

PIERCE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT FELONY MENTAL HEALTH COURT POLICY

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF CURRENT
POLICY OR REVISION:**

February 2, 2015 (JMM)

REVISION DATE:

**New Policy Adopted by the Judges
February 2, 2015**

I. AUTHORITY:

Reviewed and adopted at the Judges' Meeting February 2, 2015.

II. APPLICATION:

This policy applies to Pierce County Superior Court Mental Health Court Judicial Officer(s) and the participants in the program.

III. PURPOSE:

This policy sets forth the protocols and procedures followed by Pierce County Superior Court to determine eligibility, protocol and graduation/completion requirement for Mental Health Court.

IV. DEFINITION:

A defendant seeking admission into the Pierce County Felony Mental Health Court Program must meet the criteria as set forth in RCW 2.28.180 and the following criteria as established by the Pierce County Felony Mental Health Court Committee. THE FELONYMENTAL HEALTH COURT COMMITTEE IS MADE UP OF TWO SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES AS ASSIGNED BY THEIR PRESIDING JUDGE, OPTUM, A REPRESENTATIVE OF PIERCE COUNTY JAIL MENTAL HEALTH STAFF, DEPARTMENT OF ASSIGNED COUNSEL, THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND THE MENTAL HEALTH COURT CASE COORDINATOR.

V. POLICIES:

Eligibility – See Eligibility Criteria for Full Information:

1. RCW Title 46 crimes are not eligible for the Felony Mental Health Court (FMHC) program. Defendants charged with attempting to elude a pursuing police vehicle may be eligible depending on the circumstances of the case.
2. The defendant must be a Pierce County resident and demonstrate to the court that transportation is not an issue (i.e. valid driver's license, parent support, etc).

Protocol:

1. Defendant is to take all medications exactly as prescribed.

Graduation/Completion:

1. Defendant cannot graduate in the Felony Mental Health Court (FMHC) program until all treatment fees and restitution are paid in full (restitution will not exceed \$3,000).
2. Defendant cannot graduate the program if new current felonies or misdemeanors are pending in any court. Defendant cannot graduate until such charges are resolved.
3. If the defendant successfully completes FMHC, the charges will be dismissed, unless the parties have agreed to the defendant's participation in FMHC as a condition of his sentence after he has pleaded guilty.
4. Successful completion of FMHC required a minimum of 18 months and required participation may be longer depending on the circumstances of the case.