
Alaska Therapeutic Courts

Anchorage

CINA

Therapeutic

Court



Wellness to Parent

Mission of the Court

The mission of the CINA Therapeutic Court (CTC) is to accelerate permanency in child welfare cases by providing enhanced court oversight for parents or custodians in need of recovery services. The CTC operates as a parallel court for participants with an ongoing CINA case.

How are Cases Referred?

Any CINA party can make a referral to the CTC by contacting the CTC Project Coordinator. The case must include allegations of substance use. Cases involving allegations of sexual abuse and certain cases involving criminal conduct or investigations are not eligible for the CTC. The CTC team gathers information about the case and makes a final eligibility decision about two weeks after the first therapeutic court hearing. Prospective participants should consult with counsel regarding eligibility.

Eligible participants must:

- Have an open CINA case that includes an allegation under sub-section (10) of AS 47.11.011
- Have an order for temporary custody or supervision with a goal of reunification
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be able to attend court in person (some exceptions may apply)
- Be willing to acknowledge a need for recovery services
- Be assessed for SUD treatment: intensive outpatient treatment or residential treatment
- Participate in the court within 6 months of the date the CINA petition is filed

Program Overview

- Participation in the CINA Therapeutic Court requires honesty and a commitment to recovery.
- Participants are expected to follow all treatment and program requirements.
- Treatment and court requirements will be complementary to, and part of, the overall case plan that the Office of Children's Services develops with the participant and family members.
- The therapeutic court program lasts approximately twelve months and may end prior to completion of the ongoing CINA case.
- A parent or custodian may opt out of the CINA Therapeutic Court at any time.

Participant Responsibilities

- Obtain a substance abuse assessment at Akeela, Inc. (appointment provided by the CTC)
- Follow the recommended treatment plan and attend treatment at Akeela, Inc.
- Attend drug and alcohol testing
- Work with the Office of Children's Services case worker to develop a case plan for the participant and family members
- Follow the CTC program requirements
- Attend court regularly – court appearances decrease with progress in the program
- Accept the imposition of a judicial sanction or service adjustment if not following the treatment plan or court requirements

Participant Benefits

- Participants are supported in recovery by the CINA Therapeutic Court team, including the CINA Therapeutic Court judge.
- Participants have regular communication with counsel and the assigned Office of Children’s Services case worker.
- Participants receive incentives for successful participation and progress.
- Participants can quickly document progress in recovery, which will inform decisions in the CINA case regarding safety, family contact, and when children can be returned home.

Court Hearings

The CINA Therapeutic Court takes place on Tuesdays at 3:30 p.m. in the Nesbett Courthouse, 825 W. 4th Ave., Anchorage, Alaska.

The CINA Therapeutic Court judges are the Honorable Una Gandbhir and the Honorable Laura Hartz.

Court Date: _____

Courtroom: _____

Attorney: _____

The Anchorage CINA Therapeutic Court is a cooperative effort of the following agencies:

- Alaska Court System
- Alaska Department of Law
- Alaska Office of Public Advocacy
- Alaska Public Defender Agency
- Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP)
- Akeela, Inc.
- Alaska Department of Health and Social Services - Office of Children’s Services
- Alaska Department of Health and Social Services - Division of Behavioral Health

Additional Information:

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