

Greenville County Mental Health Court

Quick Facts for Attorneys & Clients

What Charges Are Allowed?

- Any non-violent offense, by statute. Charges of criminal sexual conduct, violence, or traffic offenses are not allowed *per se*.
- Minor Assault/Battery/domestic violence charges are evaluated on a case-by-case basis during staffing.
- Shoplifting, petty larceny, and failure to stop for a blue light are all commonly seen charges.
- It is helpful if the police incident report indicates the Defendant has a mental health diagnosis.

What Mental Health Diagnoses Are Allowed?

- Any mental health diagnosis “treatable” with therapy or medications. Examples include:
 - Major Depressive Disorder
 - Generalized Anxiety Disorder
 - Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
 - Schizophrenia
 - Bipolar Disorder
 - Etc.
- If there is a personality disorder (ex: Borderline), it must be secondary to one of the diagnoses above.
- If Autism is a diagnosis, it must be secondary to one of the diagnoses above.

Facts For the Defendant

- By Order of the S.C. Supreme Court, Greenville County Probate Judge Debora A. Faulkner presides over the Mental Health Court.
- No fees or cost at all to the defendant.
- Successful completion leads to expungement of the charge(s), again at no cost to the defendant.
- Time frame for the program is roughly 12 months, but may be extended if defendant is non-compliant.
- Defendant will get financial aid for medication and will be a patient of Greater Greenville Mental Health.
- **This is a one-time opportunity. If the defendant fails to complete the program successfully, they will not be given a second chance.**
- Defendants are required to receive psychiatric services through a branch of the Greater Greenville Mental Health Center. Private providers are not allowed.
- Defendant must be transparent about any previous mental health services or providers.
- At this time, no transportation assistance is provided. Participants must be Greenville County residents.
- Greater Greenville Mental Health does offer resources for the homeless.

How to Refer

- Defense attorneys may make the referral, along with solicitors or mental health professionals.
- Complete the Mental Health Court Referral Form found under ‘Links of Interest’ on our website at www.greenvillecounty.org/Probate/MentalHealth.
- Send the form to Erika Pearson (EPearson@greenvillecounty.org).
- Mental Health Court will perform a background check on the defendant and staff the case.
- The referral process will be completed within 2 weeks.
- If the patient is accepted into the Mental Health Court, staff will contact the client to schedule an assessment with Greater Greenville Mental Health and initial Court appearance before the Probate Judge.
- **For questions, contact Erika Peterson (EPearson@greenvillecounty.org) (864) 467-4796**