

JUVENILE TREATMENT AND SUPPORT COURT (JTASC)

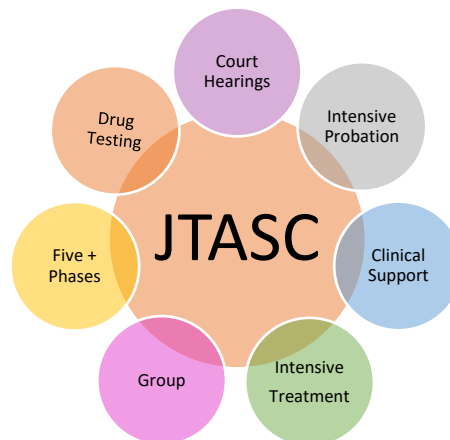


Your client, _____, has been accepted for participation in JTASC. We wanted to introduce ourselves and provide you with some information about JTASC and what is expected of the youth and family while they are participating.

WHAT IS JTASC?

JTASC is a specialty mental health court at 17th Circuit Courts Family Division to improve the response of youth with a severe emotional disorder who have come into contact with the juvenile justice system. JTASC is a team approach between mental health, judicial, legal, and probation systems. We are looking forward to working with you while the youth is in JTASC. Treatment is the key tenet to the program so it is our desire to include you on the team!

JTASC includes weekly court appearances before a designated judge, increased supervision with a designated probation officer, and intensive treatment and support recommended by a mental health clinician. The diagram below shows the key components of the program that the youth will be required to be involved in. The frequency requirements for each depends on the phase they are in. As they promote through the phases and assume more personal responsibility the frequency of supervision, drug testing, and treatment (under your recommendation) will be modified.



You are welcome to a copy of the JTASC Youth and Family Handbook. Please request a copy from the Probation Officer or Clinical Liaison.

WHY DO YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILIES WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN JTASC?

- Some youth struggle with treatment engagement. JTASC can motivate them to engage and participate in treatment.
- Some youth struggle with meeting the conditions of bond or probation and the added support improves the likelihood they can meet the conditions and complete their period of probation.
- JTASC assures that their mental health and behavior needs are considered in all legal proceedings. A variety of sanctions and incentives are used to avoid detainment and placement. We only want to use what has therapeutic value.
- Youth can remain in the community in lieu of a sentence that would place them in a detention or a residential facility.
- Upon successful discharge from JTASC their charges may be reduced or dismissed.

TREATMENT IS A MANDATORY REQUIREMENT FOR JTASC

- Mental health treatment is typically voluntary. That is not the case for families who choose to participate in JTASC. Participation in JTASC is voluntary but treatment then becomes a mandated condition of probation and their participation in JTASC.
- Youth, and their parent/guardian, are required to sign a release to support the sharing of all mental health, substance abuse, probation, legal, and judicial information among all partners. In addition, they will sign the traditional ROI to Share Behavioral Health Information among all parties.

PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU!

We look forward to working with you over the course of the youth's time in JTASC. The program can be completed in no less than a year but may take the youth longer if needed.

- If they are admitted into JTASC, and they are not engaged with services, the JTASC Clinical Liaison, contracted through Network 180, will complete a thorough assessment, recommend a level of care, and assist the participant to connect with a treatment provider.
- The JTASC Clinical Liaison will be continuously monitoring their attendance to their mental health appointments and their progress toward therapeutic goals. The Judge and JTASC team will want to know:
 - Are they attending treatment or missing appointments?
 - Are they making progress on their treatment goals? We will never ask you to share the details of your therapy sessions.
 - Are they taking their medications as prescribed?
 - Are there any noticeable barriers from a treatment perspective for successful completion of TASC?

- We would appreciate immediate notice if a crisis or crisis admission to care occurs so we can excuse them accordingly from court requirements. In addition, notice of missed appointments is also appreciated. We will notify you of an escalating situation such as an AWOL, substance relapse, detainment, etc.
- The Clinical Liaison will *liaison* between you and the JTASC team during JTASC Case Review and JTASC Staffing Meetings. However, with the youth/family permission you are welcome to participate in our weekly case review meeting but are not required to attend. You are always welcome to attend the weekly JTASC court review/hearing as these are public forums. Let us know if you plan to attend and we will send you the ZOOM link. Hearings/Reviews occur weekly at 3:30 PM.
- We ask that you share the Youth's IPOS with us and in return we will share the JTASC Phase Plan.

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Lisa Holmes, MSW	Program Coordinator and Clinical Liaison	616-410-6857 lisa.Holmes@network180.org lisa.holmes@kentcountymi.gov
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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT JTASC

Look us up on our Access Kent web page,
<https://www.accesskent.com/Courts/17thcc/jtasc.htm>