

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS OF MARYLAND

ORDER GOVERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
DRUG TREATMENT COURTS

WHEREAS, the Maryland public and other branches of government are looking to courts to address the complex social issue of crime associated with substance abuse, focusing on problem solving and remedies not most effectively accommodated by traditional legal and adjudicatory processes; and

WHEREAS, there are principles and methods grounded in therapeutic jurisprudence, including integration of treatment services with judicial case processing, on-going judicial intervention, close monitoring of and immediate response to behavior, multi-disciplinary involvement, and collaboration with community-based and government organizations; and

WHEREAS, a drug treatment court is a specialized docket designed to divert non-violent individuals who commit crimes to support their habits into an integrated system which provides intensive treatment, case supervision and drug testing under the close supervision of the court in which offenders are held strictly and immediately accountable for their behavior through a variety of incentives and sanctions; and

WHEREAS, drug treatment courts are a proven innovation associated with reduced recidivism, and an improvement in the human condition; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals and the administrative head of the Judicial Branch of this State, pursuant to the authority conferred by Article IV, Section 18, of the Maryland Constitution, ORDER, this 23rd day of October, 2001, create the Judiciary's Drug Treatment Court Commission which shall be staffed by the Administrative Office of the Courts, shall support the establishment of drug treatment court programs in circuit courts and the District Court. The Commission will address the following program goals and services:

GOALS:

- Encourage a comprehensive systems approach to the development and implementation of Drug Treatment Courts within Maryland.
- Assist interested local jurisdictions in the development of Drug Treatment Courts by drawing upon accepted national policies and practices relevant to Drug Treatment Court programs and by providing technical assistance, training and other support.
- Provide coordination and support for local Drug Treatment Court activities within the State.
- Provide guidance and systems support for the implementation, management and evaluation of Drug Treatment Court programs.

SCOPE OF SERVICES:

- Provide technical assistance, grant writing assistance and other support for the purposes of planning and implementing Drug Treatment Court programs.
- Encourage and facilitate multi-disciplinary training regarding Drug Treatment Court policies, services and practices.
- Assist local jurisdictions in identifying and acquiring funding for all components necessary to implement a successful Drug Treatment Court.
- Establish standards and guidelines for licensed treatment providers which service Drug Treatment Court programs.
- Support implementing and continuing meritorious proposals which shall include case management and treatment services that comply with guidelines developed by the Commission.
- Establish guidelines for Drug Treatment Court components including, screening, assessment, treatment services and sanctions.

- Assist in identifying, developing and implementing a range of support services to augment recovery.
- Establish management information system standards related to interoperability, connectivity, communications, networking, data collection and reporting.
- Assist in conducting evaluations to assess the effectiveness of Drug Treatment Court programs.
- Develop best practices and standards.

The Commission shall be composed of representatives from the:

Judiciary

Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services

Office of the Public Defender

Office of the State's Attorney

Addiction Treatment Community

Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Legislature

Maryland Association of County Health Officers

Private Criminal Bar

Each Operating Drug Treatment Court

The Commission shall have a chair and a vice chair appointed by the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, who shall provide periodic reports to the Chief Judge as requested. Subcommittees shall be constituted at the direction of the chair as necessary. There also shall be an Executive Committee of the Commission composed of the Chair and Vice Chair, the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, the Chief Judge of the District Court, and the State Court Administrator.

/s/ Robert M. Bell
Robert M. Bell
Chief Judge

filed: October 23, 2001
/s/ Alexander L. Cummings
Alexander L. Cummings
Clerk
Court of Appeals of Maryland