

Drug and Alcohol Court

FACT SHEET

Are drugs and alcohol a problem for you? Are you facing jail?

The Queensland Drug and Alcohol Court can work with you to get your life back on track.

What is the Drug and Alcohol Court?

The Drug and Alcohol Court is a court that deals with offences that relate to serious drug and alcohol use. The magistrate can give you a Drug and Alcohol Treatment Order (Treatment Order) where you complete a two-year program in the community while on a suspended sentence.

You need to agree to the order. The court has treatment and support programs to help you.

How do I get to the Drug and Alcohol Court?

A magistrate will need to refer you to the Drug and Alcohol Court in Brisbane.

You, your family or your lawyer need to:

Get the form: Drug and Alcohol Court *Form 1 Referral Form* from the Magistrates Court, the Queensland Courts website or your lawyer.

Complete the form: Duty lawyers at the court—or lawyers from Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ)—can help you or your family with this.

Your lawyer will give this form to the magistrate who may then refer you to the Drug and Alcohol Court.

You will need to talk to people at the Drug and Alcohol Court about your drug and alcohol use and your offending.

This information will help the court decide if you should receive a Treatment Order.

Why should I get a Treatment Order?

A Treatment Order supports you to get your life back on track.

To successfully complete your order you will have to do everything the court tells you to do. That means attending treatment, regularly coming back to court and being drug and alcohol tested.

Learn more at

www.courts.qld.gov.au/courts/drug-court

Queensland Drug and Alcohol Court

P: 07 3738 7111

(Monday to Friday, 9am to 4:30pm)

E: drugandalcoholcourt@justice.qld.gov.au

Legal Aid Queensland:

P: 1300 65 11 88

(Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm)

Where is the Drug and Alcohol Court?

The Drug and Alcohol Court is on level four of the Brisbane Magistrates Court. The court has its own magistrate and a team of people to help you.

This team includes:

- » an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Liaison Officer
- » lawyers from LAQ to represent you
- » Queensland Corrective Services (QCS) officers who will supervise and monitor your progress on the order
- » Queensland Health clinicians to help with your medical and treatment needs
- » Prosecutors from the Queensland Police Service.

The magistrate will know who you are, and the people at court working with you will tell the court how you are progressing.

How does it work?

The treatment program lasts for two years. Once the court gives you a Drug and Alcohol Treatment Order you will need to talk to a

health clinician and QCS officer to find the best treatment plan for you.

As well as completing the treatment, you will need to attend court a lot so you can talk to the magistrate about your progress and any issues you are facing.

You will not be allowed to use drugs or alcohol and you will be regularly tested.

The court and its officers will support you while you complete your order.

What happens if I break my Treatment Order?

The Drug and Alcohol Court understands things may be very difficult for you. The magistrate will work with you to understand why you broke the order.

The court may then ask you to do extra things such as come to court more regularly or do some community service—or you might have to go to jail for short periods.

If you decide you do not want to complete your treatment program, you may be sent to jail as part of your sentence.

Am I eligible?

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| ✓ Live in the Brisbane area | ✗ If you are currently serving a prison sentence |
| ✓ Are likely to be sentenced to jail | ✗ If you are already on parole |
| ✓ Plead guilty in a Magistrates Court | ✗ If you are charged with sexual assault offence/s |
| ✓ Have a severe problem with drugs or alcohol | |