

# CONNEAUT MUNICIPAL COURT SPECIALIZED DOCKET

## RENEWAL COURT

### PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK



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## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Congratulations on your decision to participate in the Conneaut Municipal Court Specialized Docket known as Renewal Court. This program is designed to provide support by linking you with needed services and helping you to establish a solid foundation in the community. This handbook will detail your rights and responsibilities in the program and help you understand and successfully complete the requirements of Renewal Court. Renewal Court is a voluntary program focused on providing treatment-oriented options for persons who have a mental health disorder, or a co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder that have contributed to an underlying criminal offense. Renewal Court is designed to be approximately twelve (12) months in duration, but due to the individualized nature of needs-based programming, your term of participation may be longer or shorter in duration. There are many potential benefits, resources, and requirements of program participation. Some of these include:

- Learning how to enjoy a productive lifestyle
- Improved family and social relationships
- Increased treatment, housing, and employment assistance
- Reduced negative interactions with peers and the criminal justice system
- Overall healthier lifestyle

Some of the resources Renewal Court offers participants are:

- Access to a wide range of Treatment services
- Recovery Support services to assist you with obtaining local services such as employment, educational or vocational opportunities, housing assistance and transportation assistance
- Incentives for achievements
- The Renewal Court Treatment Team that includes the Judge, Renewal Court Administrator, Law Director, Probation Officer, and Treatment staff who are all committed to your successful completion of the program.

### **What makes a person eligible for Renewal Court?**

Renewal Court serves Ashtabula County residents who have committed or are charged with criminal offenses, and who have a moderate to high-risk for recidivism and a high need for treatment. Renewal Court ensures equal opportunity for everyone to participate and succeed, regardless of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, citizenship, marital status, veteran's status, or any disability. Individuals wishing to participate in Renewal Court must meet clinical and legal eligibility criteria and be approved for admission by the Renewal Court Judge.

## **Clinical Eligibility Criteria**

The participant must be diagnosed with any mental health or substance use disorder or from co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders that have contributed to an underlying criminal offense. An applicant who has needs that are beyond the scope of the appropriate treatment which Renewal Court can reasonably accommodate may be excluded from participation. Other factors to be considered for clinical eligibility are family history, health condition, and motivation and willingness to participate.

## **Legal eligibility criteria**

A candidate for Renewal Court as a diversion applicant must meet the legal criteria of Intervention in Lieu as set forth in Ohio Revised Code Section 2951.041. In addition, the following criteria applies to both diversion and post-conviction candidates:

*An individual is not eligible if any of the following exist:*

- Offender is charged with an offense that is a sex-related offense (per ORC) or there is a history of sex-related offenses (to be determined on a case-by-case basis).
- Offender is charged with an OVI/DUI if the individual is a diversion applicant
- Offender's victim is under 13 or over the age of 65
- Offender's victim is permanently and totally disabled

The Renewal Court Judge makes the final decision regarding a person's acceptance into the program.

## **How does a person apply for Renewal Court?**

### **Referral Process**

Potential participants can be referred to Renewal Court through various points of entry which include referrals from any of the following: Law Director/Prosecutor, Judge, Defense Counsel, Treatment providers, Probation officer, Jail staff, Treatment provider, and self-referral.

Referrals can be made at any stage of the criminal case or court process, to include arraignment, pretrial, pre-plea agreement, change of plea, intervention in lieu of conviction (R.C. 2951.041), post-plea (Pre-sentence Investigation), sentencing, while currently under supervision/community control or because of a community control violation. A person interested in participating in Renewal Court must submit, through his or her attorney, an application to the Conneaut Law Director. There is no legal right to participate in Renewal Court, and the decisions of the Renewal Court Judge are final.

## **What Happens Once A Referral is Accepted?**

Once a referral and a completed application are accepted, the Renewal Court Administrator will contact you to conduct an interview to determine your needs and if you meet the criteria for

admission to Renewal Court. You will also meet with your Probation Officer who will conduct a Presentence Investigation. You will be asked to sign a Release of Information so that you can be referred to needed services. You will be referred for a mental health and substance use assessment with Community Counseling Center or Signature Health depending on your preferences.

