

Parenting in Recovery/ Travis County Family Drug Treatment Court (PIR/FDTC) Policy for Participants Taking Potentially Addictive Medication

1. When a PIR/ FDTC participant seeks medical attention, it is his/her responsibility to tell the medical doctor prescribing him/her medications that he/she is in recovery for substance abuse/dependence *and* to ask for non-addictive alternatives to any medications that are prescribed.
2. Participants are encouraged to utilize all other possible methods of treatment prescribed or approved by their doctor *before* using potentially addictive substances of any kind.
3. Participants are encouraged to limit the use of potentially addictive medications *only* in extreme and/or emergency circumstances and then *only* with their doctor's written consent.
4. If a doctor insists on prescribing the participant a potentially addictive medication, the participant *must* take the following steps:
 - a. Turn in a copy of the prescription at his/her next PIR/FDTC hearing;
 - b. Sign a release of information that allows the prescribing doctor to confirm his/her decision and validate his/her rationale regarding the course of treatment to either the Drug Court Coordinator or the CPS Caseworker.
5. The participant will create a written safety plan that gives responsibility for dispensing the medication and monitoring its use to a trusted individual approved by the PIR/ FDTC Team who may report to the Team.
6. Once the participant begins using potentially addictive medications, he/she will be placed in *Cautionary Phase*, and all conditions of *Cautionary Phase* will be in place.
7. This policy regarding the use of potentially addictive medication is specific to temporary use in extreme and/or emergency circumstances.
 - a. If use continues beyond 30 days, the participant and his/her attorney must submit a petition to the PIR/ FDTC Team that outlines the process by which the use of the medication will be ended within 90 days.
 - b. If the petition is accepted then the Team will vote on whether the participant will remain in *Cautionary Phase* or return to the *PIR/ FDTC Phase* that he/she was in prior to entering *Cautionary Phase*. In the latter case, a return to *Cautionary Phase* may occur at any time upon a vote by the Team.
 - c. If use continues beyond 90 days and the participant anticipates using the medication throughout his/her tenure in PIR/ FDTC, then he/she and his/her attorney must submit a petition to the PIR/ FDTC Team that requests a general exemption to the medication policy. Majority approval by the Team is required to approve an exemption to the policy.
 - d. If an exemption to the medication policy is granted, and the participant is in *Cautionary Phase*, the participant will return to the *PIR/ FDTC Phase* that he/she was in prior to entering *Cautionary Phase* and will continue through the phases in the regular manner.

By my signature on the Parenting in Recovery/ Travis County Family Drug Treatment Court Client Agreement I certify that I have read and understand the above policies regarding the taking of potentially addictive prescription medications while participating in the Parenting in Recovery/ Travis County Family Drug Treatment Court program. I agree to abide by each of these policies and will accept the Court's consequences if I take any potentially addictive medications without following these policies.