

**THE TRAVIS COUNTY
PARENTING IN RECOVERY/
FAMILY DRUG TREATMENT
COURT
PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK**



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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Travis County Parenting in Recovery/ Family Drug Treatment Court!

The Travis County Parenting in Recovery/ Family Drug Treatment Court (referred to as the PIR/FDTC and the Drug Court) is a special program designed for parents, like you, who are involved with CPS and the Court system. It is a program that is designed to provide you with supports and accountability as you begin your journey of recovery from addiction/ alcoholism. It is the goal of the Court for you to be able to safely parent your children in your home while you recover or if your children have been removed from your care, for them to be returned as soon as possible. The Court and CPS always take into account the children's best interests and individual circumstances in making these decisions.

If you choose to participate in the drug court program, the drug court team may connect you with supports such as substance abuse treatment, recovery meetings (like Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, or Smart Recovery), mental health services, therapy, health insurance programs, housing resources, and other services. The drug court team may also provide you with services and supports directly such as providing bus passes, paying for sober housing, paying co-pays for medications, and/or funding services for your children. Almost all of these services are free of charge to you. They are provided to help you to recover from addiction/ alcoholism and to improve your life and the lives of your children. All services are subject to funding availability and individual service plan needs.

The Court will also provide you with accountability. Your progress in all services including substance abuse treatment will be closely monitored and reported to the Judge. You will be asked to submit random drug tests while in the program to monitor your use of drugs and alcohol. You will also be Court ordered to engage in services, as deemed necessary by the PIR/FDTC team. These

services may include therapy, recovery meetings, working a recovery program with another person in recovery, substance abuse treatment, domestic violence services, parenting training, and/or other services. In response to your progress and/or lack of progress with Court orders, you will be given rewards and/or consequences. Consequences could range in severity from negative feedback from the Judge to time spent in jail. Rewards could range in intensity from putting your name in a drawing for a gift card following the drug court hearings to eventual graduation and successful completion of the program.

We would like to work with you in a helpful setting so that you can create a better life for yourself and your children. It is our vision for you that throughout this process you will grow into a sober, responsible caregiver for your children and for yourself.

The PIR/FDTC program is much more intensive than a regular CPS court case. Participants are asked to do more services and are held accountable for sobriety from drugs, alcohol, synthetic drugs (such as K2 and bath salts), and substances that are potentially addictive, even if prescribed by a doctor. We recommend that only those parents who want to be sober long-term and want to begin and continue a program of recovery, join the PIR/FDTC program.

(Special Note: This handbook and attached materials, including program forms and policy guidelines are for you to use as general information on the program. These are designed to clarify your responsibilities and expectations if you decide to participate in the program but should not be used as guarantees of any services or individual guidelines. Please keep in mind that every parent's case is different and Court orders [Judge's decisions] supersede anything and everything written here or on other forms. In other words, if anything in this handbook or other forms contradicts your Court orders, your Court orders should be followed first. For example, it is described in this handbook that while in phases III and IV participants must call in for drug testing every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. However, if the Court orders you to call in for drug testing every day, you must call in every day even if you are in phase III or IV. If you have any questions about these materials or your Court orders, please do not hesitate to ask your attorney.)

KEY ELEMENTS OF DRUG COURT

- ◆ Support for you in the goal of either having your children returned to you or in keeping your children in the home with you
- ◆ Assistance in fighting the cycle of addiction and the problems associated with the abuse of alcohol and/or other substances
- ◆ Assistance with gaining access to services designed to help you obtain and maintain sobriety and achieve success for you and your children. (Services are subject to availability and depend on the service plan developed for each individual)
- ◆ Support from a collaborative team of professionals which may include a Judge, a substance abuse treatment provider, a drug court coordinator, Child Protective Services (CPS), a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), an attorney ad litem for your children, an assistant district attorney representing CPS, a services manager from Health and Human Services, a domestic violence advocate, a child and family therapist, a case manager, a peer recovery coach, an attorney to represent you, and other social workers/ service providers.
- ◆ Accountability that you remain sober, attend drug court hearings as required (initially on a weekly basis), and follow all Court orders
- ◆ With success, you will progress through a program of four phases with rewards along the way and celebrations as you complete each phase's requirements
- ◆ The ultimate goal of a safe, stable, and sober lifestyle for you and your children
- ◆ Drug court will provide access to assistance but ultimately you are the one that will work for your recovery and take responsibility for your success

ADMISSION CRITERIA

The following criteria have been established by the Parenting in Recovery/ Family Drug Treatment Court (PIR/FDTC) team to determine if you are eligible for participation in the program:

1. You must have a history of alcohol or other substance use that directly led to your involvement with Child Protective Services (CPS)
- 2.
3. You must have at least one child age 0-5.
4. You must have a "Court Ordered Services" lawsuit initiated by CPS. If CPS obtained temporary custody of your child/ren at the beginning of the lawsuit, you are ineligible to participate in PIR/ drug court.
5. You must be willing to participate in inpatient treatment for up to 90 days or more, follow all recommendations for aftercare or continued outpatient services, and admit that you have a problem with alcohol and/or other substance use
6. You may not have a diagnosis of a serious mental illness that would prevent you from successfully engaging in treatment
7. You must be willing to participate in drug court and comply with the guidelines as outlined here and in the PIR/FDTC client agreement
8. You must not be currently enrolled in another drug court program (for example: the SHORT program, a criminal drug court)
9. You must not have any criminal or CPS history of injuring a child on purpose or sexually abusing a child
10. You must not have another open CPS lawsuit in Travis or any other county.
11. You must have a support system in Travis or contiguous county who can assist you in caring for your child/ren (***Note that this***

criteria will not automatically exclude someone from the program but it is preferred)

12. You must be at least 18 years of age

13. You must be the primary caregiver for your child/ren

(Although it is not an admission criteria, parents are encouraged to determine their eligibility for a Court appointed attorney prior to enrolling in the PIR/FDTC program. If you do not qualify for a court appointed attorney, you may pay for one yourself or participate in the drug court program without representation.)

Remember the PIR/FDTC team, led by the Judge, ultimately decides if you are a good candidate for participation in drug court.

STRUCTURE OF DRUG COURT

The Travis County Parenting in Recovery/ Family Drug Treatment Court is held on **Thursdays at the Downtown Courthouse located at 1000 Guadalupe Street (between 10th and 11th Street on Guadalupe)**. Court is held on the **1st floor** of the Courthouse in the **Courtroom attached to suite #121**. The Judge presiding is the **Honorable Aurora Martinez Jones**.

