

# Palmer Wellness Court

## What is Palmer Wellness Court?

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

## What are the Benefits of Palmer Wellness Court?

- Reduced jail time and fines
- Possible dismissal of the case
- 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 and How Do I Get Referred?

A defendant is eligible to be considered for the Wellness Court if the defendant is:

- Charged with a felony drug or drug-related charge or with a felony DUI; and
- Assessed as needing intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment.

Entry into the Court is not automatic but is based on state prosecutor approval and treatment assessment. Contact the Wellness Court Project Coordinator (contact information on last panel) or your defense attorney for an application form.

## How Much Does Wellness Court Cost?

Program fees are based on a sliding scale and some additional financial assistance may be available. You may also be required to access electronic monitoring.

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## How does Palmer Wellness Court Work?

The Wellness Court is an intensive 12- to 18-month program. Participants are required to:

- Attend intensive outpatient substance abuse treatment and other services as recommended
- Attend recovery support groups such as AA or NA
- Attend regular compliance hearings before the Wellness Court judge
- Attend regularly scheduled meetings with their probation officers
- Be employed or attend school for a minimum of 16 hours a week
- Undergo regular alcohol and drug testing
- Maintain sobriety
- Pay program fees

## Who is the Wellness Court Team?

The Wellness Court Team is made up of the judge, state prosecutor, defense attorney, treatment provider, case manager/probation officer, and project coordinator. Team members support and encourage participants while holding them accountable.

The Palmer Wellness Court is a cooperative effort of:

- Alaska Court System
- Alaska Department of Law
- Alaska Public Defender Agency
- Alaska Department of Corrections
- Alaska Division of Behavioral Health
- Alaska State Troopers
- Community members

The Court is funded in part by a grant from the US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Palmer Wellness Court Status Hearings are open to the public. These are generally held on Thursdays at 2:30 pm at the Palmer Courthouse, 435 S. Denali in Palmer. Judges Kristen Stohler (courtroom 6) and Shawn Traini (courtroom 2) preside. If you are interested in observing court, please call 907-746-8142 to confirm that court is being held on its regularly scheduled day.

### **For more information:**

Palmer Wellness Court Project Coordinator  
435 S. Denali  
Palmer, AK 99645  
907-746-8142  
[khull@akcourts.gov](mailto:khull@akcourts.gov)