### **What Happens Legally if I enter Renewal Court?**

The legal process that is followed will depend on your application as a Diversion or Post-Conviction applicant.

#### **Diversion Participant**

If you are a diversion applicant, you will enter a guilty plea to the charge(s). The Renewal Court Judge will defer adjudication of the finding of guilt and stay all further legal proceedings and transfer the case to the Renewal Court docket. Upon your successful completion of Renewal Court, the charge(s) is/are dismissed pursuant to R.C. § 2952.041 and the record is sealed following the filing of a motion to seal by your defense counsel. If you do not complete the Renewal Court, the stay of legal proceedings will be lifted, a finding of guilt will be entered, and a participant will be sentenced to the usual sanctions allowable under the law for the offense(s). If an individual is unable to complete the program due to a serious physical or mental health condition, the participant will be neutrally discharged as determined by the Renewal Court Judge with input from the Treatment Team.

#### **Post-Conviction Participant**

If you are a post-conviction applicant, you will plead guilty to the charge(s) and be sentenced by the Renewal Court Judge to Renewal Court as a condition of community control. An individual may also be ordered by the judge to successfully complete Renewal Court as a result of a community control violation. If a post-conviction participant is unsuccessfully terminated from the program, a complaint for violation of community control is filed by the Probation Department and the matter will be set for a Preliminary Revocation Hearing, and a Final Revocation Hearing, if necessary. Should the judge determine that the participant violated the terms of community control for being terminated from the program, the participant will be sentenced to the usual sanctions allowable under the law for the offense(s). If an individual becomes unable to complete the program due to a serious physical or mental health condition, the participant will be neutrally discharged as determined by the Renewal Court Judge with input from the Treatment Team.

Before entering Renewal Court, you will receive and agree to the terms and conditions set forth in the written participation agreement and participant handbook outlining the requirements and process of Renewal Court. In addition to any constitutional or legal right to counsel throughout the process, you have the right to request the attendance of defense counsel during the portion of a Renewal Court treatment team meeting concerning the participant.

### **What Are Status Hearings?**

During Renewal Court, you will meet regularly with the Renewal Court Judge at status hearings. You will appear at status hearings with other Renewal Court participants. The Renewal Court Judge will review your progress and provide incentives or sanctions based upon your

behaviors and progress. Each participant is expected to converse with the Judge and is encouraged to be open and honest.

Participants are to abide by the following dress code for Court appearances:

- Shirts are to be tucked in
- Dress pants (are to fit properly)
- No clothing associated with tobacco, alcohol, drugs, bars or gangs
- No hats or sunglasses
- No transparent clothing unless layered with undershirt
- No low-cut shirts, midriffs, or halter tops
- No do rags
- No work boots or flip flops
- No sleeveless shirts/tank tops or backless shirts
- Dresses and skirts must be the length that would reach the tips of your fingers while hands are straight down at your side
- No cutoff jeans, shorts or tank tops will be allowed in Court
- No yoga pants or workout pants
- No sundresses unless shoulders covered

### **What Are Incentives and Sanctions?**

#### **Incentives**

The goal of Renewal Court is to encourage success and discourage failure. Therefore, Renewal Court uses incentives as an important component in making lasting changes in behavior. Incentives demonstrate acknowledgment of the difficult changes a participant is making in his/her life. Positive changes and compliance with Renewal Court requirements will be rewarded. Some of the positive changes and behaviors that may be rewarded include, but are not limited to:

- Attending all status hearings;
- Attending all treatment sessions and Court approved self-help recovery meetings;
- Attending all appointments with the Renewal Court Administrator and/or probation department;
- Abstaining from alcohol and drugs, as evidenced by negative test results;
- Engaging in vocational or educational activities;
- Securing stable housing;
- Obtaining employment;
- Advancing in Renewal Court Phases; and
- Accomplishing any other milestone identified by the treatment team.