Prior to each Drug Court hearing, participants engage in a recovery meeting led by a community volunteer who is in long-term recovery and who has engaged in training with Communities for Recovery (CfR). CfR is a non-profit organization in Austin, Texas that supports long-term recovery for people with substance use and co-occurring mental health conditions by partnering with communities to provide volunteer peer supported recovery programs and services. This recovery meeting is separate for men and women. It is called the AWAKE meeting.

While PIR/FDTC participants are engaging in these AWAKE meetings, the drug court team holds a meeting to discuss the weekly progress of each participant. The team is comprised of the Judge, the Drug Court Coordinator, your attorney, the Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for your children, the

attorney ad litem for your children, a substance abuse treatment counselor, your CPS caseworker and his/her supervisor, the Assistant District Attorney representing CPS, a PIR Services Manager from Travis County Health and Human Services, a representative from CfR, a housing case manager from Foundation Communities, a child and family therapist, a domestic violence advocate from Safe Place, a PIR case manager, and other representatives from agencies that are providing services to you as needed. The purpose of the staffing is to discuss your progress since your last drug Court hearing and decide the orders of the Court for that day. The team will discuss your progress in substance abuse treatment, the results of your drug tests, your progress in other community based services, your children's needs and progress, and any other issues, as necessary. Also discussed are any rewards and consequences earned as a result of your behaviors since your last hearing. Discussion is guided by a Court report regarding you and your children. This report is generated each time you appear for the drug court docket with copies given to you and the drug court team.

During the courtroom hearing, the Judge will provide you with feedback from the team meeting. The feedback may include congratulations and applause for your efforts in treatment and your successes. It may also include advice from the Judge and suggested actions by you. Finally, it may include consequences for failure to follow court orders. During this time, you will be able to provide the Judge with a summary of your progress in your own words and if you are doing well, the Court might ask you to advise other participants on how you have achieved this success.

In summary, the weekly schedule for Thursday, Drug Court team meeting, AWAKE meetings, and hearings occurs as follows:

8:30am-10:00am	PIR/FDTC Team Meeting (participants' attorneys in attendance but not the participant)
9:30am-10:15am	Women's AWAKE Meeting outside Courtroom 121
10:30am-11:15am	Men's AWAKE Meeting in room 308B
10:30am-11:30am	Women's Drug Court Hearings in Courtroom 121 (first floor)

DRUG COURT PHASES

One of the main goals of the PIR/FDTC is to assist you in obtaining quality treatment for substance abuse and to ensure that you successfully complete that treatment. However, we understand that recovery is a lifelong process and it takes more than 90 plus days to rebuild a stable lifestyle when it has been hindered by addiction.

For this reason, there are phases to the PIR/FDTC that break down the process into smaller steps that you can achieve within shorter periods of time. Each phase involves further progression towards the goal of drug court commencement and ultimately achieving safety and stability for you and your children.

The Four Phases of Drug Court:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Phase 1 | <u>TREATMENT PHASE</u> |
| Phase 2 | <u>FAMILY FOCUS PHASE</u> |
| Phase 3 | <u>BECOMING INDEPENDENT PHASE</u> |
| Phase 4 | <u>HAPPY, JOYOUS, AND FREE PHASE</u> |

Additional Phases (only utilized as necessary):

Support Phase

Cautionary Phase

Requirements for Phase Advancement:

Each phase has a set of requirements for advancement. In order to advance to the next phase, you have to fulfill the requirements of your current phase.

All phases require that you:

- 1.) Follow all court orders and attend all drug court and CPS hearings
- 2.) Attend all appointments; not showing up for appointments and not calling ahead to make alternate plans can delay phase advancement
- 3.) Request phase advancement in writing
- 4.) Complete all pending consequences (for example: community service, essays) before you are eligible to advance

You must submit a request to the Drug Court team when you believe that you deserve a phase progression. This request will be provided to you in the form of a worksheet. The worksheet and attachments will also include all of the written tasks required for phase advancement. The team will evaluate your request to move to the next phase during the next scheduled pre-drug court team meeting. The PIR/FDTC team, with ultimate approval by the Judge, will decide if you will advance or remain in your current phase for a longer period of time.

The four phases of drug court typically take between 12 and 18 months to complete. The average amount of time that drug court graduates spend in the program is 14 months. Notice that there are no time frames listed for each phase. Advancement will be considered by the drug court team once a participant has met the criteria, regardless of the amount of time the participant has been in that phase. The drug court team does require that participants spend at least one year in the program prior to drug court graduation.

PHASE I: TREATMENT PHASE

Requirements for Advancement:

- ❖ Attend **weekly** drug court hearings (**every other week** if in inpatient treatment out of town or if the participant has been in inpatient treatment and Drug Court more than 30 days)
- ❖ Submit drug and alcohol tests with no substances detected as requested **and** as indicated by the drug court call-in system
- ❖ Successfully complete primary drug treatment program

- ❖ Establish a home group for recovery meetings if able to do so while in treatment and attend meetings as Court ordered (usually this is 3 times a week)
- ❖ Obtain a court approved sponsor or accountability partner and provide a written report to the court about your plan to work on your recovery with your sponsor/ accountability partner
- ❖ Submit a written relapse prevention plan
- ❖ Create a written Rule 11 agreement with your attorney to be signed by all parties
- ❖ Take individualized steps to obtain appropriate employment, housing, and/or education/ literacy
- ❖ Attend and engage in appropriate visitation with your child(ren), as applicable
- ❖ Complete parenting classes or newborn care class while in treatment or as appropriate
- ❖ Begin working with parent trainer if one has been assigned, and complete initial AAPI
- ❖ Participate in individual therapy, as applicable
- ❖ Actively engage in peer recovery coaching, as applicable
- ❖ Ensure child(ren) are up to date on well child visits and immunizations
- ❖ Ensure child(ren) has/ve medical insurance or is/are actively working on obtaining insurance
- ❖ Ensure child(ren) has/ve received dental and eye exam, if age appropriate
- ❖ Complete initial assessment with child therapist

PHASE II: FAMILY FOCUS PHASE

Requirements for Advancement:

- ❖ Attend drug court hearings **every other week**
- ❖ Submit drug and alcohol tests with no substances detected as requested **and** as indicated by the drug court call-in system
- ❖ Successfully engage in any recommended drug treatment and successfully complete intensive outpatient treatment (if recommended)
- ❖ Attend and document attendance to at least three recovery meetings per week or as court ordered, and continue to attend meetings with a home group or as recommended by treatment provider

