

Amendment to 2024 Plan of the Third Judicial Circuit Pursuant to Administrative Order No. 14

The Plan of the Third Judicial Circuit of Arkansas is hereby amended as follows:

I. Case Assignment & Allocation

Division 1 judge will be assigned all criminal cases, all civil cases and be assigned all other cases filed in the civil division, with the exception of mortgage foreclosures and real property cases, however, Division 1 will be assigned condemnation/ eminent domain, landlord/tenant unlawful detainer and **other** landlord/tenant matters. Division 1 shall also be assigned all Adult Drug Court cases in Jackson, Lawrence and Randolph Counties, and all post-conviction criminal cases. Division 1 judge will be assigned name changes filed in Jackson County. Division 1 judge will be assigned all Act 911 cases.

Division 2 judge will be assigned all domestic relations cases, adoption cases not involving the Department of Human Services, all guardianship cases not involving the Department of Human Services, and will be assigned all other cases filed in the probate division. Division 2 will be assigned all mortgage foreclosure cases. Division 2 judge will be assigned Adult Drug Court cases for Sharp County. Division 2 judge will be assigned name changes in Randolph and Sharp Counties

Division 3 judge will be assigned all juvenile cases, child support cases, Orders of Protection cases, Department of Human Services, (including Adult Protection Services cases), Sharp County Family Treatment Court and shall also be assigned all real property cases, excluding those cases assigned as described above. Division 3 judge will be assigned name changes filed in Lawrence County.

IV. Specialty Court Programs

JACKSON COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT Judge Rob Ratton

A. Description of Program and How it Operates.

The Jackson County Adult Drug Court program is a 24-month, post-adjudication program open to defendants with pending non-violent convictions.

B. Statutory Authority.

The adult drug court program was established pursuant to A.C.A. §16-98-301 et seq.

C. Certification.

The Circuit Judges of the Third Judicial Circuit hereby certify this specialty court program is operated in compliance with Arkansas statutes governing drug court programs, Arkansas sentencing laws and guidelines, and Arkansas statutes and rules regulating the assessment and collection of fines, fees, court costs, and probation assessments.

D. Description of Program's Use of Resources.

Adult Drug Court team members in each court consists of the presiding judge, the prosecuting attorney or designee, the public defender, the ACC probation officer, the ACC substance abuse advisor, the ACC administrative assistant, the County Sheriff or his designee, and the local Chief of Police or his designee.

E. Source of Funding.

The Jackson County Adult Drug Court is funded entirely by the State of Arkansas.

LAWRENCE COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT
Judge Rob Ratton

A. Description of Program and How it Operates.

The Lawrence County Adult Drug court program is a 24-month, post-adjudication program open to defendants with pending non-violent convictions.

B. Statutory Authority.

The adult drug court program was established pursuant to A.C.A. §16-98-301 et seq.

C. Certification.

The Circuit Judges of the Third Judicial Circuit hereby certify this specialty court program is operated in compliance with Arkansas statutes governing drug court programs, Arkansas sentencing laws and guidelines, and Arkansas statutes and rules regulating the assessment and collection of fines, fees, court costs, and probation assessments.

D. Description of Program's Use of Resources.

Adult Drug Court team members in each court consists of the presiding judge, the prosecuting attorney or designee, the public defender, the ACC probation officer, the ACC substance abuse advisor, the ACC administrative assistant, the County Sheriff or his designee, and the local Chief of Police or his designee.

E. Source of Funding.

The Lawrence County Adult Drug Court is funded by the State of Arkansas and by collection of defendants' assessed fees and court costs.

RANDOLPH COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT
Judge Rob Ratton

A. Description of Program and How it Operates.

The Randolph County Adult Drug court program is a 24-month, post-adjudication program open to defendants with pending non-violent convictions.

B. Statutory Authority.

The adult drug court program was established pursuant to A.C.A. §16-98-301 et seq.

C. Certification.

The Circuit Judges of the Third Judicial Circuit hereby certify this specialty court program is operated in compliance with Arkansas statutes governing drug court programs, Arkansas sentencing laws and guidelines, and Arkansas statutes and rules regulating the assessment and collection of fines, fees, court costs, and probation assessments.