The Judge uses incentives on a case-by-case basis. The Judge dispenses incentives as the participant's status and conduct indicate. The Judge determines the type of incentives received based on the participant's performance and compliance with program requirements. There are many types of incentives available that may include, but are not limited to:

- Encouragement and praise from the Judge;
- Ceremonies and tokens of progress, including advancement in the Renewal Court Phases;
- Decreasing court appearances and supervision contacts;
- Increasing or expanding privileges;
- Gift cards for restaurants, movie theaters, recreational activities, or personal care services;
- Reducing fines or fees;
- Dean's list;
- Recovery Books, including The Big Book, NA Book and Smart Recovery Workbook
- Weekly fishbowl incentives; and
- Graduation from Renewal Court.

### **Sanctions**

Just as it is important to recognize progress, it is also important for the Renewal Court Judge to respond swiftly to problems and noncompliant behavior. Sanctions are issued according to the seriousness of a violation. Serious violations could result in termination from the program. Sanctions are used on a case-by-case basis by the Judge when a participant fails to comply with Renewal Court requirements. Renewal Court will not impose a jail sanction for non-compliance without providing notice, a hearing, and representation by an attorney. A participant may waive the right to a hearing, so long as the participant has had the right to consult with an attorney, and the waiver is made knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily. These requirements include, but are not limited to:

- Failure to attend status hearings;
- Failure to respond in a timely manner to voice mail messages left from court, probation, or treatment staff;
- Failure to call in for drug screen in the allotted time;
- Failure to attend treatment appointments, including Court approved self-help recovery meetings, or other Court approved evidence-based programs;
- Failure to keep scheduled appointments with the court Administrator or Probation Department;
- Falsifying or attempting to falsify any required documentation, including self-help recovery meeting attendance;
- Noncompliance with random alcohol and drug screens, testing positive for alcohol and or drugs, or adulterating or attempting to adulterate urine screens;
- Noncompliance with any of the requirements of Renewal Court Phases; and
- Failure to improve troublesome behaviors.

Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- Warnings and admonishment from the Judge;

- Community service work;
- Individualized sanctions such as writing essays or reading books;
- Demotion to an earlier Renewal Court Phase;
- Electronically Monitored House Arrest (EMHA) or Secured Controlled Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM) bracelets;
- Increasing frequency of alcohol and drug testing;
- Increasing frequency of court appearances;
- Increasing supervision contacts;
- Refusing specific requests, such as permission to travel;
- Denying additional or expanded privileges, or rescinding privileges previously granted;
- Imposition of jail days;
- Filing of community control violation; and
- Termination from Renewal Court.

### **Who is on the Renewal Court Treatment Team?**

The Renewal Court Treatment Team includes: the Renewal Court Judge, representatives of Community Counseling Center and Signature Health, Renewal Court Administrator, Renewal Court Probation Officer, a representative of the Law Director's Office and County Public Defender's Office. Renewal Court Treatment Team members work together to assist participants in becoming successful. The Treatment Team meets weekly to review your progress and develop plans to improve your success. In addition, the need for rewards or sanctions are also discussed at the Team Meetings. You have the right to request your defense counsel attend the portion of the Treatment Team meeting concerning you.

### **What Services Are Available to Me?**

All Renewal Court participants receive prompt access to treatment and recovery services that are identified in their Individual Treatment Plan. In addition, depending on your individual needs you may be referred for assistance with education, vocational training, employment, transportation, housing, domestic violence programming, physical, mental, and dental health, parenting, and language services. There are two licensed treatment centers in Ashtabula County that provide mental health and substance use services, Community Counseling Center and Signature Health.

During your initial screening by the Renewal Court Administrator, you will be asked to identify the treatment center you would prefer to work with.

Community Counseling Center conducts mental health and substance use assessments, provides Substance Use Intensive Outpatient Services, Alcohol/Drug Testing, Group Counseling, Case Management, Mental Health Counseling, Psychiatry, Medication Assisted Treatment, and



Peer Support Services. Signature Health provides mental health and substance use assessments, Substance Use Intensive Outpatient Services, Alcohol/Drug Testing, Dual Diagnosis Group Counseling, Case Management, Medication Assisted Treatment, and Peer Support Services.