- ❖ Maintain a court approved sponsor or accountability partner and continue to meet with him/her regularly
- ❖ Review written relapse prevention plan and Rule 11 agreement that you wrote while in phase I
- ❖ Complete at least 2 leadership track suggestions for Phase II and write about your experience
- ❖ Begin financial education coaching sessions with Foundation Communities or another team approved alternative course – participants must attend a total of 5 of these sessions by the end of phase III
- ❖ Take individualized steps to obtain appropriate employment, housing, and/or education/ literacy
- ❖ If obtaining income through employment is the goal to achieve self-sufficiency, complete a profile with Work in Texas at Workforce Solutions
- ❖ If obtaining income through employment is the goal to achieve self-sufficiency, complete a resume and provide it to your case manager in order to get a business suit from Dress for Success (for women only)
- ❖ Submit a detailed budget to the team to include monthly expenses and income
- ❖ Submit a plan for health care for yourself and your children
- ❖ Submit a plan for ongoing transportation
- ❖ Attend and engage in appropriate visitation with your child(ren), as applicable.
- ❖ Actively engage in parenting classes and/or parenting training, as applicable
- ❖ Participate in individual therapy, as applicable
- ❖ Actively engage in peer recovery coaching, as applicable
- ❖ Submit a completed Healthy Relationships plan
- ❖ Participate in a consultation with Planned Parenthood or a primary care physician regarding family planning
- ❖ Make appointments and follow through with all evaluations recommended in children's treatment plan(s)
- ❖ Ensure that children attend scheduled services, as applicable
- ❖ Submit a written schedule of child(ren)'s daily activities including regular food choices

PHASE III: BECOMING INDEPENDENT

Requirements for Advancement:

- ❖ Attend drug court hearings **every 3 weeks**
- ❖ Submit drug and alcohol tests with no substances detected as requested **and** as indicated by the drug court call-in system
- ❖ Successfully engage in any recommended drug treatment
- ❖ Attend and document attendance to at least three recovery meetings per week or as court ordered, including meetings with a home group or as recommended by treatment provider
- ❖ Maintain a court approved sponsor or accountability partner and continue to meet with him/her regularly
- ❖ Present a written plan to engage in an ongoing service project for the PIR/FDTC program and have this plan approved by the team. Then implement the plan in Phase IV.
- ❖ Complete at least 3 leadership track suggestions for Phase III and write about your experience
- ❖ Take individualized steps to obtain appropriate employment, housing, and/or education/ literacy
- ❖ Obtain stable employment or income source and submit pay check stub unless otherwise approved by the Drug Court team
- ❖ If obtaining income through employment is the goal to achieve self-sufficiency, complete at least 3 workshops/ trainings at Workforce Solutions (unless full employment has already been obtained)
- ❖ Submit updated budget, showing current income and long term goals
- ❖ Follow through with transportation plan that you developed and submit long-term transportation plan
- ❖ Successfully complete financial education classes with Foundation Communities or another court approved alternative course - participants must attend a total of 5 sessions
- ❖ Obtain and maintain a psychiatrist and health insurance for continued health care and medications, as applicable
- ❖ Attend and engage in appropriate visitation with your child(ren), as applicable
- ❖ Complete parenting classes and/or parenting training sessions, as applicable; show improvement on the AAPI or maintain scores above the 50% mark
- ❖ Participate in individual therapy, as applicable
- ❖ Actively engage in peer recovery coaching, as applicable
- ❖ Follow previous health care plan and submit long-term health care plan for yourself and your children
- ❖ Submit a plan for long-term child care
- ❖ Ensure that children attend scheduled services, as applicable

- ❖ Complete follow-up assessment with child therapist

PHASE IV: HAPPY, JOYOUS, AND FREE

Requirements for Advancement:

- ❖ Attend **monthly** drug court hearings (Note: Must attend at *least* one hearing while in Phase IV prior to drug court commencement/ graduation.)
- ❖ Submit drug and alcohol tests with no substances detected as requested **and** as indicated by the drug court call-in system
- ❖ Document attendance to at least three recovery meetings per week or as court ordered
- ❖ Maintain a court approved sponsor or accountability partner and continue to meet with him/her regularly
- ❖ Continue to participate in a service project that began in Phase III and was approved by the team and write about your experience - participants must speak about their service project during at least one Court hearing prior to commencement.
- ❖ Complete at least 4 leadership track suggestions for Phase IV and write about your experience One of these activities must be taking a new participant to 4 meetings.
- ❖ Maintain stable employment or income
- ❖ Maintain permanent, stable housing
- ❖ Submit projected monthly budget showing self-sufficiency
- ❖ Actively participate in planning your commencement celebration
- ❖ Maintain a psychiatrist and health insurance for continued health care and medications, as applicable
- ❖ Make a verbal or written report to the court addressing your long-term support network
- ❖ Follow previous health care plan and submit long-term health care plan for yourself and your children after drug court commencement
- ❖ Follow plan for long-term child care and submit plan for continuing child care after drug court commencement
- ❖ Follow through with transportation plan that you developed and submit long-term transportation plan following drug court commencement

SUPPORT PHASE

PIR/FDTC participants are placed in support phase if they have either self-reported the use of non-prescribed drugs or alcohol or they have submitted a drug test with non-prescribed drugs or alcohol detected. In almost all cases, even if a participant denies use of a substance, submitting a test with non-prescribed substances indicated will result in placement in support phase.

Participants return to the phase that they were working on prior to placement in support phase once a request to advance from support phase is approved by the PIR/FDTC team, with ultimate approval by the Judge. Participants must request phase advancement in writing in order to return to their former phase.

Requirements for Advancement:

- ❖ Attend **weekly** drug court hearings (**every other week** if in inpatient treatment or if the PIR/FDTC team specifies)
- ❖ Submit drug and alcohol tests with no substances detected as requested **and** as indicated by the drug court call-in system (**Reminder:** when in Support Phase participants must call-in **EVERYDAY** like Phases I or II)
- ❖ Participate in a screening for further treatment if you have been out of a treatment program for an extended time **or** follow the recommendations of your last treatment provider if currently in treatment or you have recently completed treatment
- ❖ Successfully complete recommended drug treatment program
- ❖ Attend 60 recovery meetings within 60 days and re-establish a home group
- ❖ Obtain a court approved sponsor or accountability partner, have weekly contact, and demonstrate progress on recovery program work
- ❖ Submit a relapse prevention plan with phase advancement request
- ❖ Take individualized steps to obtain appropriate employment, housing, and/or education/ literacy
- ❖ Attend and engage in appropriate visitation with your child(ren), as applicable
- ❖ Actively engage in parenting classes and/or parenting training, as applicable

- ❖ Actively engage in peer recovery coaching, as applicable
- ❖ Participate in individual therapy, as applicable

CAUTIONARY PHASE

Participants are sometimes placed in Cautionary Phase by PIR/FDTC, with ultimate approval by the Judge, due to their current behaviors or circumstances. Cautionary Phase is designed to provide additional support and accountability to a participant.

