

**TMHC**

- Potential Reduced Charges
- Potential deferral of the charge
- Reduced cost to your client
- Appropriate treatment for your client
- Potential reduction in incarceration time

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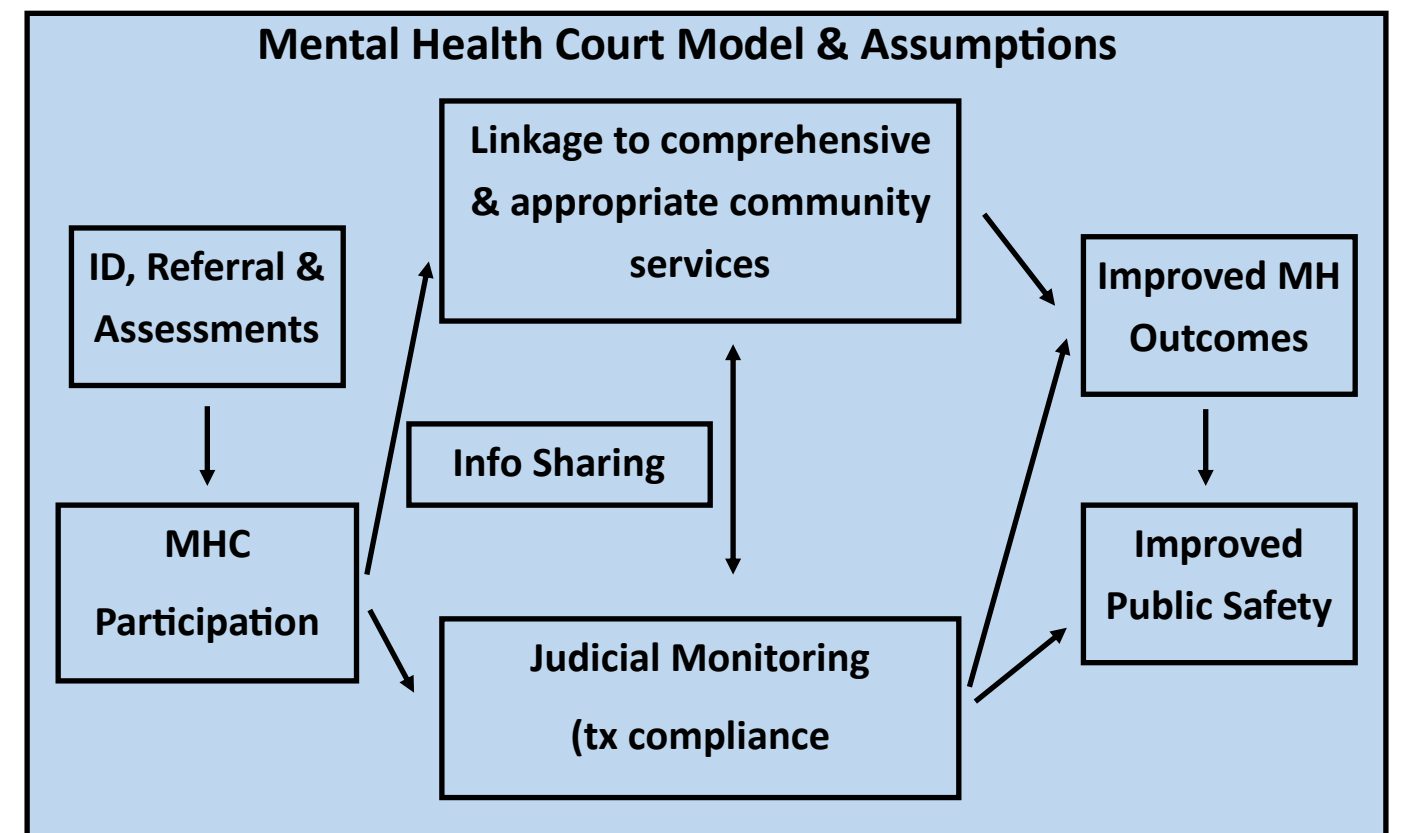
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# The Defense Attorney's Guide

to the Tuscola County  
Mental Health Court



# Table of Contents

- Common Client Concerns.....1**
  - Electronic Monitoring.....1**
  - There are too many things to do.....1**
  - I don't need help.....1**
- Getting Started.....2**
- Mission Statement.....3**
- What does my client need to do while in the program .....3**
- MHC Facts.....4**
- Benefits for your client.....5**
  - Appropriate Treatment.....5**
  - Reduced Incarceration and/ or charges.....5**
  - Reduced out-of-pocket expenses.....5**

# Common Client Concerns

## Electronic Monitoring

During the onset of the program, you could be required to complete an electronic monitoring program. TMHC could help cover the cost of this program for your client. Electronic Monitoring is used to increase stability for your client as he or she begins achieving clinical treatment goals.

