

Contact Persons



- * **Judge Becky L. Doherty**
Presiding Judge
HOPE Program
330.297.3861

- * **Theresa Spiker**
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Portage County Adult Probation
Department
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**Portage County
Court of Common Pleas
203 West Main St.
Ravenna, Ohio 44266
330.297.3861**

Help, Opportunity and Progress through Education Program (HOPE)

Drug Court Specialized Docket

of the

**PORTAGE COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS**

Developed in collaboration with the Portage County Mental Health and Recovery Board, Compass Recovery Center, Townhall II, and the Portage County Court of Common Pleas.



**JUDGE BECKY L. DOHERTY
Presiding**

Overview

The Help, Opportunity and Progress through Education (HOPE) Program was developed in order to assist individuals with qualifying substance use disorders who come into contact with the adult criminal justice system.

A variety of services are available to meet the individual's specific needs: a chemical dependency assessment to determine individual, specific treatment needs, intensive substance abuse treatment, weekly random drug testing, weekly meeting with the HOPE Judge upon program entry, Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), mental health and psychiatric care, Theft Intervention Prevention Program, SCRAM bracelet, educational, employment, vocational support, and links to social service agencies.

Goals

- To ensure participants remain drug free.
- To introduce new ways to live a clean and sober lifestyle.
- To improve familial and social relationships.
- To create a healthier lifestyle for the participant.
- To prepare the participant to lead a law-abiding life upon completion of the program.

Eligibility Criteria

- Portage County Resident
- Must be diagnosed with a moderate or severe Substance Use Disorder according to the DSM-5
- Adult 18 years of age or older
- Must meet both written legal and clinical eligibility criteria
- Track I- Intervention in Lieu of Conviction: An applicant must meet the written legal criteria of Intervention in Lieu as set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 2951.041

Track II- Post-Conviction: An applicant charged with a felony of the Third, Fourth or Fifth Degree not otherwise meeting the criteria for Intervention in Lieu of Conviction

- Persons charged with felony OVI, Trafficking in Drugs, sex crimes, crimes involving the use of any weapon and crimes involving children as victims are ineligible
- Recommendation for program participation from Prosecutor, Judge, Defense Counsel, Defendant, Probation Department and/or trained professional
- Defendant desires and agrees to voluntarily participate in the HOPE Program, with program understanding and consequences for failure to comply
- Defendant must plead guilty to offense and undergo an Eligibility Investigation (EI) to determine eligibility
- Approval of EI and acceptance into HOPE Program by the Judge
- Defendant is placed on probation for a minimum of 16 months as a condition of the HOPE Program.
- The charges will be dismissed and eligible for sealing upon program completion (**IILC cases only**).