

# Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court

## Information for victims

The Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court (AODT Court, Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua) is a special court that deals with people whose offending is driven by addiction to alcohol or drugs. The court is not an easy option; it's an alternative to imprisonment.

### How does AODT Court work?

AODT Court takes at least 12 months, and usually closer to 18 months to complete. There are 3 phases to the court that take about 4 to 6 months each. These focus on:

- **Phase 1** – starting their journey to recovery by completing alcohol and other drug treatment, either residential treatment (live-in) or a community-based programme, and complying with the requirements of the court.
- **Phase 2** – starting to rebuild their lives by attending other programmes depending on their needs (such as counselling, stopping violence, parenting, road safety, literacy) and holding them accountable through attending restorative justice (where available) and doing voluntary community service.
- **Phase 3** – reintegrating into the community by finding suitable work or study, accommodation and positive, constructive activities that will support them in their life after the AODT Court.

If a participant doesn't comply with the programme, they can be exited from the court. They can also choose to exit themselves from the court. If either of these happen, their case will be dealt with by the courts in the usual way.

### What happens at AODT Court?

Throughout their time in the court, participants must:

- Appear regularly (every 2, 3 or 4 weeks, depending on whether they're in phase 1, 2 or 3) at the AODT Court to be accountable for their progress (or lack of progress).
- Comply with their bail conditions and the AODT Court participant agreement.
- Be randomly drug-tested 5 times every 2 weeks and may have to wear an alcohol-monitoring bracelet.
- Be honest, open and transparent with the court.
- Behave in a way that brings mana to themselves and to the court.
- Get involved with a recovery community through AA/NA meetings and other social support networks like 'SMART Recovery'.

### Where do I come in?

As a victim of offending, you can:

- Give your views to the AODT Court (through the Police or the Court Victim Advisor), including before the determination hearing (where the AODT Court Judge decides whether to offer the participant a place in the AODT Court).
- Choose to be involved in a restorative justice conference (where appropriate).
- Be informed about the defendant's progress through the AODT Court, and the reparation or financial restitution to which you may be entitled.

### Benefits of the AODT Court

The benefits of the AODT Court are:

- If a defendant addresses the alcohol and drug addiction that's driving their offending, potentially there will be no more victims.
- If the participant successfully completes the programme, they'll usually be sentenced to a term of 12 to 15 months' intensive supervision where they are supervised by AODT Court probation officers in the community.
- If participants exit early from a drug court programme, international research shows that they still do better than they would have if they hadn't done the programme at all.

### Further information

For more information, contact our Court Victim Advisors.

Email: [csv.auckland@justice.govt.nz](mailto:csv.auckland@justice.govt.nz)

[csv.waitakere@justice.govt.nz](mailto:csv.waitakere@justice.govt.nz)

Phone: 0800 650 654