WHY WAS DDC ESTABLISHED?
DDC was established in 1999 in response to the needs of the community. The Department of Children and Families identified that 80% of dependency cases involve alcohol and/or drug use by one or both of the children’s parents. In addition, these cases tended to have delays in their completion within federal and statutory guidelines for expedient placement and reasonable efforts. The Family Treatment Court Model became one approach to addressing these issues through its key components, which include:

- Early identification of risk factors for negative outcomes
- Access to a continuum of alcohol/drug and related treatment and rehabilitation services
- Monitoring of abstinence by frequent alcohol and other drug testing
- A coordinated strategy to govern participant’s compliance
- Ongoing judicial interaction with each participant
- Monitoring and evaluation to measure the program outcome and effectiveness
- Continuing inter-disciplinary education to promote effective planning, implementation and operations
- Forging partnerships among Drug Court’s public agencies and community based organizations in order to generate local support and enhance Drug Court program effectiveness

WHAT IS DDC?
The Dependency Drug Court (DDC) is a voluntary program that addresses the underlying substance abuse problems that often co-exist with parents involved in Dependency Court. The goal of DDC is to provide a mechanism to help primary custodians live a drug-free life and assume the full responsibilities of parenthood.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?
Parents with dependency cases and co-existing alcohol/drug problems who willingly commit to the DDC. Eligible parents may be referred by Judges, attorneys, case managers or by the parent(s) themselves.

DIRECT SERVICES PROVIDED:
- Advocacy
- Client and Family support
- Court Case presentation
- Crisis Intervention
- Compliance Monitoring
- Linkage to Services
- Individualized Case planning
- Intensive Case Management

CASE MANAGEMENT REFERRALS MAY INCLUDE:
- Substance Abuse and/or mental health treatment
- Trauma and domestic violence counseling
- Family and/or couples therapy
- Parenting classes
- Educational/vocational training
- Health/medical assessments and family planning
- Psychological and/or parenting capacity assessments
- Children’s developmental assessments
- Children’s psychological and/or psycho-educational assessments
- Children’s counseling / play Therapy
Frequently Asked Questions

If referred to DDC, will I have to participate in additional services?
No. All services are determined by the Judge, regardless of your participation in this program. Level of treatment will be determined by a comprehensive evaluation.

Will I be able to keep my current Judge and child(ren)’s case manager?
Cases accepted into DDC will be transferred to Division 1 and Family Resource Center, the specialized drug court unit. Adult participants will also be assigned an additional case manager for advocacy, linkage to services and court case presentation.

Can I decide to drop out of DDC if I don’t like the program?
No. Although acceptance into DDC is a voluntary process, the Judge, along with you and your attorney, sign DDC orders, making the program mandatory.

Can I take the case to trial after I agree to participate in DDC?
No. You must take a plea in order to participate in DDC. Your attorney can explain this process to you and what it means.

What benefits are there to participating in DDC?
- Higher percentage of successful reunification
- Participants receive intensive case management services for themselves and their children, assisting with all referrals and obstacles to successful treatment
- Judicial interaction with the DDC founding Judge, an expert on substance abuse issues and co-occurring disorders