



JUVENILE DRUG TREATMENT COURT GUIDELINES

TRANSFER TO PRACTICE FRAMEWORK: IMPLEMENTATION OF COURT STRUCTURES AND
SUPERVISION

DISCLAIMER

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All Rise (founded as NADCP) was formed in 1994 and is the leading training, membership, and advocacy organization for advancing justice system responses to individuals with substance use and mental health disorders. All Rise impacts every stage of the justice system, from first contact with law enforcement to corrections and reentry, and works with public health leaders to improve treatment outcomes for justice-involved individuals.

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Founded As



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A large, stylized upward-pointing arrow graphic composed of several dark blue geometric shapes.



MODULE OBJECTIVES

- Describe a procedurally sound court and staffing process for your JDTC.
- Discuss standard court requirements that need to be reflected in written policies and handbooks
- Engage in a program structure that matches to the needs and motivations of youth and families, and that will assist the judge in applying program requirements consistently.

CORRESPONDING GUIDELINES

Guideline 3.4

The JDTC team should meet weekly to review the progress for participants and consider incentives and sanctions, based on reports of each participants progress across all aspects of the treatment plan.

CORRESPONDING GUIDELINES

Guideline 3.2

The judge should interact with the participants in a nonjudgmental and procedurally fair manner.

CORRESPONDING GUIDELINES

Guideline 7.2

A youth should be terminated from the program only after the JDTC team carefully deliberates and only as a last resort after full implementation of the JDTC'S protocol on behavioral contingencies.

The background image shows a person from behind, walking away on a set of train tracks. The person is wearing a light-colored jacket and dark pants. To the right, a freight train is visible, consisting of several open-top railcars. The scene is set in an industrial or railway yard. The entire image has a blue color overlay on the left side where the text is located.

GUIDELINE 3.4


MEET WEEKLY TO REVIEW PARTICIPANT PROGRESS

- **Weekly staff meetings (based on caseload)**
- **Outline purpose and format of meetings in JDTC policy manual (e.g. decision making process)**
- **Consider family involvement in staffing process**

A person is walking away from the camera on a set of train tracks. To the left, a portion of a train car is visible. The scene is overlaid with a blue gradient, and the text is in yellow and white.

GUIDELINE 3.2: JUDICIAL INTERACTION IS NONJUDGMENTAL AND PROCEDURALLY FAIR

- Hold youth accountable through goal setting (by youth and families) and use of graduated incentives/sanctions.
- Research on procedural justice reveals better outcomes for criminal justice involved individuals when they are given voice in the process, feel respected and believe that the parties involved with their case are neutral and supportive.
- Use detention sparingly and only when necessary to protect the juvenile or the community

The background image shows a person from behind, walking away on a set of train tracks. The person is wearing a light-colored jacket and dark pants. To the right, a freight train with several open-top cars is visible, receding into the distance. The entire scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

