



## HCMHC

Participation in the HCMHC is optional and gives the qualified defendant an opportunity to become stabilized while starting to build a more successful life within our community. A defendant must be represented by counsel to participate in the HCMHC.

Hernando County  
Mental Health Court  
20 N. Main St.  
Brooksville, Florida 34601  
Office: 352-540-6780

The Hernando County Mental Health Court does not discriminate against qualified applicants and on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, marital status, handicap (disability) or veteran status or as otherwise prohibited by federal, state or local law.

# Hernando County Mental Health Court

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*A guide for Defendants*

Our mission is to divert non-violent defendants with mental illness from the Hernando County jail and active criminal prosecution to the appropriate community-based treatment and support services to help those defendants build successful lives.

## What is the Hernando County Mental Health Court?

The Hernando County Mental Health Court [HCMHC] is a special part of the Hernando County Court. It is a Court-supervised program for those arrested in Hernando County who have a mental illness, who need treatment and other services, and who choose to participate in the HCMHC instead of having their case proceed through the regular court process. If you agree to participate in the HCMHC, you will have a four-week trial period during which you can choose to not continue with HCMHC.

### What do I have to do?

The HCMHC Staffing Team will prepare a treatment plan for you based on an assessment of your needs for mental health, substance use and/ or alcohol treatment, case management services, and housing. To participate in the HCMHC, you must agree to comply with your treatment plan.

## How long will I be involved in the HCMHC?

**Mental Health Court is a Three Phase program that lasts for 6 months to a year.** The amount of time you spend in Mental Health Court is determined by your participation and by your progress. While you are participating in Mental Health Court, the Judge and the Mental Health Court Staffing Team will monitor your participation and progress in treatment.

### What's in it for me?

**Opportunity:** The HCMHC offers you a chance to avoid jail on your current charge and to move forward in your life. Remember that there are many people who make up the HCMHC Staffing Team and they all want to see you succeed. If you take advantage of the assistance offered, you can discover many ways to make a better life for yourself.

**Services:** The HCMHC will help you get case management services, mental health treatment, involved with a support group, and if your treatment plan calls for it, substance use or alcohol treatment and supported housing.

**Recognition of progress:** As you progress through the phases of your treatment plan, the HCMHC Judge will recognize your achievements and you will receive acknowledgement of your accomplishments.

## Outcome of Case?

When you graduate from Mental Health Court, **your case will be dismissed.**

## What do I need to do to participate?

**Be Honest:** The Mental Health Court Staffing Team is here to help you in your recovery process. We recognize that recovery is not an easy path, and we want to help you continue your progress around any obstacles that you may encounter. If you are not honest with the Team, we will be unable to help you appropriately.

**Waiver of Confidentiality Consent:** To participate in Mental Health Court you must sign a Consent Form Waiver, a waiver of confidentiality among Mental Health Team members. This means that your doctor, social workers, and other Team members are free to share appropriate information about your treatment program and your progress.

**If you are interested in participating in the Hernando County Mental Health Court Program, notify your Attorney.**