

What happens to a case accepted by MHC?

A case may be disposed of by pre-trial diversion, post-plea diversion.

The participant appears before the Treatment Court Judge for disposition and entry into the MHC.

The participant must agree to comply with a comprehensive service plan and specialized supervision.

A specialized MHC Probation Officer and Case Manager closely supervise the participant and report progress to the Judge.

The participant attends informal review sessions before the MHC Judge at varying intervals depending on their progress.

If the participant violates conditions of MHC, or fails to follow their service plan, they will be promptly scheduled for review before the MHC judge.

Individualized and graduated incentives or sanctions are used to reward positive behavior or to promptly address negative behavior.

The Mental Health Court is a collaborative effort of:

- Ⓢ **Chester County Commissioners**
- Ⓢ **Court of Common Pleas**
- Ⓢ **District Attorney's Office**
- Ⓢ **Public Defender's Office**
- Ⓢ **Chester County Prison**
- Ⓢ **Bail & Pretrial Services**
- Ⓢ **Dept of Human Services**
- Ⓢ **Dept of Drug & Alcohol Services**
- Ⓢ **Dept of Community Development**
- Ⓢ **Chester County Adult Probation**
- Ⓢ **Chester County NAMI**

Ⓢ **Chester County Adult Probation & Parole**
Phone 610-344-6290*
Fax 610-344-6321
www.chesco.org/adprob

Ⓢ **Chester County Mental Health**
Phone 610-344-6265*
Fax 610-344-5997
TTY 610-344-5942
www.chesco.org/mhmr

*Toll Free 1-800-692-1100, ask for the desired department

Mental Health Treatment Court Of Chester County



"A Bridge to Recovery"

*A collaborative effort of the
Chester County Mental Health &
Criminal Justice Systems*

What is Mental Health Court ?

Mental Health Court is a joint effort between the Chester County Department of Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System designed to address the needs of individuals with serious and persistent mental illness (SPMI). Participants are offered a treatment-based supervision period, which utilizes judicial oversight as a component of the program. The MHC coordinates an array of services designed to address the many needs of this population.

The goals of the Mental Health Court are:

- To preserve public safety
- To divert individuals with serious and persistent mental illness from incarceration and into community treatment
- To maintain treatment, housing, benefits & community support services for individuals with serious & persistent mental illness
- To reduce recidivism by treating individuals with serious & persistent mental illness
- To support effective communication between the criminal justice and mental health systems

Who is eligible for the Mental Health Court?

An adult who:

- Has a diagnosis of a serious & persistent mental illness;
- Is currently charged with committing a misdemeanor and/or felony offense in Chester County; and
- Agrees to comply with MHC program requirements.

Who is not eligible for Mental Health Court?

Those who live out of county or who have committed the following crimes:

- Assault while a prisoner
- Homicide Offenses
- Sexual Offenses
- Arson and related offenses

DUI, Drug Delivery, Probation Violations, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Robbery and Violation of Firearms Act offenses are reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

How do I make a referral to Mental Health Court?

***The applicant must waive their Preliminary Hearing at their earliest opportunity. MHC accepts referrals from Police Officers, Magisterial District Judges, District Attorneys, Defense Attorneys, Probation Officers, Prison staff, family members, and members of the public.

MHC Referral Forms are available from the Police, the Magisterial District Court, Adult Probation & Parole, and the Department of Mental Health or at:

www.chesco.org/adprob
www.chesco.org/mhmr

FAX the completed Referral Form to: MHC Coordinator at 610-344-4332.

What happens to a case after referral to MHC?

The applicant will be contacted by the MHC assessor for an assessment. The MHC team then decides if the case is legally and clinically eligible for MHC. With the advice of counsel, the applicant voluntarily decides whether or not to participate in MHC.