



# Reentry Docket Guidance *for Specialized Dockets*

In an effort to inform, enhance, and assist Ohio reentry dockets, this guidance integrates the reentry population with the established, well-researched drug court model and national best practice standards. Reentry dockets that mirror the drug court model can expect reduced recidivism, maximum return on program costs, improved family and community connections, and increased treatment completion. This guidance can also be used by other adult docket types that serve the reentry population in their community. Court and docket staff should strive to collaborate with reentry coordinators, prison facility staff, and community partners to assess, plan, and provide a holistic approach for individuals to return to their communities.

## Assessments

### Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Docket Standards 2, 3, 4, Principles for the Use of MAT in Drug Courts

- Utilize validated risks and needs assessments 60-90 days prior to release to inform community supervision planning.
- Screen potential clients and implementing risk, substance, and mental health assessments prior to release (pre-screening by treatment team providers will allow better rapport when the person is released).
- Use trauma screening tools to identify specific needs of the reentry population upon release, such as: ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences, Primary Care PTSD Screen for DSM-5 (PC-PTSD-5), SPAN (self-report screen), SPRINT (Short Post-Traumatic Stress Rating Interview), and TSQ (Trauma-Screening Questionnaire).

## Target Populations

### Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Docket Standard 2

Priority population is individuals being released from prison who are also:

- High-risk of reoffending and high-need for treatment and services.
- Have a diagnosed substance use and/or mental health treatment need.
- Eligible for judicial release or post-release control supervision.

## Pre-Release Planning

Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Docket Standard 4, Principles for the Use of MAT in Drug Courts

- Create an individualized treatment and needs reentry plan prior to release to include: substance use and mental health treatment, housing, transportation, medical care, and basic needs resources and ensure medical coverage is active.
- Correctional treatment information should be shared with coordinator/case manager prior to release.
- Provide a written reentry plan to participants 72-hours prior to release to include social service agency information, providers, prescriptions and appointments documented with contact information and follow-up instructions.

## Community Resource Mapping

Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Docket Standards 1, 4, 5, Principles for the Use of MAT in Drug Courts

- Provide ongoing connections to safe housing, medical treatment, employment, education, transportation, social and family services, and financial literacy programs (assist with obtaining identification and public benefits) and provide support through community groups and peers (community volunteers, graduates, and certified peer support specialists with lived experience).
- Partner with a local Reentry Coalition and/or the ODRC Office of Reentry for support.

## Clear Program Expectations

Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Docket Standards 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10, 13, and Principles for the Use of MAT in Drug Courts, Principles for the Use of MAT in Community Control, Probation, and Supervision, and Commission on Specialized Dockets Guidance: Constitutional Rights of Participants

- Foster a non-adversarial environment that protects and explains rights to participants, including sanctions and case outcomes with ongoing access to counsel.
- Provide access for participants to have ongoing judicial interaction with regular court appearances.
- Provide written, clearly-defined structure, timeframes, and docket completion requirements.

## Drug and Alcohol Screening

Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Docket Standards 9, 13, Commission on Specialized Dockets Guidance: Constitutional Rights of Participants

- Provide random, frequent, and observed drug and alcohol testing with validated testing procedures and confirmation testing with easy-to-read instructions for participants regarding notification, screening, disputed results, and fees.

## Predictable, Fair, and Consistent Responses

### Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Docket Standard 9

- Provide examples of behaviors that lead to sanctions and incentives as well as targeted responses to optimize behavior modification.
- Team members ensure participants understand that changes to treatment plans (therapeutic adjustments) are recommended by treatment providers for non-responsive behavior and are different from sanctions for non-compliant behavior.
- Provide guidance to understanding participant rights if facing sanctions and/or terminations.

## Program Evaluation

### Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Docket Standards 2, 12

- Collect and review data as a team for program effectiveness and identifying areas of need internally and with third-party evaluators through local universities and colleges.
- Consistently evaluate equity and inclusion, recidivism, success and failure rates, and participant satisfaction.
- Evaluate alternative measures of success (employment, continuing education, connections with family and community, etc.).

## Team Training

### Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Docket Standards 4, 11, Principles for the Use of MAT in Drug Courts

- All team members continuously attend trainings hosted by state and national organizations (Supreme Court of Ohio Specialized Dockets Section, All Rise, the National Center for State Courts, the Center for Justice Innovation, etc.).
- All team members have ongoing access to and annually attend population-specific trainings (LGBTQ+, veterans, persons charged with domestic violence, etc.) and cultural competency and trauma-competency trainings.
- All volunteers and alumni graduates have access to ongoing training regarding boundaries, confidentiality, and trauma.
- Adopt trauma-informed language that avoids stigma.

## Helpful Resources

- [All Rise E-Learning Center \(National Training and Technical Assistance Provider for Treatment Courts\)](#)
- [All Rise E-Learning Center](#)
- [All Rise Prosecutor and Defense: Working Effectively on the Treatment Court Team](#)
- [Center for Innovating Justice: Planning a Reentry Program, A Toolkit for Tribal Communities](#)
- [National Center for PTSD Screening Instruments](#)
- [National Reentry Resource Center](#)
- [NRRC: Reentry Essentials: Prioritizing Treatment for Substance Addictions](#)
- [NRRC: Critical Connections: Getting People the Mental Health Care and Substance Use Treatment They Need](#)
- [SAMHSA: Best Practices for Successful Reentry From Criminal Justice Settings](#)
- [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs: Health Care for Reentry Veterans Services and Resources](#)
- [Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services: Peer Supporters](#)
- [Office of Reentry: Reentry Coalitions and Citizen Circles](#)
- [Ohio Reentry Coalitions Contacts](#)
- [Ohio Public Defender's Office](#)
- [Ohio Legal Help](#)
- [Ohio Access to Justice Foundation](#)
- [The Supreme Court of Ohio: Specialized Dockets Section](#)
- [The Supreme Court of Ohio Commission on Specialized Dockets Guidance: Constitutional Rights of Participants](#)
- [The Supreme Court of Ohio: Principals for the Use of MAT in Drug Courts](#)
- [The Supreme Court of Ohio: Principles for the Use of MAT in Community Control, Probation, and Supervision.](#)
- [Community Legal Aid](#)
- [OSLSA \(Legal Aid of Southeast and Central Ohio\)](#)
- [LAWO \(Legal Aid of Western Ohio\)](#)
- [ABLE \(Advocates for Basic Legal Equality-Greater Dayton and Toledo Areas\)](#)
- [LASSWO \(Legal Aid Society of Southwest Ohio\)](#)
- [Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati](#)



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