

# CHATHAM COUNTY DUI COURT PROGRAM FACT SHEET



## DUI Court's Mission Statement

The Chatham County DUI Court's mission is to confront the substance abuse issue underlying the repetitive pattern of offenders of driving under the influence of alcohol/drugs. The DUI Court provides meaningful treatment to participants coupled with continuing judicial oversight designed to reduce recidivism through enhanced supervision and individual accountability. Additionally, the Court's goal is to increase public safety for citizens of Chatham County and to educate the public about the multiple benefits DUI Courts offer the communities they serve.

## INTENT of the DUI COURT

Traditional approaches to sentencing (i.e. periods of confinement, fines, community service, interlock devices, victim impact panels, and alcohol risk reduction courses) alone are simply inadequate to address addictive behavior demonstrated by a continuing pattern of DUI offenses. The DUI Court will bring the full weight of all interveners (judges, prosecutors, defense counsel, substance abuse treatment specialist, law enforcement, probation officers, and others) to bear, forcing the offender to deal with his/her substance abuse problem.

## REQUIREMENTS

Prior to being placed in DUI Court the following eligibility requirements must be met:

The candidate must be a **multiple offender**... have two DUIs in the past five years or three or more lifetime.

The candidate must be under the jurisdiction of the State Court of Chatham County.

## COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Reduces repetitive DUI and other drug related criminal offenses

Provides for enhanced offender supervision and accountability

Improves the likelihood of offender rehabilitation

Returns the offender to the community as a sober and productive member

Increased community safety

**The more conservative estimates from scientific sources and Ameta-analyses@ have concluded that Accountability Courts significantly reduce crime as much as 35% compared to the alternatives.**

## CHATHAM COUNTY DUI COURT

133 Montgomery Street, Suite 308 Savannah, Georgia 31401

(912) 652-7280 • [DUIcourt.ChathamCounty.org](http://DUIcourt.ChathamCounty.org)

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- Chatham County DUI Court was **established in 2003** by Judge H. Gregory Fowler
- Was one of three pilot DUI Courts in the State of Georgia (currently 20 operating DUI Courts in GA)
- Average Blood Alcohol Content @ time of arrest: **.20**
- Average number of DUIs at time of entry into DUI Court: **3**
- Average age of all participants: **44**
- Number of current participants: **163 (83% male...17% female)**
- Number of graduates: **971**
- DUI recidivism rate for graduates: **7.9% (32% National Average)**
- Number of treatment sessions scheduled for 2013: **5,649**
- Percentage of treatment sessions that were attended: **97.4%**
- Number of drug screens performed in 2013: **16,545**
- Percentage of drug screens that were positive (all "no shows" are counted positive): **2.1%**
- Treatment fees of \$42.00 per week are paid by the participants

## TAXPAYER SAVINGS

Total savings to Chatham County Taxpayers is difficult to accurately report because terms of sentencing can vary widely. Accountability Courts often choose to calculate taxpayers savings by multiplying a set number of days a participant might spend in jail (i.e. 90 days) if the court did not exist. Using this calculation the Chatham County DUI Court has conservatively saved taxpayers over **\$850,000 in 2013**. This estimate does not take into account the even larger taxpayer savings from publicly funded expenses associated with alcohol/drug abuse

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