



KALAMAZOO COUNTY OWI COURT

MISSION To enhance public safety by holding intoxicated traffic offenders accountable for their actions while providing the opportunity for a behavioral change through a comprehensive treatment approach combined with intensive judicial supervision.

VISION The generational cycle of criminality will be broken.
Quality of life will be enhanced.
Goals will be achieved through teamwork.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for admission into the Kalamazoo County OWI Court an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Must reside in Kalamazoo County.
2. Must plead guilty to a misdemeanor violation of MCL 257.625, or the ordinance equivalent.
3. Must have at least one prior drunk driving offense within the past 7 years.
4. Must complete a substance abuse assessment.
5. The assessment must show alcohol abuse or dependence.
6. Must not have a pending felony case.
7. Must not have a pattern of assaultive/violent behavior or violent felonies.
8. Must not be under the supervision of the Drug Treatment Court.
9. No severe mental health issues.
10. Shall not use medical marijuana or any prescriptions for mood altering medications.

REFERRAL PROCESS

1. Defendant is referred to Probation to schedule an "OWI Court" screening.
2. If the defendant is found eligible for the program the case will be scheduled for a plea/sentence in the court of origin.
3. On plea/sentence date, if defendant eligible and agrees to enter the program, the court will take the plea and sentence the defendant into OWI Court.
4. Program Fee of \$800 assessed as well as court ordered fines and costs.

THE PROGRAM

Participants must successfully complete 4 phases to graduate from OWI Court. Maximum length of probation is 24 months.

Phase 1: Approximately 30 days

1. Meet with Probation Officer bi-weekly or as directed.
2. Bi-weekly Court appearances.
3. Random drug/alcohol testing, as directed.
4. Attend 12-step meetings as directed.
5. Counseling as directed.
6. Complete clinical assessment and develop treatment plan.
7. Random home visits.
8. Complete 2 consecutive clean urinalysis tests.

Phase 2: Minimum 90 days

1. Bi-weekly Court appearance and bi-weekly probation appointments.
2. Alcohol and drug testing as directed.
3. Attend 90 12-step meetings in 90 days.
4. Continue counseling as directed.
5. Have a minimum of 30 days clean time
6. Have minimum of 25% fines/costs paid.
7. Random home visits.

Phase 3: Minimum 6 months

1. Monthly Court appearance and monthly probation appointments.
2. Alcohol and drug testing as directed.
3. Attendance at 12-step program as directed.
4. Counseling as directed.
5. Random home visits.
6. Have minimum of 75% fines/costs paid.
7. Have minimum of 60 days clean time.
8. Maintain or actively seek employment/school.

Phase 4: Minimum 90 days

1. Court appearance and probation appointments as directed.
2. Alcohol and drug testing as directed.
3. Attendance at 12-step program as directed.
4. Counseling as directed.
5. Must have all Court fees paid in full.
6. Have a minimum of 90 days clean time.
7. Maintain or actively seek employment/school.

THE RESULT

"I have embraced the principles of AA. I have changed my life, developed friendships, repaired relationships with family, let go of resentments and accepted some pretty awful things that I have had to endure. I'm not just alcohol free, I'm sober and free!" – Graduate

"I was brought to OWI Court because of my 2nd OWI. The experience for me has been one of extreme relief. I feel relieved of pressure and worry about things that I cannot control. I feel rejuvenated and like there is nothing I can't accomplish. My sanity has been restored." –Graduate

"I am moving forward in this great sober life of mine!" - Graduate

"This program probably saved my life and has given me an opportunity to lead a greater life." -Graduate

"Before entering the program my alcohol use caused me to be blinded to how angry I was in life. All the things that I was angry with in my life were totally within my power to change... My experience in the program has allowed me to find myself and learn that every day is a day for me to grow." - Graduate

VIOLATIONS & SANCTIONS

Program violations include missing appointments, positive alcohol or drug screens, lack of participation in counseling, missed drops, and various other program violations.

Sanctions for violations may include, verbal warnings, jail, community service work, increased reporting, travel restrictions, additional phase requirements, written assignments or termination from the program.