and requires ongoing treatment to improve a person's ability to function. Defendants must meet SMI criteria.

⚖ **Substance Use Disorder (SUD)** is characterized by an array of mental, physical, and behavioral symptoms that cause problems related to loss of control, strain to one's interpersonal life, hazardous use, tolerance and withdrawal. TASC is not equipped to work with defendants whose primary need is recovery from substances and who have become addicted to substances.

Defendant must have a primary SMI and may also be assessed with a mild to moderate substance abuse disorder. TASC is not equipped to meet the needs of individuals with a severe addiction to substances.

April 1, 2022




**Length of Program.** TASC can be completed in 15.5 months but the pace is set by the participant and may take longer to complete.

## Make a Referral

**Anyone can refer** a defendant for TASC (i.e. law enforcement, jail staff, court services, attorneys, judge, clinician, or family member). In addition, an individual can self-refer.

**To initiate a referral** complete section I of the TASC referral form. Found at <https://www.accesskent.com/Courts/17thcc/tasc.htm>

**Referral Process** includes:

-  A review by the Kent County Prosecutor's Office to determine if the defendant meets legal eligibility requirements;
-  A mental health screen conducted by a TASC Clinical Liaison to determine if the participant meets mental health eligibility criteria; and
-  A review by the full TASC team to determine if the individual is appropriate for participation.

**For More Information.**

<https://www.accesskent.com/Courts/17thcc/tasc.htm>

Direct questions to Teri Clark,

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