



**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND
FOR BALTIMORE CITY**

STATE OF MARYLAND

vs. _____

CASE NO: _____

SID #: _____

MENTAL HEALTH COURT AGREEMENT

What is the Baltimore City Mental Health Court?

The Baltimore City Mental Health Court (MHC) is a special part of the Baltimore City District Court. It is a court-supervised program for Baltimore City District Court defendants who have serious mental health issues, who need treatment and other services, and who choose to participate in the Court program instead of having their case proceed in the regular court process.

What do I have to do?

A treatment plan will be prepared for you based on an assessment of your needs for mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, developmental disability services, case management, housing and other needs. Read the treatment plan with your lawyer and with anyone else you wish to consult. In order to participate in the Court, you need to comply with the treatment plan and with all terms and conditions of your probation or pre-trial release. While you are participating in MHC, the judge, the Mental Health Court Team, probation or pretrial agent, or a clinician from the FAST program will monitor your participation and progress in treatment.

How long will I be involved in the Mental Health Court?

The length of time is dependent on your charges, plea agreement, compliance with the treatment plan and your progress in treatment.

This agreement between _____, the State's Attorney, and the Court is intended to secure the participation of the Defendant in the Mental Health Court (MHC) program. In consideration for the opportunity to participate in the MHC program, I agree to the following conditions:

- 1) I agree to:
 - i) waive the right to a jury trial
 - ii) waive the right to a speedy trial
 - iii) comply with the terms and conditions of the treatment plan and/or the conditions of the Order of Probation or the Order of Pretrial Release, if I am placed on probation or pretrial release supervision.

- 2) I understand I must be found to have committed the offense charged; to be in violation of probation; or I must agree to the facts that would establish my guilt. If the State has agreed to enter a nolle prosequi upon my successful completion of the program or the judge has agreed to offer probation before judgment, the guilty verdict/plea will be stricken at that time.

- 3) I agree to sign all authorizations for release of information as requested, and as is necessary to coordinate treatment and any other needed services and monitor compliance. If I withdraw from the program, my consent to release information is also withdrawn.

- 4) I understand that a meeting is held with the judge, the State's Attorney, my court monitor and other MHC staff before the afternoon docket of the Mental Health Court. At the meeting, my progress with the services and compliance with the court order may be discussed. I understand that my attorney will be present to represent my interests.

- 5) I agree that if I am required to live in a particular type of housing or in a particular housing facility, I must do so, and I must follow all my housing provider's rules.

- 6) I agree to take all medications as prescribed and to submit to periodic blood tests, if necessary, to determine the presence and levels of the medication. If I have complaints about my medication I must tell my psychiatrist. If I continue to have complaints about my medications, and feel that my psychiatrist is not responding to my concerns, I will contact my court monitor and/or my attorney.

- 7) I agree to participate in all evaluations requested by my treatment providers to assess my treatment needs.

- 8) I understand if I do not comply with MHC requirements and the conditions of probation or pretrial release, or if my treatment needs change, my treatment plan may be adjusted including:
 - i) increase drug/alcohol testing
 - ii) refer to another treatment or service provider
 - iii) increase reporting for supervision

- 9) I agree that if I fail to comply with the conditions of probation or pretrial, release, the court may impose, but is not limited to the following sanctions: increased drug/alcohol testing; curfew; community service; house arrest; increased progress hearings; extension of probation or supervision length; incarceration; and termination from the MHC program.
- 10) I understand that I am entitled to notice and opportunity for hearing prior to imposition of sanctions by the Court.
- 11) I understand that the MHC program, is voluntary, and I may opt out or withdraw at any time, unless I entered into a plea agreement incorporating my consent to enter and complete the MHC program. If I withdraw from the program, I understand that my case will be handled in the traditional criminal progress.
- 12) I agree that the length of any suspended sentence and the length of probation or supervision will reflect my success in treatment; compliance with program conditions; recommended continuing care; criminal record; and threat to public safety.

I have read this entire Agreement and discussed it with my lawyer. I understand what is expected of me, what will happen if I do not follow the rules and what I must do to stay in Mental Health Court. I freely and voluntarily agree to follow the provisions in this Agreement. I request to be accepted in the Baltimore City Mental Health Court and I promise to follow all the rules, terms and conditions of the program.

Defendant

Date

Defense Counsel

Date

Assistant State's Attorney

Date

Judge

Date