

Who is eligible for the *SOAR* Program?

Most minors begin the program by being referred by their Probation Officer. Drug Court is looking for participants who:

- Are 14–17 years old
- Are involved in the juvenile justice system
- Have no severe mental or emotional problems, no adjudication for a sex crime, and no history of drug sales offenses
- Have a moderate to severe drug or alcohol problem



In addition, both the family and the child must be motivated to participate in the program and commit to the program requirements.



Additional Resources

SMART Recovery meetings

www.smartrecoverytest.org/local/

Al-Anon (888) 425-2666

www.al-anon.alateen.org

National Institute on Drug Abuse

www.nida.nih.gov www.teens.drugabuse.gov



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Successfully Opting for Accountability and Recovery

A Juvenile Drug Court Program

What is Drug Court?

The Collin County *Soar* Program is a juvenile drug court developed to support youth involved in the juvenile justice system that are dealing with substance abuse. The goal is to help the youth successfully complete probation while becoming drug or alcohol free.

Our model combines substance abuse treatment with frequent court appearances, home visits, academic advocacy and frequent randomized drug testing. The drug court team will guide the juvenile and family by coordinating treatment, counseling, community resources, supervision, and accountability.

The *Soar* team members include:

- Juvenile Court Judge Don McDermitt
- Program Coordinator Sheila Shaw
- Probation Officer Bill Hale
- Clinical Supervisor Michelle Morris, LCSW
- Family-based Worker
- Treatment Providers
 - Scott Stohner, LCDC
 - Community Treatment Providers
- Juvenile Prosecutors
 - Kelly Ludy
 - Paul Anfosso
 - Rachel Soeth
- Defense Attorneys
 - Lara Bracamonte
 - Terri Daniel
- Educational Liaison Juli Ferraro

DRUG COURT WORKS! Research shows Drug Courts reduce crime and drug use, save taxpayers money, and increase retention in treatment.

The Program

Soar emphasizes community-based treatment, meaning participants usually remain at home while in the program, with the support of intensive supervision, counseling and supportive case management.

Soar is strength-based; so is focused on the strengths of participants and their families, providing support, where needed, to remove barriers. Youth are rewarded for their accomplishments, while being held accountable for negative behaviors. Accountability and treatment are the hallmarks of the Drug Court model.

Program Components:

- Supportive Case Management with Home Visits;
- MRT (Moral Reconation Therapy) Groups;
- Academic Advocacy;
- Individual and/or Group Counseling;
- Family counseling and/or Parent groups;
- Increased supervision, including unannounced home visits, electronic monitoring, home detention, and frequent, random drug/alcohol testing;
- Frequent Court Appearances;
- Referrals may be made to community resources, as needed, such as mental health services, home based services, SMART Recovery meetings, Al-Anon and/or additional services and resources.



How is Drug Court Different?

The drug court approach differs from traditional court, in that the judge, prosecutor, and defense attorneys all work together, as a team, sharing in the decision-making process. The *Soar* team members are dedicated to helping young people.



What happens now?

Your Probation Officer may refer you to the program. A thorough substance abuse evaluation, including recommendations, will be completed by one of our licensed therapists. The *Soar* team will meet to discuss possible acceptance.

Family participation is essential to success. The participant and their parents attend regular court appearances throughout the program.

Soar Phases:

The *Soar* program averages one year in length, and consists of 4 phases.

Phase 1 (minimum of 30 days) - Orientation

Phase 2 (minimum of 90 days) - Skills Development

Phase 3 (minimum of 60 days) - Transition

Phase 4 (minimum of 60 days) - Maintenance & Independence