Examples of situations when Cautionary phase has been assigned in the past include but are not limited to:

- 1.) A participant's use of prescribed but potentially addictive medication
- 2.) A participant's lack of compliance with Court orders
- 3.) A participant's failure to go to recovery meetings or work with a court approved sponsor/ accountability partner
- 4.) A participant allowing contact between someone and their children who is not approved by the child advocates (CPS, CASA, and the attorney at litem for the children)
- 5.) A participant's continued and ongoing contact with others who are using drugs or alcohol

Cautionary Phase has no specific time limit and a participant may be taken out of Cautionary Phase at any time that the PIR/FDTC team, with ultimate approval of the Judge, deems that the situation or circumstance that resulted in placement in Cautionary Phase has been resolved appropriately. It is for this reason that participants do not have to write a written request to return to their former phase from Cautionary Phase.

Participants return to the phase that they were working on prior to placement in Cautionary phase once approved by the PIR/FDTC team, with ultimate approval by the Judge.

Requirements for Advancement:

- ❖ Attend **weekly** drug court hearings (**every other week** if in inpatient treatment or if the PIR/FDTC team specifies)
- ❖ Submit drug and alcohol tests with no substances detected as requested **and** as indicated by the drug court call-in system

(Reminder: when in Cautionary Phase you have to call-in EVERYDAY like Phases I or II)

- ❖ Successfully complete recommended drug treatment program, if applicable
- ❖ Attend all Court ordered recovery meetings – this number will be set by the Court and placed in the Court order.
- ❖ Establish a home group for recovery meetings
- ❖ Obtain a court approved sponsor or accountability partner, have weekly contact, and demonstrate progress on recovery program work
- ❖ If still taking the potentially addictive medication after 90 days, submit essay to the PIR/FDTC team regarding why you need to remain in the program (only applicable if placement in Cautionary Phase is due to prescription for potentially addictive medications)
- ❖ Take individualized steps to continue job search or maintain employment/ income
- ❖ Take individualized steps to continue in safe and stable housing or find such housing
- ❖ Take individualized steps to continue education/literacy
- ❖ Attend and engage in appropriate visitation with your child(ren), as applicable
- ❖ Actively engage in parenting classes and/or parenting training, as applicable
- ❖ Participate in individual therapy, as applicable
- ❖ Actively engage in peer recovery coaching, as applicable

REWARDS AND CONSEQUENCES

Part of the PIR/FDTC process is a system of rewards and consequences given to each participant based on their progress or lack thereof. When you attend drug court hearings (each week initially) the Judge, with input from the PIR/FDTC team, will evaluate your compliance with Court orders and the progress that you have made on your individual recovery program. The Court will also consider your interactions with your children, your ability to put their needs above your own, and your overall parenting abilities.

What are rewards?

If you are: 1.) Making progress in a program of recovery; 2.) Maintaining sobriety; 3.) Attending appropriate visits with your children or appropriately parenting them in your home; and 4.) Following Court orders; the Court will reward your progress with a variety of **rewards**.

Rewards are an acknowledgement by the Judge and the PIR/FDTC team that you are making progress in your recovery and the Drug Court program. Rewards can be as simple as applause and praise in the courtroom. It is hoped that rewards will give you “the pat on the back” that will assist you in continuing to do well and in continuing down the road to long-term recovery. The ultimate goal and reward for Drug Court will be reunification with your children or maintenance of your family as a unit.

Possible rewards include but are not limited to:

- Praise and applause by the Court and PIR/FDTC team
- Having your Court case called first on the docket
- Having you inform the other participants in the courtroom how you have achieved your success
- Chips or other token items to indicate completion of phases
- Decreased Court appearances
- Certificates of completion and awards
- Decreased drug testing
- Placing your name in the “Fish Bowl” so that you will be eligible for a gift card if your name is drawn at the end of the hearing
- Items for your children (such as diapers, formula, and clothing)
- Supports and services for yourself such as rental assistance, dental assistance, utility bills paid
- Eventual graduation/ commencement from the PIR/FDTC program

Why are rewards given?

Rewards are given to acknowledge the hard work and personal investment of time, commitment, and perseverance you have shown to maintain sobriety and work a solid recovery program. Rewards are a way to acknowledge your work and provide you with indications of your success.

Are the rewards the same for everyone?

Yes and No. Some milestones such as progression to a higher phase or completion of a Court ordered service are very easily measured and; therefore, these rewards will, in most cases, be the same for all participants. However, you are a unique individual, as are your children and your family. The Court recognizes that you struggle with different challenges and possess different personal strengths than any of the other participants in the drug court program. For this reason, not all rewards for you will be the same as those for others. While the Court strives to be just and fair to everyone, your rewards will be based on what is most appropriate for you given your unique individual strengths, needs and achievements.

Can visits with my children be used as a reward or a consequence?

The answer is “no”, visitation is based on the needs of your children and your family’s individual circumstances. It is never used as a reward or consequence. There are times that the child advocates (CPS, CASA, and the attorney for your child) with ultimate approval by the Judge decide that a parent’s behaviors and/or substance use pose a significant risk of harm to their children and for this reason, the children are placed out of the parent’s home and/or contact between the children and their parent is restricted. This situation is always based on the safety of the children, their best interests, and the individual circumstances of the family. It is not a consequence. Likewise, increases in visitation or return of the children to the home are not based on individual progress necessarily. These decisions are based on decreased risk of harm to the child and improved conditions for their safety and well-being. While risk of harm to the children decreases when a parent is working a recovery program, maintaining sobriety, and following court orders, increases in visitation and placement of the children back in the home are not rewards. These come through the natural progression of a parent leading a safe and sober lifestyle.

What are consequences?

While rewards are an integral part of the PIR/FDTC program when you are making progress, other measures will be taken when you are not making progress. If you are: 1.) failing to progress in services or attend treatment; 2.) failing to work a recovery program; 3.) continuing to use drugs or alcohol; 4.) not

considering your children's needs during visits or not attending visits with your children; and/or 5.) not complying with Court orders; the Court will assign **consequences** for your actions.

Consequences are the result of poor decision making. The Court implements consequences to show you that there are ongoing effects to both you and others for all of your decisions. The point of consequences is not to "punish" you but to help you to learn more effective ways of behaving and responding to stress. It is hoped that consequences will provide you with motivation to stay engaged in treatment and assist you in learning from your mistakes.

