

## MENTAL HEALTH COURT TEAM

Adult probation

District Judge

Therapists

Public Defender

Pottawattamie County Jail

Pottawattamie County

Attorney

Peer Support Specialist

Council Bluffs

Police Department

SWIA MHDS Region

Case Manager



**If you think you are a good  
fit for**

### **Mental Health Court:**

**Referrals** Consideration for the Mental Health Court Program begins with a referral by the Applicant's attorney. The Application for MHC is considered the Referral for the program.

**Applications must** be submitted by the defendants attorney and can be accessed at <https://swiamhds.org> or <http://www.pottcounty.com/departments/county-attorney/>



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## Southwest Iowa Mental Health Court



“The journey of a thousand miles  
begins with a single step.”

-Lao Tzu

# WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH COURT?

An alternative to jail for persons with severe and persistent mental health diagnoses that commit crimes, meeting the established criteria.

A voluntary, intensive individualized program that will help the offenders receive the appropriate treatment. As well as ensure their basic needs are being met such as shelter and food.

The goal of Mental Health Court is to impose a sentence that provides maximum opportunity for not only the rehabilitation of the defendant, but to protect the community from further offenses by the defendant with consideration of the victim's rights and safety.

## General Criteria:

- Adult (18 years of age or over).
- The individual must agree to participate in court ordered treatment.
- The individual must reside in the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District at the time of application.
- Must be a Fourth Judicial District court case within Southwest Iowa MHDS Region.
  - a. Current charges –indictable misdemeanors and non-violent felonies.
  - b. No mandatory minimums or forcible felonies.
  - c. Offenses involving firearms or other weapons will be considered on a case by case basis.
  - d. No sex offenses.
  - e. Enter guilty plea pursuant to plea agreement.
- Must have a new criminal charge or Report of Probation Violation or agree to a modification of existing probation order.
- Supervised probation of 12-24 months.
- Mental health diagnosis.
- No adjudicated Sex Offenders or Parole cases.
- Must have ability to meet with MHC at least monthly or as deemed necessary by the court.
- Must agree to meet regularly with MHC Case Manager, MHC Therapist and MHC Peer Support Specialist, following all MHC recommendations (this includes medication compliance).

## Clinical Diagnostic Criteria:

- A Mental Health Disorder as classified by the DSM-5, including:
  - Bipolar and Related Disorders.
  - Schizophrenia and other Psychotic Disorders.
  - Depressive Disorders.
  - Anxiety Disorders.
  - Obsessive Compulsive and Related Disorders.
  - Trauma and Stressor Related Disorders.
  - Dissociative Disorders.
- The primary Diagnosis must not be Substance Abuse or Addiction Related Disorders, Personality Disorders, Generalized Anxiety or Paraphilic Disorders.
- A need for intensive team supervision to access community services.
- Special needs clients (Brain Injury, Developmental Disabilities) will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.