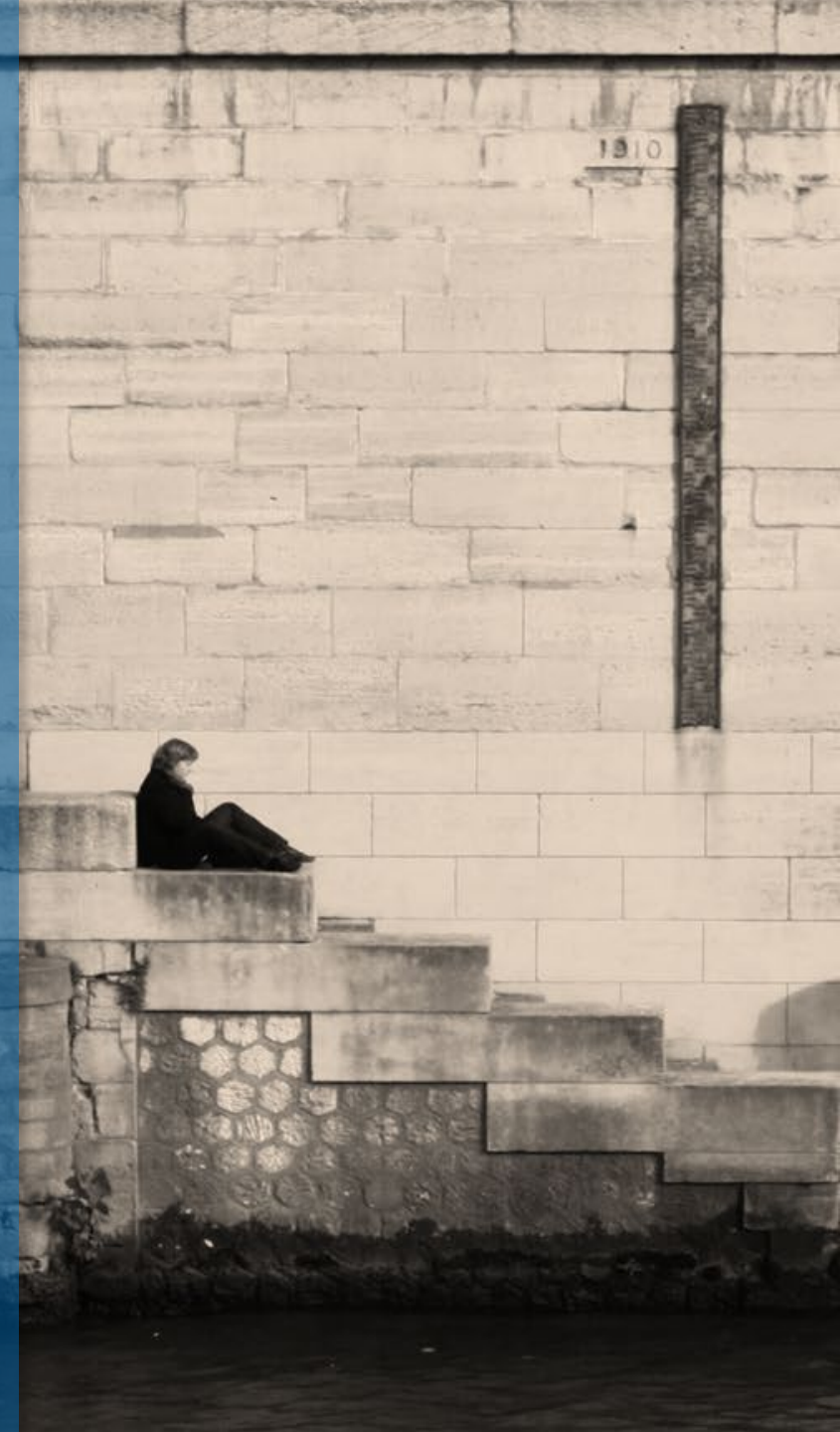
GUIDELINE 3.3

JUDGE APPLIES REQUIREMENTS CONSISTENTLY ACROSS YOUTH

- Consistency
- Individualized plan for each youth
- Embrace behavior modification through positive reinforcement.

