



FAMILY RECOVERY COURT INFORMATION SHEET

Court Address
212 E. Paw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079

Court Telephone No.
(269) 657-8200

Family Recovery Court's target population includes juveniles ages 10 through 16, non-violent offenders, with pending misdemeanor or felony charges, whom are assessed as having a serious emotional disturbance or developmental disability. Within this population of focus, our program seeks to primarily enroll clients that are eligible for Community Mental Health services as opposed to private providers, at least during this first year of operation, to hone our collaborative skills with one primary treatment agency. That said, stakeholders do not want to disqualify an Individual that would benefit from mental health court participations because of their disorder severity or insurance type as that could be viewed as a form of discrimination. Therefore, Van Buren County is open to making exceptions to the primary target population and will admit individuals that have other treatment providers in the interest of justice.

Family Recovery Court Eligibility Criteria

- Individuals must be clinically assessed as having a persistent and serious mental illness, developmental disability or co-occurring disorder.
- The Identified mental illness must be treatable in such a way that program enrollment could result in symptom remission, improved quality of life, or a reduced likelihood of future criminal justice contact.
- Individuals must be between 10-16 years of age.
- Individuals must have physical residency in Van Buren County during program enrollment.
- Individuals must have the capacity to understand program requirements and policies.
- Individuals must acknowledge in writing a willingness to take medication, if prescribed.
- Individuals must not pose an unacceptable risk to staff, themselves, or the community.

Family Recovery Court Exclusionary Criteria

- 'Violent Offender' as defined in MCL 600.1090 (i). "Violent offender" means an individual who is currently charged with, or has been convicted of, an offense involving the death of, or a serious bodily injury to, any individual, whether or not any of these circumstances are an element of the offense, or with criminal sexual conduct in any degree.

Referral Process

The referral process may start as soon as at the arraignment hearing. At the time, any party may complete the one-page referral form and submit it to the Specialty Court Administrator for legal screening. The Prosecutor's Office, MDOC, or Juvenile Probation can also complete the legal screen. Family Recovery Court forms can be obtained from the Van Buren County website, CMH, Prosecutor's Office, and the Specialty Courts Administrator. If a participant is legally eligible, the Clinical Liaison will complete a clinical assessment. If the client is eligible, the referral is sent back to the Prosecutor and the Defense Attorney.

Cases involving: victims, diversion, or delayed sentencings require prosecutor approval before entry.

Family Recovery Court Requirements/Benefits

- 12-15 month program
- Case Management
- Mental Health and Family Treatment
- Medication compliance, if applicable
- Court attendance
- Pro-social activities and tutoring assistance with a Family Support Aide.

Please contact the below staff with referrals or if you have any questions:

Specialty Courts Administrator
specialtycourts@vanburencountymi.gov
269-657-8200 ext. 2478