

THE ALBEMARLE-CHARLOTTESVILLE THERAPEUTIC DOCKET

What is it?

The Therapeutic Docket is a court-administered behavioral health treatment program. It combines mental health treatment, treatment for co-occurring disorders such as substance abuse, and provision of services for other identified needs to increase the likelihood of a participant's success. Participants are supervised by a specially-trained OAR case manager, and attend regular Therapeutic Docket sessions in the District Court.

Why a Therapeutic Docket?

The Therapeutic Docket offers participants a chance to make meaningful, positive changes in their lives and an opportunity to receive a favorable disposition of their charge, by completing program requirements. For most participants, their charge will be dismissed following successful completion of their case plan and graduation from the Therapeutic Docket program.

Who is eligible?

- Defendants charged with a misdemeanor in Albemarle County or the City of Charlottesville, with the exception of Driving under the Influence. Some lower-level felony offenses will also be considered, at the discretion of the Commonwealth's Attorney.
- Defendants for whom a serious behavioral health disorder played a significant part in their offense.
- Defendants without a significant history of prior violent or sexual offenses within the last ten years.

What's it like?

- Each participant meets with the Therapeutic Docket Team to develop and implement a treatment plan that meets their needs.
- The Therapeutic Docket Team includes a behavioral health clinician from Region Ten Community Services, a case manager from OAR, and the Therapeutic Docket Coordinator.
- The General District Court Judge is also an active team member and will meet with participants in court every other week to assess their progress.
- The Team ensures that participants are offered what they need to be successful in the program, which may include behavioral health treatment, medication, cognitive-behavioral counseling, drug/alcohol testing, and referrals for housing, educational and employment assistance.

How do people become participants in the Therapeutic Docket?

- Interested defendants first meet with their attorney to discuss their case. The attorney can make a referral to the Therapeutic Docket, if desired.
- Referrals can also be made by pretrial staff, police officers, jail staff, the Magistrate, the Commonwealth's Attorney, treatment providers, or the defendant, by contacting the Docket Coordinator and defense attorney.
- If eligible, the Commonwealth's Attorney determines whether a potential participant meets the public safety criteria for admission.
- Next, an evaluation is conducted by OAR and Region Ten to determine if the defendant is a good match for the Therapeutic Docket.
- If final approval is made by the Commonwealth Attorney, the case is referred to the next session of the Therapeutic Docket, and a meeting with the Judge. Participants plead guilty to the offense as charged, and stipulate that the Commonwealth's evidence would be sufficient to support a conviction. No finding of guilt will be made while the participant enters and completes the Therapeutic Docket, averaging six to 12 months in duration.

I'm interested...now what?

- Call your attorney to inform him/her that you are interested in the Therapeutic Docket.
- Inform health staff at the jail of your interest, if you are confined.
- Inform OAR Pretrial staff, if you are interviewed for a bond hearing.

For more information, call Ashley Bowles at (434)296-2441 Ext. 131 email: ABowles@oar-jacc.org