

Mental Health Treatment Court Services

- ◆ Ongoing judicial supervision to monitor compliance with treatment recommendations
- ◆ Ready access to mental health services and resources
- ◆ Specialized substance abuse/mental health treatment services
- ◆ Random drug/alcohol testing
- ◆ Social service support

Program Goals

- ⇒ Reduce recidivism
- ⇒ Facilitate participant recovery
- ⇒ Increase compliance with treatment and other court-ordered conditions
- ⇒ Improve access to mental health services
- ⇒ Improve family relationships and social support connections
- ⇒ Improve life stability

Contact Information

Shonta Covington
Coordinator

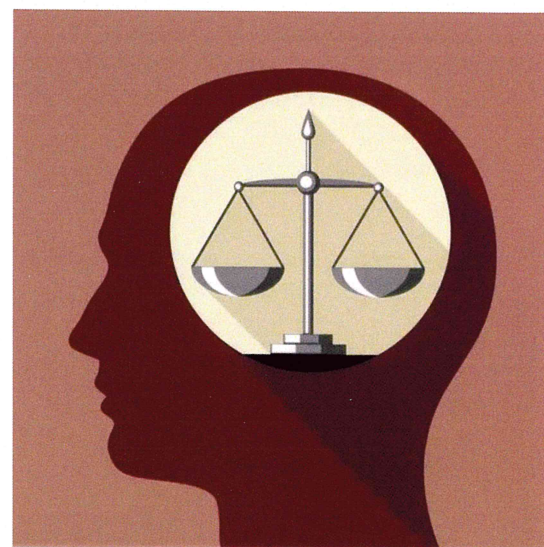
Office: (850) 767-3567
Cell: (850) 980-0834
covingtons@jud14.flcourts.org

Bay County Courthouse
300 East 4th Street
Panama City, FL 32401

Therapeutic Justice Court

Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

Mental Health Court



WHAT IS THERAPEUTIC JUSTICE COURT (TJC)?

Therapeutic Justice Court is a mental health court program designed specifically to help individuals in the criminal justice system charged with a felony offense and struggling with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders that may be a result of their mental health diagnosis.

The program provides a means to divert eligible participants from the traditional justice system and provides them rehabilitation and support through comprehensive mental health and substance abuse treatment; education; vocational programs; community resource referrals for housing, childcare, and transportation all while being judicially monitored.

The participant can enter into Therapeutic Justice Court one of two ways:

- Condition of Probation
- Deferred Prosecution

The program is a collaborative effort between the court system and community agencies to assist the participant in moving toward stability. Therapeutic Justice Court is a voluntary 12–24 month program with an emphasis on outcome-based treatment.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- A defendant charged with a felony offense and limited criminal history;
- A defendant with a verifiable mental health diagnosis;
- A defendant who has the consent of the prosecuting attorney for referral and the TJC Team's approval to participate; and
- A defendant who is willing to participate in treatment for the duration of their involvement in the program.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

- Attend court hearings once or twice a month to review progress in the program;
- Attend substance abuse and/or mental health counseling as appropriate;
- Submit to random urine drug screens;
- Comply with individualized treatment plan as outlined by team; and
- Non-compliance could result in termination from the program.