## There are too many things to do

Some clients are overwhelmed at the thought of attending counseling, seeing the coordinator, meeting with probation, completing testing and attending review hearings. We will work with your client to combine as many appointments as possible, and we can provide gas cards/bus passes to help combat transportation issues.

## I don't need help

A mental illness is a medical condition that disrupts a person's thinking, feeling, mood, ability to relate to others and daily functioning. Just as diabetes is a disorder of the pancreas, mental illnesses are medical conditions that often result in diminished capacity for coping with ordinary demands of life. Wanting to resolve problems is wise, not weak. Seeking therapy allows you to get support and help with the issues that are common for many people.

# Getting Started

## What qualifies my client for MHC?

Legal: Cannot be charged with or have been convicted of a violent crime, pursuant to MCL 600.1060(g). Which would be any crime resulting in great bodily harm or death. All CSC offenses are automatic disqualifiers as well.

Clinical: Must have an SPMI Diagnosis as defined by the DSM-5, for which there is a known treatment and it also contributes to the criminal behavior.

Commonly known diagnoses: Bi-polar disorder, schizophrenia, depression, PTSD.

Must reside in Tuscola County.

*Mental illness is a substantial disorder of mood or thought which significantly impairs judgement, behavior, capacity to recognize reality, and the ability to cope with the ordinary demands of life*

## Talk to the prosecutor about MHC for your client

- Possibility for reduced charges and/or dismissal for some charges
- May make a recommendation for a reduction in jail time
- May qualify for deferrals

# TMHC Mission Statement

The mission of the Tuscola Mental Health Court (TMHC) is to enhance public safety and reduce recidivism of criminal defendants who suffer from serious mental illness by connecting these defendants with Mental Health treatment services, and to connect them with appropriate community services to get back on track. The TMHC is intensive supervision combined with treatment and will assist offenders in achieve long-term stability, become law-abiding citizens, and become successful in their communities, therefore reducing recidivism and jail expenses to the community. The TMHC holds defendants accountable and assists offenders to achieve long term stability, become law-abiding citizens, and become successful family/community members.

## What does my client have to do while in the program

- Attend review hearings 2 times/ month
- Complete Treatment as directed
- Meet with Supervision Coordinator as needed
- Meet with Probation Officer
- Complete random drug and alcohol testing as requested
- Program duration 16-36 Months \*

\*program duration depends on participant progress, violations may set the participant back.

# MHC Facts

Mental Health Courts improve quality of life for the client, increase public safety, and reduce costs for the community

*“...one study conducted in 2004 did show a dramatic improvement in recidivism levels. Portland State University researcher Heidi Herinckx followed 368 cases in the Clark County, Wash. Mental Health Court. Mental health court alumni were 4.1 times less likely to re-offend, and probation violations dropped by 62 percent. The percentage of those in the group with three or more arrests dropped from 26 percent to an astonishing 3 percent. In Broward County, statistics have shown that defendants are twice as likely to get counseling and other forms of psychiatric help -- and no more likely to be re-arrested for another crime -- if they choose mental health court rather than the traditional judicial process, even though they spend far fewer days in jail.”-PBS.org*

- According to the Urban Institute in March of 2015, 56% Of State Prisoners, 45% of Federal Prisoners, and 64% of Jail Inmates have mental health problems.
- Clients with Mental Illness are more likely to be homeless, unemployed, and have a reoccurring criminal history.
- If they adhere to treatment: fewer arrests/revocations, decreased jail/prison days, fewer emergency visits, and less hospital stays.

# Benefits for your Client

## Mental Health Treatment

Your client will be connected to needed services such as:  
Individual, group, and family therapy.  
Medication Assisted Therapy  
Behavioral Treatment Services  
Case Management Services.

## Reduced Incarceration time; potential reduced charge

In some cases prosecutors are willing to offer reduced charges if your client successfully completes the TMHC program.

Reduced jail time for participants (versus traditional standard probation) is part of the TMHC Program Design.

## Reduced Out-of-Pocket Expenses

TMHC helps cover some of the costs that your client would incur on traditional probation, such as: Electronic Monitoring, Counseling, Drug Testing, Transportation Costs.

## Possibility of a deferral under MCL 600.1095

With prosecutor approval some cases qualify for a mental health court deferral under MCL 600.1095. A full description of the deferral is available under MCL 600.1098