



SOBRIETY COURT INFORMATION SHEET

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

Court Telephone No.
(269) 657-8200

Sobriety Court's target population includes non-violent felony and misdemeanor OWI (drunk or drugged) offenders whose substance abuse problem caused or contributed to their current involvement with the criminal justice system. The program is available to District and Circuit Court probationers and/or Circuit Court parolees who have been placed in the program as a condition of their probation or due to a probation/parole violation.

Sobriety Court Eligibility Criteria

- Must be a Van Buren County resident, or a resident of a county contiguous to Van Buren County and have his/her principal place of full-time employment in Van Buren County; unless approved by Specialty Court staff and Probation.
- Must be a U.S. Citizen or qualified alien; and
- All defendants who request entrance into the Sobriety Court must be charged with a misdemeanor or felony OWI 2nd or OWI 3rd offense. Defendants who plead guilty to an OWI 1st with extenuating circumstances (i.e. high BAC or previous OWI 7 years or older) will be considered.

Sobriety Court Exclusionary Criteria

1. 'Violent Offender' as defined in MCL 600.1060(g)
2. Severe or serious psychological disorder or signs thereof (Does not have the ability to receive treatment and follow the courts orders per MCL 600.1064 3(d);
3. No identified substance abuse problem
4. Under the age of 17
5. Pattern of violent behavior
6. Any prior convictions of criminal sexual conduct, predatory conduct, pornographic conduct or conduct involving corruption of a minor.
7. May seek exception committee vote on criteria 5 and 6.

Referral Process

Attorneys, probation officers or potential participants must fill out an application screening form and submit it to the prosecutor's office for review. If the candidate passes the legal screening, the prosecutor's office will notify the case manager, who will then schedule and interview with the potential participant. Referral forms can be found on the county website.

Sobriety Court Requirements/Benefits

- Case Management/ Probation supervision
- Frequent and random drug testing
- Treatment
- Court attendance
- Sobriety
- Counseling/Peer Support
- Diversion
- Ancillary services

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

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