When are consequences given?

Consequences are given when you fail to comply with Court orders and the requirements of the PIR/FDTC. Examples of these include but are not limited to:

- Not attending treatment sessions
- Not attending other services that are on your service plan and/or Court ordered
- Failing to complete assignments for services or treatment
- Not attending Court hearings
- Failing to attend recovery meetings
- Failing to obtain and work with a sponsor or court approved accountability partner
- Submitting tests with unprescribed drugs or alcohol detected
- Tampering with or diluting specimens for drug tests
- Arriving late to Court hearings, treatment, or other services
- Breaking treatment rules
- Receiving an unsuccessful discharge from treatment or leaving treatment prematurely
- Missing drug tests
- Failure to attend visits with children
- Providing dishonest statements to the Court or to the PIR/FDTC team

What are some examples of consequences?

Consequences may include but are not limited to:

- A verbal reprimand from the Court or PIR/FDTC team
- Assignment of written essays on related topics
- Requiring a written or oral apology to the Court or other parties

- Requirement that participant witness additional Court hearings or hearings regarding termination of parental rights
- Assignment of Community Service Hours
- Lengthening time in a phase
- Placement in Support or Cautionary Phase
- Increased drug testing
- Requirement that participant watch additional educational videos or listen to related CDs and write an essay on these
- More frequent Court appearances
- Increased contacts (in person or by phone) with PIR/FDTC team members or CPS case worker
- Time spent in jail
- A warrant for your arrest
- Unsuccessful discharge from the Drug Court program

Unfortunately, the ultimate consequence in this situation is that your parental rights to your children could be restricted or terminated if you fail to comply with Court orders and achieve a sober, safe, and stable lifestyle. Although this is **not** a consequence that the Drug Court will utilize, it could be the ultimate consequence of your CPS case due to your failure to complete services and change your lifestyle. You must always remember that a petition has been filed to either restrict or terminate your parental rights based on your actions or failure to act as a parent. There is a lawsuit going on, brought by Child Protective Services, that will ultimately come to a final Court order. The details of this final order are largely based on your actions and progress.

PIR/FDTC DRUG TESTING POLICIES

As a participant in the Parenting in Recovery/ Family Drug Treatment Court Program, you will be asked to submit drug tests. This form tells you about the policies and expectations of the Court.

THE EXPECTATION

1.) Participants are expected to refrain from using ANY non-prescribed drugs or alcohol.

2.) Participants are required to submit drug tests in ANY FORM (examples: hair, mouth swab, urine).

3.) Participants must submit a drug test at ANY TIME the test is requested by CPS, the Drug Court Coordinator, or the Court. Please note that a test could still be requested on a day that the voicemail for the call-in system does not require a test (see call-in system information below).

4.) Participants may be asked to submit a drug test immediately (a "kit test") or may be asked to go to a designated location ("drug lab") to submit a test. When a test is requested for a "drug lab" it must be submitted within 24 hours.

ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS/ INFORMATION

5.) The results of all drug tests will be provided to the members of the drug court team and the participant.

6.) It is each participant's responsibility to inform the Drug Court Coordinator as soon as possible when he/she is prescribed any prescription drugs and to provide a copy of the prescription as verification.

7.) If a participant wishes to dispute the results of a "kit" drug test, the participant may do so and must go to a "drug lab" immediately to do so. This test will be paid for by the Drug Court program.

8.) If a participant wishes to dispute the results of a "drug lab" test, the participant may do so but must pay for the additional test with his/her own money.

9.) You are responsible for what you put into your body. Some over-the-counter medications and products contain alcohol and other substances that may result in detection of alcohol or other non-prescribed substances on a drug test. For example, Nyquil and other cold medicines, as well as most mouth washes contain alcohol. You will be held accountable by the Court if you consume or use any prohibited substances. Carefully read labels. If you are confused about ingredients, consult your pharmacist.

10.) Do not consume food and beverages that contain alcohol or other substances that might cause you to test positive for drugs or alcohol. For example, poppy seeds consumed in large quantities can result in detection of opiates on a drug test. Some energy drinks, CBD oil/ edibles, specialty drinks, bread puddings, and other desserts such as tiramisu contain alcohol or other substances which may be detected on a drug test. You are responsible for avoiding these ingredients and will be held accountable for an detected substances on your submitted drug tests.

THE CALL-IN SYSTEM

11.) All participants must submit drug tests based on a random call-in system. It is the participant's responsibility to call the Drug Court Coordinator's voicemail at 512-854-8876 and follow instructions for drug testing. The call-in system works as follows:

A.) Every participant must call the phone number 512-854-8876 on certain days of the week based on their phase in the program. (NOTE: Anyone participating in in-patient drug treatment does NOT have to call in.)

- Phase I participants are required to call the phone number on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays (EVERYDAY).
- Phase II participants are required to call the phone number on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays (EVERYDAY).
- Phase III participants are required to call the phone number on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.
- Phase IV participants are required to call the phone number on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

B.) The voicemail for the phone number 512-854-8876 will be updated every morning by 5:00am with the message for that day. It is in your best interest to check this message as early as possible in the day to allow yourself an opportunity to make a trip to the drug testing lab, if requested. It is your responsibility to know the locations and hours of operation of the drug testing labs affiliated with the drug court program and you should be prepared to visit the labs on any day you are required to call in to the call-in system.

C.) The voicemail for the phone number 512-854-8876 will indicate which participants are required to submit to random drug tests on that day by stating a color for those participants. Each participant will be assigned a color. (For example, the message might say, "Today is Friday, June 5, 2009. All participants in the Parenting in Recovery/ Family Drug Treatment Court program whose color is "blue" must submit a UA drug test today at a designated location. All participates with the word "blue" assigned to them will then be required to submit a test at the "drug lab" on that day).

D.) The color that is assigned to you, _____
is _____.

E.) It is your responsibility to make all the arrangements necessary to travel to the drug testing lab on the same day you are requested to do so by the call-in system. If the requested drug test has not been submitted by the participant by 10:00pm on the evening that the test is requested by voicemail, the test will count as a "no show". The participant will then be subject to consequences by the Court.

F.) If the participant calls the phone number 512-854-8876 and the Drug Court Coordinator answers the phone, the Drug Court Coordinator will verbally relay the message from the voicemail to the participant.

ABOUT DILUTE DRUG TESTS

12.) Drug tests that are dilute or that have a low creatinine level will be considered INVALID. Participants who submit dilute specimens or specimens having a low creatinine level, may be given consequences by the Court.

