

Adult Mental Health Court Certification

Application Instructions

December 6, 2017



Why Certify?

- State funding
 - Certification is Required by O.C.G.A. § 15-1-16 to receive state funding.
- Improve court functioning and outcomes
 - Certification requirements are based on standards and best practices developed from national research.

Certification Application

- The application is designed to follow the *Georgia Standards for Accountability Courts*.
- The next several slides cover each section in depth. The section being discussed will be yellow.

Essential Elements Standards Benchmarks Certification Requirement	Suggested Location, if any	Documentation
Essential Element #1: A broad-based group of stakeholders representing the criminal justice, mental health, substance abuse treatment, and related systems and the community guides the planning and administration of the court.		
<p>Benchmarks 1.1 – 1.4: Each mental health court shall establish a multiple discipline planning committee and an advisory group to create a work plan and to monitor criteria, mechanisms and court processes. In some jurisdictions, these two groups may have the same membership. These planning and advisory groups shall have judicial leadership and shall periodically review and suggest revisions to mental health court policies and procedures.</p>		
<p>Certification Requirement 1a: A mental health court work plan should be contained in a written policy and procedure manual.</p>	<p>Policy and Procedure Manual, Work Plan</p>	<p>Does your court meet this requirement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Is there an attachment(s) to support this requirement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Title(s) of the attachment(s) _____</p> <p>Relevant Page Number(s) _____</p>

Essential Elements

- The Essential Elements are taken from national research on best practices.
- There are ten that guide *Georgia's Standards* and the certification application.

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Certification Requirement 1a: A mental health court work plan should be contained in a written policy and procedure manual.	Policy and Procedure Manual, Work Plan	Does your court meet this requirement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Is there an attachment(s) to support this requirement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Title(s) of the attachment(s) _____ Relevant Page Number(s) _____

Standards Benchmarks

- The Standards Benchmarks flow from the Essential Elements and provide a more specific goal.
- The numbering matches the *Georgia Standards* for easy reference.

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Certification Requirements

- The Certification Requirements prescribe what your court should be doing to meet the associated standards.
- You should be able to show that your court meets the Requirement or is working towards it.

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Suggested Practices

- Some Elements and Benchmarks have a suggested practice. While these are not required, they are employed by high performing courts and are recommended to improve participant outcomes.

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Essential Element #2: Eligibility criteria address public safety and consider a community's treatment capacity, in addition to the availability of alternatives to pretrial detention for defendants with mental illnesses. Eligibility criteria also take into account the relationship between mental illness and a defendant's offenses, while allowing the individual circumstances of each case to be considered.		
Benchmark 2.5: Pursuant to OCGA 15-1-16 (b) (3), defendants charged with murder, armed robbery, rape, aggravated sodomy, aggravated sexual battery, aggravated child molestation or child molestation are ineligible for enrollment in a mental health court division except in the case of a separate court supervised reentry program designed to more closely monitor mentally ill offenders returning to the community after having served a term of incarceration. Any such court supervised community reentry program for mentally ill offenders shall be subject to the mental health court work plan.		
Element 2 Suggested Practice: The court should list resources in order to assist development of a continuum of community intercept points.	Policy and Procedure Manual, Work Plan	Does your court meet this requirement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Is there an attachment(s) to support this requirement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Title(s) of the attachment(s) _____ Relevant Page Number(s) _____

Suggested Location

- The Suggested Location provides an option where forms, lists, or documents from the Requirement might be kept.
- In most instances, your court can keep the information stored in another location.

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Documentation

- Use the Documentation section to mark whether or not your court meets the Requirement.
- If you mark Yes, please attach supporting documentation and list an appropriate page number.

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Documentation

- If your court does not meet the Requirement, mark No and attach an explanation or a plan for meeting the Requirement in the future.
- Again, please include an attachment title and page number.

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Application Notes

- Please remember that not meeting a requirement will not automatically disqualify you from receiving funding.
- Be sure to complete the entire Application and ensure all attachments are clearly marked and easily identified.
- Work with your Mental Health Court team to complete the Certification Application.

Submitting Your Application

- Scan and email the Application documents to <http://www.gaaccountabilitycourts.org/cacj-certification>.
- Failure to submit the Certification Application on time will compromise the ability to review your submission and provide timely recommendations on certification eligibility.

Need Help?

- Contact CACJ Staff if you need assistance
- Sacha Greene, Certification Officer
 - 404-463-1906
 - sacha.greene@georgiacourts.gov
- Josh Becker, Chief Certification Officer
 - 404-463-6298
 - josh.becker@georgiacourts.gov