D. Description of Program's Use of Resources.

Adult Drug Court team members in each court consists of the presiding judge, the prosecuting attorney or designee, the public defender, the ACC probation officer, the ACC substance abuse advisor, the ACC administrative assistant, the County Sheriff or his designee, and the local Chief of Police or his designee.

E. Source of Funding.

The Randolph County Adult Drug Court is funded by the State of Arkansas and by collection-of defendants' assessed fees and court costs.

SHARP COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT
Judge Michelle Huff

A. Description of Program and How it Operates.

Sharp County Adult Drug Court is a voluntary, eighteen-month, pre-adjudication, multi-phase intervention program designed to address the needs of criminal defendants with substance use disorders. Adult Drug Court is available only to defendants meeting program eligibility requirements. The defendant must be an adult resident of Sharp County; must not have a pending charge for a violent felony or a prior conviction for a violent felony; must not have a prior conviction that would require registration as a sex offender; must be identified as high-risk/high-need, as determined by a validated risk-need assessment; and must have a moderate-to-severe substance use disorder. An eligible defendant must plead guilty to a pending felony offense, sentencing is then deferred, and the defendant is transferred to the Sharp County Adult Drug Court for treatment and supervision services. Plea and transfer occur with full consent on the record and in writing of the defendant, prosecuting attorney, defense attorney, and the presiding judge. Sharp County Adult Drug Court conducts court proceedings every Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at the Sharp County Courthouse in Ash Flat, Arkansas; 718 Ash Flat Drive North, Ash Flat, AR 72513.

B. Statutory Authority.

The adult drug court program was established pursuant to A.C.A. §16-98-301 et seq.

C. Certification of Compliance.

Sharp County Adult Drug Court operates in compliance with all applicable sentencing laws including fines, fees, court costs and probation assessments. Team members have attended training programs offered by the Administrative Office of the Courts. Sharp County Adult Drug Court was implemented and operates in accordance with best-practice standards.

D. Description of Program's Use of Resources.

The Sharp County Adult Drug Court team includes the circuit judge, deputy prosecuting attorney, deputy public defender, court coordinator, treatment provider, probation officer, and law enforcement representative. All drug court team members meet weekly for staffing and court review hearings.

E. Source of Funding.

The Sharp County Adult Drug Court receives funding and support from Sharp County, the Public Defender Commission, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office, the Department of Community Corrections, the Administrative Office of the Courts, and federal and state grant opportunities as they arise and become available. There are sufficient resources for the program's operation, as required by A.C.A. §16-98-305. The Sharp County Adult Drug Court is funded by collection of defendants' assessed fees and court costs.

SHARP COUNTY FAMILY TREATMENT COURT
Judge Adam Weeks

A. Description of Program and How it Operates.

Sharp County Family Centered Treatment Court is a voluntary, multi-phase intervention program designed to reduce the incidence of family separation due to substance use disorders and mental health disorders. The Court uses multidisciplinary, collaborative approach to serve families and ensure that parents are fully supported in their parenting role and children receive the necessary services and support to return to or remain with his or her parent, guardian or custodian during the treatment and recovery process.

B. Statutory Authority.

The Sharp County Family Treatment Court was established pursuant to A.C.A. §9-27-801 et seq.

C. Certification.

The Circuit Judges of the Third Judicial Circuit hereby certify this specialty court program is operated in compliance with Arkansas statutes governing drug court programs, Arkansas sentencing laws and guidelines, and Arkansas statutes and rules regulating the assessment and collection of fines, fees, court costs, and probation assessments.

D. Description of Program's Use of Resources.

The Sharp County Family Treatment Court uses a team approach to decision making. The team includes the Judge, representative of the Department of Child and Family Services division of DHS, a program coordinator, a peer support specialist, parent counsel, attorney ad litem and mental health providers from Hope Behavioral. The team meets bi-weekly for staffing and court hearings.


E. Source of Funding.

Funding is provided by a SAMSA grant from the United States Department of Justice.

Therefore, the Circuit Judges of the Third Judicial Circuit respectfully submit this amendment to the plan for judicial caseload allocation for the consideration and approval of the Supreme Court of the State of Arkansas.


Honorable Rob Ratton


Honorable Michelle Huff


Honorable Adam Weeks