

What happens in the end?

The length of time participants spend in either the **Mental Health Court Program (MHC)** or the **Court Monitored Drug Treatment Program (CMDTP)** is based on the seriousness of the criminal charges they face and on their progress in the program.

Typically, participants can expect to be involved in the Program for at least 12 to 18 months.

The outcome when a participant successfully completes either the **MHC** or the **CMDTP** depends on the nature of the charges and on the participant's progress. Successful participants can expect judicial outcomes in line with their progress in the Programs. That usually includes no jail time, and in some cases, the charges are withdrawn.

When participants complete the **CMDTP** or leave early, they can continue to get treatment through the Nova Scotia Health Authority's Opioid Treatment Program (OTP), as long as needed, if they continue to comply with OTP requirements.

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Please note: The fact that a person has been involved in either of these Programs, and the details of their involvement, are kept confidential.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

Nova Scotia Mental Health Court
Dartmouth Provincial Court
Courtroom #5, 1st Floor
Offices, 2nd Floor
277 Pleasant Street
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
(902) 722-1040
www.courts.ns.ca

HOURS OF OPERATION:

The Mental Health Court sits most Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.
The Court Monitored Drug Treatment Program sits most Thursdays at 3:30 p.m.

Office hours are
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday to Friday

NOVA SCOTIA'S MENTAL HEALTH COURT and COURT MONITORED DRUG TREATMENT PROGRAM



The **Mental Health Court Program** helps people charged with crimes related to their mental disorder so they will be less likely to re-offend.

The **Court Monitored Drug Treatment Program** offers alternative criminal sentences for people charged with crimes related to their opioid addiction by helping them recover.

Both Programs also carefully manage any potential risks the participants may pose to the public while they are being helped.

The Nova Scotia Mental Health Court Program

A collaborative partnership involving the Criminal Justice System, Nova Scotia Health Authority, and Community to help individuals improve mental health and wellness.

Who qualifies?

Applicants to the Program must:

- Be 18 years of age or older
- Face criminal charges in Provincial Court
- Reside in the Halifax Regional Municipality
- Have a substantial connection to the HRM, such as work or school
- Have mental health support persons and programs within the HRM
- Accept responsibility for the crime(s)
- Have a disorder substantially connected to the crime(s)
- Be accepted by the Crown attorney
- Have a risk manageable in the community

What mental disorders qualify?

Schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depressive disorder are some examples.

A person *may* qualify if:

- they are unable to think and/or problem solve
- they are unable to control emotions
- they are unable to control behavior
- they have a neurodevelopmental disorder
- they have a brain injury
- they have a personality disorder

People with substance abuse issues and disorders such as pedophilia do not qualify.

What can a participant expect?

Participants are expected to:

- Disclose details about their mental health, treatment, substance abuse, and history
- Appear in Court often, so the Judge can monitor their progress
- Stay in the program as long as necessary, based on their progress

If the participant does not follow the support plan, the Judge may impose special conditions, including more frequent Court appearances, closer supervision, directed projects, probation changes, bail withdrawal, or send their charges back to the traditional Court.

The Court Monitored Drug Treatment Program

A collaborative partnership involving the Criminal Justice System, the Mental Health Court, the Opioid Treatment Program (OTP), and the Community.

Who qualifies?

Applicants to the Program must:

- Be 19 years of age or older
- Live in the Halifax Regional Municipality
- Be dependent on opioids
- Be a participant or eligible to be a participant of the OTP
- Have an addiction related to the crime(s)
- Plead guilty to the crime(s)

What can a participant expect?

First, the person is assessed by Addictions Professionals.

The Court's Crown attorney also reviews the charge(s) and decides whether to allow the applicant to participate.

If accepted, the participant will then ...

1. Discuss a guilty plea with the Crown and defence and enter it in Court.
2. Sign a consent and waiver form detailing what will be expected.

3. Be stabilized on a daily dose of methadone or suboxone.
4. Take part in addiction treatment and support sessions.
5. Appear in Court, once a week at first, and then as directed.
6. Submit to regular urine tests.

If the participant does not follow the support plan, the Judge may impose special conditions, including more frequent Court appearances, closer supervision, directed projects, probation changes, bail withdrawal, or send their charges back to the traditional Court.