

DARTMOUTH WELLNESS COURT PROGRAM (DWC)

Support • Treatment • Accountability

What is Dartmouth Wellness Court?

A special court that takes people out of the regular criminal court process and connects them with treatment and community supports while providing court supervision.

Who is it for?

Adults in HRM charged with a criminal offence directly related to a major mental health disorder or substance use disorder.

How does someone apply?

Referrals may come from lawyers, police, community supports, family members, or the person themselves.

The person must agree to be referred.

What happens after someone is referred?

1. First appearance – consent forms signed and appointment with a clinician.
2. Screening assessment – interview, health record review and police file review.
3. Team review – Judge, Crown, Defence, clinicians and probation determine eligibility.

What is involved in the program?

- Usually at least 12 months
- Regular court appearances
- Meetings with a Team Clinician
- Random urine drug screening
- Ongoing treatment and supports
- Active participation in treatment

Successful completion

Once expectations are met and support is stable, the team resolves the charges.

Outcomes may include withdrawal of charges or supervised probation.

 **Want to Know More? Contact the Wellness Court Office at 902-722-1040**