COMMON PHASE STRUCTURES

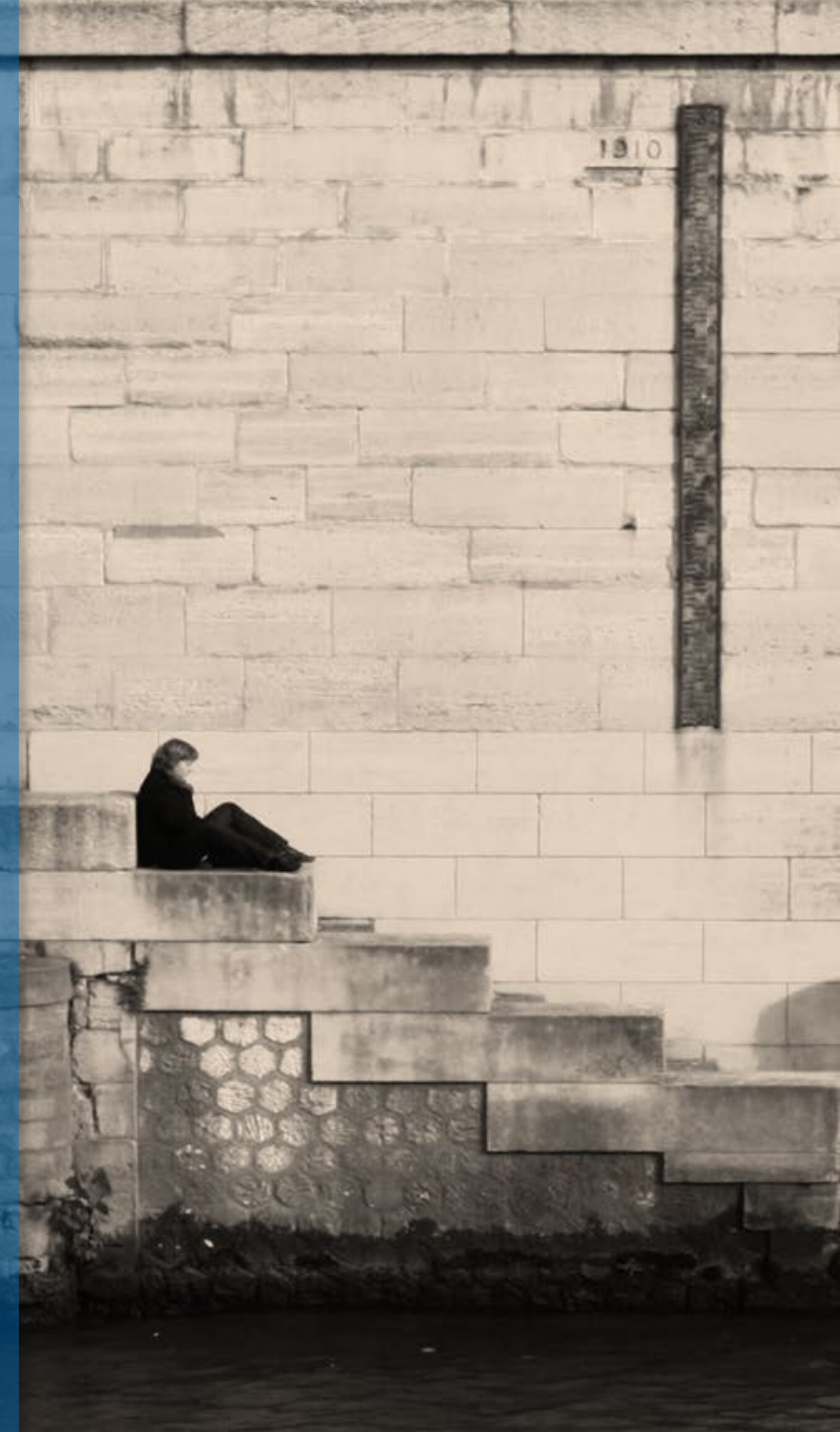
- Sometimes referred to as steps, levels, but most commonly called phases.
- Some JDTC programs use relatable descriptors:
- Silver/Gold/Platinum/Diamond
- Freshman/Sophomore/Junior/Senior



COMMON PHASE STRUCTURES

The program structure serves the following purpose:

- Creating readiness, stabilization, preparation and orientation (Phase I)
- Developing involvement, engagement and displaying performance (Phase II)
- Displaying change, reflection, enrichment and sustaining change (Phase III)
- Transition to community and other supports (Phase IV)



SAMPLE PHASE GOALS



Orientation Goals:

1. Introduce youth to increased supervision
2. Introduce youth to drug testing process
3. Assess and develop coordinated case plans/goals



Engagement Goals:

1. Accurately match youth with appropriate intervention(s)
2. Active participation in TX and other interventions
3. Demonstrate reduction or elimination of drug use, as measured by increased neg. UAs



Transition Goals:

1. Completion of TX and other case plan goals
2. Sustained abatement of AOD use, as measured by neg. UAs



Graduation Goals:

1. Actively engaged in school and/or employment
2. No new offenses or violations of probation

DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE PHASE STRUCTURES

Before adopting/revising a phase structure, the JDTC team needs to answer the following:

- What attributes do we want our graduates to have upon leaving the program?
- What services do we have in our community to support youth in the phases?
- Are the conditions required in our phases realistic? Can youth achieve the outcomes we have listed?

DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE PHASE STRUCTURES

What will be the criteria to move from one phase to the next phase?

- Will the youth be allowed to set some goals that are intrinsically motivating to them?
- Will the youth and family have voice in phase movement?

