

City of Riviera Beach

Civil Drug Court – Scope of Work

CIVIL DRUG COURT

In 1999, Circuit Court Judge Edward Rodgers instituted a Saturday Drug Court in Riviera Beach, Florida. It was designed to reach those people in need of the court ordered services, but were unable to recognize their need for treatment or unable to obtain the treatment services needed to begin the recovery process.

A person may be ordered to treatment at the appropriate treatment resources facility by the Circuit Court. An Involuntary Assessment Findings petition may be filed by the respondent's spouse or guardian, any relative of the person, a director of a licensed service provider, a private practitioner, or any three adults having personal knowledge of the respondent's substance abuse impairment. If the respondent is a minor, the petition may be filed by a parent, legal guardian/custodian or licensed service provider.

The Civil Drug Court staff accepts petitions Monday through Saturday

Staff is responsible for:

- Scheduling of Judges for Marchman Act commitment hearings
- Attending status check hearings
- Summoning respondents and petitioners for court appearances
- Arrange transport for clients attending treating facilities
- Collection of data
- Random drug testing to ensure compliance

The petition for involuntary assessment and stabilization must contain the name of the respondent; the name of the applicant or applicants; the relationship between the respondent and the applicant; the name of the respondent's attorney, if known, and a statement of the respondent's ability to afford an attorney; and must state facts to support the need for involuntary assessment and stabilization, including:

- The reason for the petitioner's belief that the respondent is substance abuse impaired; and
- The reason for the petitioner's belief that because of such impairment the respondent has lost the power of self-control with respect to substance abuse; and either
- The reason the petitioner believes that the respondent has inflicted or is likely to inflict physical harm on himself or herself or others unless admitted; or
- The reason the petitioner believes that the respondent's refusal to voluntarily receive care is based on judgment so impaired by reason of substance abuse that the respondent is incapable of appreciating his or her need for care and of making a rational decision regarding that need for care. If the respondent has refused to submit to an assessment, such refusal must be alleged in the petition.