A.) Diluting a drug test is the easiest way for a participant to obtain a "false negative" result (in other words, to have no substances detected on the drug test when the participant has really been using drugs). Drinking large amounts of fluids can cause urine to be mostly water and thus, to not have enough drug metabolites in it to show a valid result. It is for this reason that urine specimens are tested for dilution while participants are in the drug court program.

B.) Participants specimens are all tested for creatinine levels. Creatinine is a metabolite that is produced by all persons and is consistently produced throughout each day. Creatinine is measured in all urine specimens to confirm that the urine is in fact urine and not something else (like apple juice, for example). Creatinine is also tested to make sure that urine has not been watered down by excess fluids. For this reason, participants who have creatinine levels that are abnormally low (lower than 20 ng/ml), may receive a warning or be given consequences by the Court for submitting invalid drug tests. In the rest of the population (those who are not being drug tested), creatinine levels that are this low are very rare. They usually occur only 1-2% of the time.

C.) Most labs recommend that participants submit urine tests after drinking only 12 ounces of fluid prior to the test. This is the amount in one can of soda. Drinking more than 18 ounces of any fluid may result in a test with low creatinine levels or a test that is dilute. Please note that fluids include any type of drink such as coffee, soda, energy drinks, or water. The fluid does not have to be pure water to produce a dilute test.

D.) If a participant cannot explain the reason for continuing to submit dilute tests or tests with a low creatinine level, it is recommended that the participant consult a doctor to determine the nature of the problem. Regardless of medical condition, each participant will be required to submit valid tests while in the Parenting in Recovery/ Family Drug Treatment Court program. This means submitting tests with a creatinine level more than 20 ng/ml and tests that are not dilute.

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 use disorder 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.

PIR/FDTC POLICIES FOR RECOVERY MEETINGS AND SPONSORSHIP

Important reminder: All PIR-FDTC participants are required to follow their Court orders even if those orders contradict the policies below! Court orders always come first.

RECOVERY MEETINGS

1. Unless instructed otherwise, PIR/ FDTC participants must attend and document at least three Court-approved recovery meetings every week. They are encouraged to attend more than three meetings per week whenever possible. Approved meetings include: NA, CA, AA, Al-Anon, meetings held at Communities for Recovery, Smart Recovery, Rational Recovery, SOS, AR Alumni, and Celebrate Recovery.
2. Recovery meetings are held in multiple locations throughout Austin and surrounding areas and take place at various times throughout each day. Meeting schedules are located on the resource table in the Courtroom.
3. Only meetings that appear on the meeting schedules (or have otherwise been approved by the Court) will count toward the meeting attendance requirement. Thursday morning AWAKE meetings do not count.

4. Participants are strongly encouraged to identify a “home group” and to attend at least some of their meetings at that group on the same days of the week and same times of the day.

5. Participants must document their meeting attendance on the form provided by the Court and turn in this documentation to a designated box on the resource table in the Courtroom prior to their scheduled drug court hearings. Participants who do not turn in documentation on time may be asked to do so before they go in front of the Judge, where they must stand ready to discuss their meetings and documentation with the Judge.

6. Participants are encouraged to engage in recovery-related service work, especially during and around their recovery meetings. Examples include stacking chairs, picking up trash, greeting newcomers at the door, and chairing meetings.

7. Failure to attend required Court-approved recovery meetings will delay participants’ phase advancement and may result in additional consequences from the Court.

8. Falsification of documentation to the Court is a serious offense which may result in the Court setting a contempt hearing and even placing a participant in jail for a designated period of time. Honesty about little or no meeting attendance may result in consequences, but they will be significantly less severe than those associated with lying to the Court.

SPONSORSHIP

1. All participants are required to engage in recovery work with a sponsor or other Court-approved accountability partner throughout the entire time that they are participating in the PIR/FDTC program.

2. Participants may identify potential sponsors by consulting with their substance abuse treatment provider, peer recovery coach, and other individuals with good quality long-term sobriety. Sponsors should have at least a year clean and sober, attend meetings and work the steps regularly, and have a sponsor of their own with whom they maintain contact.

3. Sponsors must agree to periodically accept calls from a member of the PIR/ FDTC team and answer questions about their recovery program, such as maintaining sponsor contact, meeting attendance, and progress in recovery work and service work. If your sponsor is unwilling to speak with PIR/ FDTC, please obtain a sponsor who will.

Please note: PIR/ FDTC members will never ask your sponsor about private details of your life.

4. Participants are encouraged to invite their sponsors to attend Thursday morning PIR/ FDTC hearings, family group conferences, and/or other meetings with the team.

5. Failure to work with a sponsor or other Court-approved accountability partner will delay participants' phase advancement and may result in additional consequences from the Court.

TIPS FOR PARTICIPATION IN DRUG COURT

TIPS FOR TIME SPENT IN THE COURTROOM

1.) You have approximately 10-15 minutes between the conclusion of the AWAKE meeting and your Drug Court hearing. It is expected that you utilize this time to quickly use the restroom, as necessary, and speak with your attorney. Please do not go out to obtain snacks, smoke, or engage in other activities because this could cause you to be late for your drug Court hearing. Tardiness to the hearing could result in a consequence to you. Women are expected to be present for drug court hearings at 10:30am. Men are expected to be present for drug court hearings at 11:30am.

2.) Dress appropriately for Court; This means do not wear inappropriate clothing with slang, drug or alcohol related messages, or foul language written on it. Do not dress in shorts or athletic wear, short skirts or dresses, or tops with low necklines. In other words, clothing should be more conservative and less revealing. Men, please remove caps or hats. Shirt and shoes must be worn at all times. (The best examples of the appropriate attire for Court hearings are your PIR/FDTC team members.)

3.) Be quiet during other Court hearings and wait until your case is called. If you need to talk to your attorney or another PIR/FDTC team member, please do so in the hallway away from the Courtroom doorway.

4.) Turn off cell phones and pagers. Do not text during hearings. Your phone and other technology should be placed in your pocket or purse and should not be removed during hearings. (Note that some PIR/FDTC team members may be texting while in the Courtroom but in almost all cases they are doing so regarding the Court hearings or something related to the work that they do with you.)

5.) As a general rule, there should be no eating or drinking or chewing gum in the Courtroom. Once a month, celebrations will occur in the Courtroom for phase advancement and graduations. During this time, cake will be served after the conclusion of the hearings. This is the **only** time that eating or drinking is permitted in the courtroom; however, it is expected that you clean up after yourself and your children to the best of your ability and utilize the trash receptacles available.