PHASE ONE: ASSESSMENT & STABILIZATION

- The team should consider phase one the orientation phase in their JDTC program, where assessment, case plan development, and referral to treatment take place.
- Team should determine if there are critical needs that must be addressed (e.g., homelessness, drug withdrawal, physical/sexual abuse)
- Set timelines for completion

PHASE ONE ACTIVITIES

Treatment / Case Management Activities

- Complete comprehensive youth assessment
- Complete an integrated case plan with attainable goals in:
 - Treatment
 - Education/Vocational
 - Community
 - Probation
- Assertive connection with services to assist in goal completion and stabilization

PHASE ONE MEASUREMENTS

Target Completion Times

- Assessment completed ____ days after acceptance in the JDTC
- Integrated case plan developed ____ days after assessment is completed
- Referral to services takes place ____ days after case plan is developed

As measured by number or percentage of:

- youth assessments completed
- case plans developed
- youth referred to services based on case plan
- activities accomplished by target completion times

PHASES TWO & THREE: CASE MANAGEMENT AND REASSESSMENT

- Focus is on engagement and transition phases in JDTC program
- Engagement in services and reassessment primary focus
- Teams use performance measures to monitor multiple levels of progress for the youth, as well as adherence to program design by the team.

PHASES TWO AND THREE ACTIVITIES

Judicial:

- weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly
- report on goals and progress

Supervision (internal minimum, requirement):

- case manager/probation officer contacts
- drug screens – 2-3/week (random)
- curfew

Treatment / Case Management

- Engage in case plan and make progress on attainable goals
- Reassess and update case plan within ____ days of initial assessment; *or* reassess and update case plan within _____ in Phase Two and _____ Phase Three

PHASES TWO AND THREE MEASUREMENTS

Judicial:

- attendance rate
- engagement w/ judge on weekly reports

Supervision, as measured by number or percentage:

- contacts made
- drug screens provided and collected
- positive/negative UAs
- court response to positive/negative UAs

Treatment/Case Management, as measured by number or percentage:

- progress made on attainable goals
- re-assessments completed
- of case plans updated
- of youth showing improvement on assessments

PHASE FOUR: PROGRAM TRANSITION & EXIT

- Activities intended to ensure participant is prepared to maintain progress without the structure of the JDTC
- Youth exits program based on successful completion of all case plan goals and objectives, or alternatively, for failure to achieve program goals
- Successful, partial, failed to complete and early dismissal

PHASE FOUR ACTIVITIES

Treatment / Case Management

- Review of case plan and goal attainment
- Relapse prevention plan
- Transition Planning
- Re-Assessment

Target Completion Times

- Review of case plan and goal attainment ____ days after acceptance in the 4th Phase
- Relapse prevention plan developed ____ days after case plan review is completed
- Transition plan developed ____ days after relapse prevention plan is developed
- Re-assessment is completed ____ days before youth exits the program

PHASE FOUR MEASUREMENTS

As measured by number or percentage of:

- case plan reviews
- prevention plans in place
- transition plans in place
- re-assessments completed
- youth showing improvement on re-assessments

GUIDELINE 7.2

TERMINATION IS OPTION OF LAST RESORT

- Option of last resort
- Important to have structured policy on termination, to ensure that emotion does not drive decision making.
- More likely to be successful with clients when you build a structure of success – and the team maximizes incentives, goal setting by youth/families, and uses graduated sanctions appropriately.



PRACTICE IMPLICATIONS

- Who can lead this effort?
- Collect and analyze data on the following:
 - Application of program requirements
 - Use of incentives and sanctions
 - Graduation and termination rates
- What are the strengths of the team in this area?
- What improvements are needed?
- Timeline for changes?



SUMMARY AND QUESTIONS

- Review phases and procedures to ensure that milestones and activities are realistic and otherwise effective
- Ensure that policies are fair and consistent
- Phases should build intrinsic motivation in youth, rather than just be an external system of control and command.
- Work collaboratively with parents, and create active role for them in courtroom
- Termination is option of last resort
- Monitor data for team and judicial decision making on use of incentives/sanctions, terminations and use of detention.

JTC Resources



www.allrise.org

Training and Technical Assistance

We use OJJDP's TTA360 to give you access to statewide, individual, or virtual juvenile treatment court trainings.

TTA360 allows you to submit training and technical assistance requests to access a range of providers on various juvenile justice topics.

Join the JDTC Listserv

Connect with the juvenile drug treatment court community, share ideas, and access support from experts in the field.

Tune-In-Tuesday Webinar Series

Tune-In-Tuesdays will occur each quarter and will provide JDTC team members with practical tools to address common challenges in JDTC programs.

Map of Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts





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