

What is a Family Treatment Drug Court?

The Family Treatment Drug Court (FTDC) is a special court docket located in the Maine District Court that focuses on families negatively affected by substance abuse. The Court serves families whose children have been removed due to abuse or neglect related to parental abuse of drugs and/or alcohol.



MISSION STATEMENT

Through judicial accountability and enhanced access to comprehensive treatment services, the Family Treatment Drug Court improves the safety and welfare of children and supports the recovery of their parents from alcohol and drug abuse.

GOALS

To establish permanency for the child in a timely fashion while providing judicial supervision, comprehensive and intensive substance abuse treatment, and wraparound services

To help substance-abusing parents become abstinent, receive appropriate treatment, and consequently make positive changes in their lives and the lives of their child.

To enable parents to function better in their families and communities, thereby reducing the likelihood of future involvement with the courts and the child welfare system.

DRUG COURTS WORK!

Parents who participate in FTDCs are more likely to be reunified with their child/ren in a more timely fashion than substance abusing parents who do not participate in an FTDC.

FTDC OVERVIEW

- ✓ The FTDC is **voluntary**. A parent cannot be forced to participate.
- ✓ The FTDC combines accountability with improved access to treatment services.
- ✓ Positive involvement in the program significantly increases the chance of reunification, and reflects well upon the protective custody case. However, successful completion of the program does not guarantee reunification.
- ✓ The best interest of the child is the most important concern of the court, although the drug court program works primarily with the parents.

ELIGIBILITY

Maine's three Family Treatment Drug Courts serve families with open DHHS Child Protective cases in Androscoggin, Franklin, Oxford, Kennebec, and Penobscot, and Piscataquis Counties.

- A graduate of the Augusta
Family Treatment Drug Court

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Benefits to Families and the Community

- ✓ Quicker permanency planning for the child involved
- ✓ Decreased crime and recidivism in the child welfare system
- ✓ Productive citizens
- ✓ Breaking the generational cycle of addiction
- ✓ Decreased number of babies born drug affected
- ✓ Improved parenting
- ✓ Reduced cost to the community
- ✓ Reduced substance abuse

Where are Maine's Family Treatment Drug Courts?

There are three FTDCs in Maine,
located at the District Courts in:

- ✓ AUGUSTA
- ✓ BANGOR
- ✓ LEWISTON

*"[You] picked me back up onto my feet
and pointed me in the right direction. If
it weren't for [Drug Court], I would
still be drinking and in jail or dead."*

*-A graduate of the Lewiston Family
Treatment Drug Court*

*"I want to live a sober life for my
daughter and family, and foremost,
myself. I attend counseling regularly
and do not miss any appointments. All
of my goals have been reached [since] I
started the Family Drug Court. I have
found and maintained work and now
have a home for my daughter to come
home to."*

MAINE'S FAMILY TREATMENT DRUG COURTS



*Focusing on the safety,
permanency, and wellbeing of*

*children while expanding services
to families with substance abuse*

**Maine District Court
Administrative Office of the Courts
Family Division**