

First District Mental Health Court

Code of Conduct for Mental Health Court Program Mentors

A mental health court (MHC) support specialist or “program mentor”, is an individual who has completed, or is near completion, of the mental health court program and is actively engaged in mental health and (if applicable) substance use recovery. MHC Program Mentors are responsible for providing emotional, informational, instrumental and affiliational support to assigned participants in the initial phases of the mental health court program. MHC Program Mentors adhere to the following Code of Conduct.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- MHC Program Mentors are honest in their interactions and honor personal commitments.
- MHC Program Mentors have a responsibility to help individuals find their own voice and to advocate for the principles of human dignity, self determination, and empowerment.
- MHC Program Mentors will not loan or borrow personal items or money from peers.
- MHC Program Mentors will not establish romantic relationships with peers and will refrain from intimate or sexual activity with peers.
- MH Court Program Mentors avoid dual relationships; when they are unavoidable, appropriate boundaries are established within the relationship with the support of the program supervisor.
- MHC Program Mentors will not accept or give gifts from or to peers they are mentoring.
- MHC Program Mentors do not take peers to their homes; any exception to this must have written court or probation approval.
- MHC Program Mentors do not hire peers to work for them while either party is in the mental health court program.
- MHC Program Mentors will respect the privacy and confidentiality of those receiving mentoring support. Information disclosure is limited to disclosures that may be required by law, or otherwise consented to by the individual in writing, or as necessary for the supervision and operation of the mental health court program.
- MHC Program Mentors will never engage in romantic or sexual intimacies with those receiving mentoring support, nor provide mentoring support to anyone with whom they have had romantic or sexual intimacies in the past.
- MHC Program Mentors will not use relationships with those receiving mentoring support for financial gain or put the relationship at risk of exploitation or harm.
- MHC Program Mentors will not intimidate, threaten, harass, use undue influence, physical force or verbal abuse, or make unwarranted promises of benefits to those receiving mentoring support.