6.) Please watch your language when talking to the Judge. Cursing, threatening or loud language could result in you being charged with contempt of Court. Please be respectful of the Judge and other PIR/FDTC team members at all times. Part of recovery is being kind, patient, tolerant and loving with others even when you strongly disagree with them.

7.) Be respectful to the Judge and the PIR/FDTC team. If you disagree with something being said during a hearing, wait for your turn to speak and address the issue in a calm, assertive manner. If you are having trouble communicating with the Judge or team, ask for your attorney's assistance or for your attorney to speak on your behalf.

8.) Stay throughout the entire PIR/FDTC hearing. It is suggested that you schedule any appointments for other days to avoid missing Court hearings. If you need permission to leave early, please speak with the Drug Court Coordinator, CPS, and your attorney prior to the hearing. **Only** the Judge can grant a request

to be excused from, arrive late for, or leave early from a PIR/FDTC hearing. In some cases, the Court will allow participants who are engaging in outpatient substance abuse treatment or who have to work to leave early; however, this is never guaranteed. Please get permission from the Judge ahead of time, if possible.

9.) If you need to put money in a parking meter, make sure that you have permission to leave the Courtroom prior to doing so. If the hearings have not been completed, you will be asked to return as soon as possible. It is suggested that you pay for metered parking through 1pm to avoid having to leave the Courtroom during the hearings. (Please note that on days with celebrations and graduations, Court hearings may take longer.)

10.) Guests or family members may attend your hearing if they have your permission. However, they are not able to attend other participants' hearings. Please have them wait outside until your hearing occurs.

11.) The women's and men's dockets are separated for safety and privacy reasons. Men must wait outside the courtroom for the women's docket and vice versa. The only exception is that a participant may consent to their partner attending their own hearing.

TIPS FOR OUTSIDE OF THE COURTROOM

12.) If you miss a drug test, please contact your attorney and the Drug Court Coordinator at 512-854-5908. Please go the following day that the lab is open. You will be subject to consequences for missing the test but the Court still wants you to test the next day.

13.) All forms are available during drug court hearings. These are located in the front of the courtroom on the resource table. Forms include phase advancement checklists and worksheets, requests to travel outside of the county overnight, the forms to designate a sponsor, and community service locations and time sheets. If you need assistance with finding or obtaining a form, please ask your case manager.

- 14.) If you wish to travel outside of Travis County overnight, you must submit a travel request form and this request must be approved by the Court prior to your travel. Please coordinate your travel plans with CPS and the Drug Court Coordinator. You will most often be asked to drug test the day before and the day after your trip.
- 15.) If CPS is providing childcare, it is expected that your child/ren be in childcare for at least 6 hours every day that the childcare center is open. If the child is sick, a doctor's note should be provided to CPS and the childcare center. Failure to bring the child/ren to childcare could result in withdrawal of funding for this service.
- 16.) Online recovery meetings may be useful tools for you when you have an illness or your child is ill and cannot leave the home. However, online meetings do not provide the face to face fellowship and service work opportunities that are important to your recovery. For this reason, the Court requires that you only attend one online meeting per week towards your weekly total (usually 3 meetings per week).

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the difference between a regular CPS Court hearing and a drug court hearing?

CPS Court hearings are those hearings that will occur regardless of your decision to participate in the drug court program. CPS Court hearings *usually* occur approximately every three to four months; however, every case is different. Please consult your attorney if you have any questions about the date of your next CPS court hearing. These Court hearings are designed to review your progress, the other parents' progress, and the progress of your children overall. The hearings are required by law to occur any time children are involved in a CPS lawsuit. All parties are present for these hearings including any parents who are not participating in the drug court program and their attorneys. You are required to continue to attend and the Court will generate orders for you during these Court hearings regardless of your decision to participate in drug court.

Drug Court hearings will occur if you choose to participate in the PIR/FDTC program. These hearings will initially occur weekly and will become more infrequent as you progress to higher phases (see phases description on pages 10-17). Drug Court hearings are designed to provide you with additional support and accountability. These hearings will more often focus on your individual program of recovery than regular CPS court hearings. Please understand that the drug court hearings are an **addition** to the CPS court hearings; **not** a substitution for the CPS court hearings.

When can I be reunified with my children? What is the shortest possible time period? What is the longest?

When parents are reunified with their children is different for every individual parent and is unique to each individual case. Factors that the Court considers when deciding on reunification include but are not limited to your ability to care for your children and meet any of their special needs, what persons you are commonly associating with or living with that will also have contact with your children, what allegations were made regarding the abuse and neglect of your children at the beginning of the case and whether or not those allegations were true, and your progress during the case on meeting your service and treatment plan goals and maintaining your sobriety. Essentially the timeline is different for everyone and depends on the circumstances of the case and the needs of the children. If you have specific questions about the circumstances of your case or when and how reunification can occur with your children, please consult your attorney.

How long do I have to complete the phases of Drug Court?

It is anticipated that it will take you approximately 12-18 months to commence/ graduate from the PIR/FDTC program. The program requires that you participate for at least one year prior to graduation; however, some participants have taken as long as 2+ years to successfully complete the program. For this reason, there is no time to waste. Although a year or two seems like a long time, it passes very quickly. It is also a very long time for a young child who is waiting to come home or to know that they are home for good. Some participants find it helpful to focus on one day at a time, as is advised in recovery.

Will I be excused from any hearings?

Since it is possible that you could have a Drug Court hearing and a CPS hearing in the same week, the Court *may* decide to excuse you from your Drug Court hearing that week if you are doing well. Any request to be excused from Court hearings should be made to your attorney, CPS, and the Drug Court Coordinator. They can then communicate the request to the Judge, who is the only person having the authority to excuse you from a hearing. If possible, it is always best to get prior permission from the Court before missing a hearing.

I have to work. How do I schedule Court hearings around my employment schedule?

If you have a conflict with work, please bring this to the attention of your attorney, CPS, and the Drug Court Coordinator. The Court will explore possible options and try to make arrangements to accommodate you, if possible. In some situations, the Court has been able to work with participants so that they can attend hearings by telephone occasionally. But, regardless of your employment, it is still your responsibility to attend Court hearings. Please alert potential employers that you will have these hearings to attend and try to schedule your work hours around them. Ultimately, the Judge has the discretion to determine how you will progress through drug court and how often you will be required to attend hearings.

What is a permanency plan?

The permanency plan is the plan that CPS has for your children. In most cases the initial plan for permanency will be family preservation (meaning that your children remain with you and never have to be placed in alternative care). Plans can change throughout the case based on your progress and ability to remain sober.

