

# Referral to Oneida County HOPE Intervention Court



## WHAT IS INTERVENTION COURT?

The primary focus of the court is to rapidly connect individuals with substance use disorders who are arrested with misdemeanor and nonviolent felonies to treatment. Intervention Court does not make promises to participants regarding the disposition of their criminal case. The HOPE Intervention Court will connect defendant with the services they need to become stable and sober. When participants have completed the 90 day Intervention Court, defense counsel, and the district attorney's office will be notified and the legal proceedings will resume.

The Oneida County HOPE Intervention Court is presided over by the Honorable Gregory J. Amoroso, staff members, and agencies committed to help individuals stabilize and make positive changes.

This program follows the [10 Essential Elements of Opioid Intervention Courts](#) model.

## IS THIS CASE ELIGIBLE?

1. Non-violent Felony and Misdemeanor case
  2. Defendant is at high risk for drug overdose
  3. Defendant is willing to engage in substance use disorder treatment
- YES TO 1-3 = ELIGIBLE

## HOW DO I REFER?

Use the Intervention Court Referral Form OR  
Contact the intervention court case manager at 315.266.4644 (office) or 680.214.7679 (cell)

Adjourn case to intervention court for next appearance.

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The participant is expected to:

- appear at intervention court,
- abstain from all mood-altering substances,
- comply with the intake process with their designated treatment facility,
- engage in random drug testing at court/treatment.

Individuals facing a violation of probation or probation misconduct can be considered for the program.

## ENTRY

1. The pre-entry form is used for screening; the process will identify the defendant's overdose history, current opioid use, pending criminal charges, history of substance use disorder treatment and willingness to enter substance use disorder treatment.
  - The program and expectations are explained to the defendant before entry.
2. At first appearance, the defendant will be interviewed by the intervention court judge for consideration into the program.
  - Program expectations are reviewed, the defendant is provided a copy of expectations and program brochure.
  - A representative from the District Attorney's office and defense counsel are required to appear at every new participant entry.
3. The case manager will meet with the new participant to complete an intake form. The participant intake form is used to collect the individual's demographics and identify any barriers.
  - When barriers (ex: transportation, insurance, need for referrals) are identified the case manager will assist in problem solving and connecting the individual to services.
4. Certified Recovery Peer Advocates (CRPA) are available at HOPE court. This service provides addition support and improves participant engagement in the program. Each participant is offered a referral to peer services at entry.

## SUSPENSION OF LEGAL PROCESS

1. Immediately after entry, court of jurisdiction, defense attorney, and prosecutor will receive notice indicating the defendant was accepted into opioid court and request for a suspension of prosecution during stabilization.
  - The defendant is advised to contact their defense attorney and sign appropriate speedy trial paperwork.
2. This is a voluntary program and participants can choose to leave the program at any time. If they leave the program early or are released from the program due to non-compliance the court of jurisdiction is notified immediately.
3. When an individual completes the 90-day program, a summary of their progress will be sent to the court of jurisdiction, defense attorney, Oneida County Probation-Pretrial Services, and district attorney's office. Treatment providers are notified when there is any change of status.

## PARTICIPATION

Participants are required to participate in intervention court twice a week, as directed by court staff. Participants will have contact with the case manager on days they are not appearing in court. Every participant is expected to comply with drug testing.

Each participant is advised to explore Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) options with the staff at the designated OASAS approved treatment provider. They can choose to be on MOUD (i.e. Suboxone or Methadone) or chose not to be prescribed a medication after consulting with medical staff at treatment.

In addition to Substance Abuse Treatment, participants are offered to be connected to mental health therapy.

## TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is addressed with every participant to ensure no barriers to daily reporting.