

To be Eligible for Seattle Municipal Mental Health Court

Referral must meet diagnostic criteria. Acceptable and eligible diagnoses are any **mental health, severe and persistent diagnosis with psychotic features**, providing that the individual also meets other criteria for eligibility. Examples of eligible diagnosis are Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective disorder, or Bipolar 1 w/ psychotic features. All other Axis 1 diagnosis will be considered on a case by case basis, must meet all other criteria, and is at the absolute discretion of the court liaison.

Referral must be **amenable** to treatment. Client has some history of complying with treatment recommendations and is willing to take psychotropic medications as prescribed. If history of probation there is evidence that supports the client's ability to comply with those requirements. Client must also be willing to sign a release of information to all treatment providers past and present.

Chemical dependency must be secondary to mental health issues. This is determined by drug and alcohol charges, length of usage and chemical dependency treatment history. If client has drug/alcohol issues, they must be willing to seek treatment for those, inpatient or outpatient, depending on need. The court monitor reviews CD information and makes the determination regarding severity.

Geographically the client should live very close to Seattle, with transportation to court and treatment.

There is a **nexus between the mental health diagnosis and the charge.** The purpose of Mental Health Court is to serve individuals whose recidivism is related to their mental health issues and lower that by giving them support and accountability.

The individual must have **insight into their mental health diagnosis** and accept the treatment being offered. If client does not believe that they have a mental health diagnosis or that treatment could benefit them, they will not be considered.

There is a **history of utilization of the mental health system.** This could be hospitalizations, ITA's, community mental health centers, or private mental health providers. History of treatment establishes the individuals need for services.

The individual is willing to be on **probation** for up to 2 years and remain totally clean and sober and treatment compliant during that time.

Eligibility is determined by the court liaison.