PLEASE NOTE: This is a not a complete list of all possible questions. Please talk to your CPS caseworker, your attorney, or the Drug Court Coordinator if you are confused or need clarification on any information regarding the Drug Court or the CPS Court case. These people's phone numbers are listed on page 38 of this handbook.

GRADUATION/ COMMENCEMENT FROM THE PIR/FDTC PROGRAM

What is commencement from Drug Court?

Commencement is the final celebration signifying that you have successfully completed all four phases of the Parenting in Recovery/ Family Drug Treatment Court program.

What are the requirements for commencement from Drug Court?

The following are requirements for commencement from Drug Court:

- ✚ Successful completion of a substance abuse treatment program and the recommended aftercare
- ✚ Six months of ongoing sobriety after successful completion of treatment
- ✚ At least one year (12 months) of participation in the PIR/FDTC program
- ✚ Employment or sufficient means of financial support
- ✚ Adequate housing or living environment for yourself and your children
- ✚ Development and maintenance of a support system of family and/or community members that will remain with you after commencement from the PIR/FDTC
- ✚ Sustained cooperation and/or completion of all Court orders and service plan tasks
- ✚ Completion of a service project with presentation to the Court

What happens after commencement?

When you have commenced from the PIR/FDTC, in *most* cases, the CPS case will conclude shortly thereafter. Please remember that all individual circumstances are unique and your attorney will be able to advise you on the legal issues of your case specifically.

After your discharge from the PIR/FDTC program, please anticipate that a member of the PIR/FDTC team will call you to complete a follow up survey. This will most likely occur after your commencement and then again at six and twelve months post-discharge from the program. Please expect these phone calls

even if you are unsuccessfully discharged from the PIR/FDTC program. Your feedback is necessary and is used to improve the program for future participants and to collect data for reporting to Drug Court funding sources. Your name, specifically, will not be associated with your feedback but all feedback will be collected and grouped together to improve the program as a whole. We ask that you be as thorough and honest as possible when participating in the surveys after your program discharge.

Following commencement, all former PIR participants are encouraged to participate in the PIR/FDTC Alumni Group. The alumni coordinator, an employee of Communities for Recovery, organizes and facilitates all activities related to the group. The alumni program is there for you as a support and benefit after you have completed the PIR/FDTC program. It is our hope that you will utilize the alumni group to maintain connections in the recovery community and to have sober and fun, family outings. Details of events hosted by the alumni group will be provided to you while you are in the drug court program, because most large events involve both current PIR participants and alumni.

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Drug Court Team Members:

Name/ CPS Caseworker	Phone
Name/ Parent's Attorney	Phone
Name/ CASA Volunteer	Phone
CASA of Travis County	(512) 459-2272
Travis County Child Protective Services	(512) 834-3195
Drug Testing Line	(512) 854-8876
The Travis County Office of Child Representation	(512) 854-7312
Communities for Recovery	(512) 758-7686
Amber Middleton, Drug Court Coordinator 5908/ (737) 228-5537	(512) 854-
Michelle Kimbrough, Drug Court Services Manager / (737) 931-7826	(512) 854-5903
Lili Garcia, Foundation Communities	(512) 215-1519
Jennifer Mullen, Drug Court Case Manager 8343/ (737) 228-5502	(512) 854-
Angela Peoples, CPI Supervisor	(512) 960-9277
Eloise Sepeda, Safe Place	(512) 369-5954
Adrienne Linscomb, Child and Family Therapist	(214) 435-1234
Stephanie Sifuentes, Child and Family Therapist (512) 517-1854	
Theresa Wright, Drug Court Case Manager 3418/ (737) 228-5535	(512) 854-

Other Resources:

Abuse/ Neglect Hotline	1-800-252-5400
Alanon/ Alateen	(512)441-8591
Alcoholics Anonymous	(512) 444-0071
Any Baby Can	(512) 454-3743
Ascend Center for Learning	(512) 326-8655
Austin Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program (ADAAP)	(512) 454-8180
Austin Housing Authority	(512) 477-4488
Austin Learning Academy	(512) 457-9196

Austin Recovery	(512) 697-8500
Capital Metro	(512) 474-1200
Cocaine Anonymous	(512) 339-4357
Community Care Health Centers	(512) 978-9015
Easter Seals	(512) 478-2581
Extend-A-Care, Inc.	(512) 472-9402
Foundation Communities	(512) 447-2026
Goodwill Industries of Central Texas	(512) 637-7100
Hotline to Help	(512) 472-HELP
Housing Authority of Travis County	(512) 480-8245
Infant Parent Program	(512) 472-3142
Information and Referral	211
Lifeworks	(512) 735-2400
Lone Star Circle of Care	(877) 800-5722
Manos de Cristo	(512) 477-7454
Medicaid Services Hotline	1-800-252-8263
Medicaid Medical Transportation Program	1-877-633-8747
Medical Access Program (MAP)	(512) 978-8130
Narcotics Anonymous	(512) 480-0004
Outreach, Screening, Assessment & Referral (OSAR)	(512) 244-8444
Planned Parenthood – downtown	(512) 477-5846
Planned Parenthood – north	(512) 331-1288
Planned Parenthood – south	(512) 276-8000
Psychiatric Emergency Services (PES)	(512) 472-4357
Safe Place	(512) 267-SAFE
Safe Riders	1-800-252-8255
Social Security Administration	1-866-627-6991
Workforce Solutions Capital Area	(512) 597-7292

CONCLUSION

The Parenting in Recovery/ Family Drug Treatment Court (PIR/FDTC) offers support and accountability to parents who are struggling with drug and/or alcohol addiction and involved with the Court and CPS. The function of the PIR/FDTC is to assist you in becoming a better parent and in leading a sober, safe, and happy lifestyle. The PIR/FDTC seeks to provide you with every opportunity to break the cycle of addiction and achieve a better life for yourself and your children. The program is voluntary but requires your commitment to completing substance abuse treatment and beginning the journey of a lifetime of sobriety. The PIR/FDTC team is here to support your goal in having your children returned to you or in keeping your family together. The final responsibility for your success is your own. You are the one that has to do the hard work and you are definitely the one that will receive the credit for commencement when this occurs!

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact the Drug Court Coordinator or your attorney. Also, please do not hesitate to talk to us and provide feedback. You, the participant, are the one we wish to help and your feedback is crucial to this program's success! Finally, do not forget your family, friends, and other members of the community that will assist you along the way. Be sure to start developing and expanding your support system with positive influences as soon as possible. These influences will also be crucial to your success.

GOOD LUCK TO YOU AS YOU BEGIN THIS JOURNEY!