

Serving Misdemeanor Offenders with Mental Illness in King County

For information or to consider a referral please contact:

mentalhealthcourt@kingcounty.gov

Or visit www.kingcounty.gov/courts



Inspirational medallion given to RHMC graduate

Regional Mental Health Court consists of a team of professionals who have specialized training and experience with mental health issues and therapeutic courts. They meet regularly to ensure that RMHC functions at its highest possible level.

The team consists of:

- ✓ The Judge;
- ✓ The Defense Attorneys & Defense Social Workers;
- ✓ The Prosecutors & Victim Advocate;
- ✓ The Peer Specialists
- ✓ The Probation Mental Health Specialists; and
- ✓ The Court Clinicians



King County

King County District Court
Regional Mental Health Court
King County Courthouse
516 3rd Ave, Courtroom E 326
Seattle, WA, 98104
mentalhealthcourt@kingcounty.gov

King County District Court Regional Mental Health Court



King County

"I want to be here because I want the help that it provides."

Defendant opting into Regional Mental Health Court

*"(RMHC) has sobered me up to the fact I need to use medication."
-- Regional Mental Health Court Graduate*

King County District Court Regional Mental Health Court

What are the eligibility Criteria?

- ✓ Act occurred in King County
- ✓ Major mental illness (severe & persistent Axis I disorder)
- ✓ Amenable to treatment
- ✓ Agreeable to Mental Health Court conditions, supervision and monitoring

*"Mental Health Court has helped me stay focused."
--Regional Mental Health Court Graduate*

How does a case get into Regional Mental Health Court?

If the defendant is charged with a felony or the case is pending in a King County Municipal Court, the Prosecutor currently assigned to the case must make the referral. If the defendant is charged with a misdemeanor and the case is being prosecuted by the King County Prosecutor's Office, anyone - including defense counsel - can refer the case to RMHC.

What happens once the case is referred?

Defendants appear in court one or more times to meet the RMHC team and to screen for program eligibility. If the defendant is eligible for RMHC and amenable to program requirements, the Court Clinician will draft a plan specific to the defendant's needs.



Above and below: Inspirational art created by RMHC participants



What are the expectations of Regional Mental Health Court?

- ✓ Comply with conditions of treatment and up to 24 months of supervision
- ✓ Be actively engaged in mental health treatment and/or a chemical dependency program
- ✓ Take prescribed medications as directed
- ✓ Maintain housing and follow all housing rules (the RMHC team can often assist with housing placements)
- ✓ Submit to urinalysis as directed
- ✓ Report to a Probation Mental Health Specialist as directed by the Judge
- ✓ Return to court for reviews on a regular basis, initially at least every 30 days

*"I want to be productive and actively pursue goals that I set for myself."
--Regional Mental Health Court Graduate*