

Fairbanks Wellness Court

Mission Statement

The mission of the Fairbanks Wellness Court is to enhance public safety, reduce recidivism, and rehabilitate chemically dependent offenders through a program of intensive judicial supervision, substance abuse treatment, close monitoring, and case management.

What is the Fairbanks Wellness Court?

The Fairbanks Wellness Court (FWC) helps felony defendants who want to overcome serious addiction. The FWC is a voluntary jail diversion program that offers intensive substance abuse treatment and community supervision to support participants' abstinence and recovery.

What are the benefits of participating in the FWC?

- Reduced jail time and fines
- Possible dismissal of certain charges
- Swift access to substance abuse assessments and treatment
- Assistance with housing and job search
- Safer roads and communities
- Eligibility for limited license

Who is eligible?

An individual is eligible to be considered for the FWC if:

- Felony Probation has referred the individual, **or**
- The individual has a petition to revoke probation out of PACE court, **or**
- The individual is currently charged with a felony drug- or alcohol-related charge.

And the person must also:

- Not have previously participated more than once in a drug or therapeutic court
- Be 18 years old or older
- Apply 4 months or less from the date of the offense (this may be extended by unanimous consent of the defense, prosecution, and judge).

An individual is *not* eligible to apply if:

- The individual is currently charged with an unclassified or class A felony, or an offense involving drug distribution.
- The individual has a criminal history that includes drug distribution or a conviction for homicide.
- The individual has an outstanding felony warrant and detainer from another state.

How do defendants apply for the FWC program?

Admission into the FWC is not automatic, but is based on state prosecutor approval and treatment assessment. A defendant interested in participating in the FWC should have the defense attorney contact the FWC Project Coordinator to request an application.

How does the FWC work?

The FWC is an 18-24 month program requiring commitment, strength, honesty, and persistence. Participants are expected to:

- Attend intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment and other services as recommended.
- Attend recovery/support groups.
- Appear regularly before the FWC judge for status hearings.
- Complete 16-32 hours of work, school, or volunteer work per week.
- Undergo regular alcohol and other drug testing.
- Maintain sobriety.
- Maintain safe and sober housing within FNSB for the duration of their participation in the FWC court.
- Pay for program fees.
- Attend meetings with their PO.

What makes the FWC different from regular court?

Participants in the FWC work with a team of professionals who step out of their traditional roles to collaborate. Their goal is to protect public safety while supporting the participant's progress through the court towards long-term recovery.

Members of the team include the FWC judges, state prosecutor, defense attorney, treatment provider, case manager/probation officer, law enforcement officer, and project coordinator.

Fairbanks Wellness Court status hearings are open to the public.

These are generally held on Wednesdays at 3:30 p.m. in Courtroom 403, 402, or 201 in the Rabinowitz Courthouse, 101 Lacey Street, in Fairbanks.

For more information, please contact:

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The FWC is a cooperative effort between:

Alaska Court System
Alaska Department of Law
Alaska Public Defender Agency
Contract treatment provider(s)
Fairbanks Police Department
Alaska Department of Health
Community members