Renewal Court will consider any of the medications approved by the FDA for treatment of an opioid use disorder as appropriate for Renewal Court participants when it is prescribed by a qualified medical provider and administered in conjunction with behavioral health treatment. Medication Assisted Treatment services will be available and shall be provided in a form and manner that adhere to “The Supreme Court of Ohio’s Principles for the Use of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) in Drug Courts.”

### **How Does Renewal Court Do Substance Use Testing?**

Every participant of Renewal Court is required to submit to random, frequent, and observed alcohol and drug screens. Testing is conducted based upon the participant’s individual needs. All participants submit to random, frequent, and observed alcohol and drug screens. Participant are required to contact a drug testing automated system Sunday through Saturday between 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to find out if he/she is required to submit a urine screen from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. that day, excluding the hour between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. The participant is also required to submit to testing if requested by the Treatment Provider, the Probation Department, or the Renewal Court Judge. All testing results will be shared with the Judge and the other members of the Treatment Team. Testing positive will result in a sanction and/or therapeutic adjustment and shall be immediately enforced and reinforced by the Renewal Court Judge.

Participants are tested with an instant urinalysis drug screen. The collection of test specimens are witnessed directly by a staff person who has been trained to prevent tampering and substitution of fraudulent specimens. It is the participant’s responsibility to travel to the testing location during the hours indicated for the testing. Participants are expected to arrive at the testing location, currently located at the Community Counseling Center or Signature Health’s Conneaut offices, to produce a sample within a certain period of time.

The following acts are treated as positive tests and subject to sanction:  
If the participant fails to provide a urine sample when requested, it will be the same as a positive test and immediately sanctioned.

- A diluted sample is considered a positive test and will be immediately sanctioned.
- Should the participant tamper with or adulterate the urine sample, including submitting the sample of another individual, it will be considered a positive test and the participant will be immediately sanctioned.

In addition, participants are required to abstain from mind-altering substances, legal or illegal, including Alcohol, Kratom, Synthetic Drugs, Bath Salts, Pseudoephedrine, Creatine, Inhalants/Whip its, Phenibutal, Alcohol Vapes, etc. It is also required that participants do not consume poppy seeds, because they can cause a false positive and may result in a sanction. In addition, the participant may not take non-FDA Approved foods, medications, supplements,

chemicals, herbal remedy, etc. (examples include natural remedies, workout supplements etc.) There are also medications that can cause a false positive or that are not recommended for individuals in recovery. Therefore, prior to taking any over-the-counter medications, the participant must notify and consult with the Treatment Team, Probation Officer and/or Treatment Provider to determine if the medications could cause issues with his/her treatment and/or drug screens.

If a participant tests positive, the participant may request that the sample be re-tested for confirmation. If the participant fails to make a timely request so that the sample is not available to re-test, the ability to request confirmation testing is deemed waived. If the confirmation testing returns positive, the participant will be sanctioned and/or given a therapeutic adjustment. In addition to sanctions for positive tests, the Judge and treatment team may require a change in the participant's treatment plan. Participants are also expected to submit to testing of his/her breath, hair follicle or blood as required by the Renewal Court Treatment Team.

### **How Do I Progress in Renewal Court?**

You will progress through Renewal Court based upon the progress you make in treatment, following the rules of the Program, and by remaining law-abiding. Renewal Court has different Phases or steps that you move through as you make progress in your recovery. There are no set timelines for how long you are in each Phase, instead it is based upon your individual progress. The following describes the Phases of Renewal Court:

#### **Orientation Phase**

During the Orientation Phase you will gain a thorough understanding of Renewal Court requirements and complete the assessment process. During this phase you will be expected to do the following:

- Meet as instructed with the Renewal Court Administrator and Renewal Court Probation Officer. You will be interviewed to determine your eligibility to participate in Renewal Court and to inform the Renewal Court Judge's decision whether to grant your request for Renewal Court;
- Meet as instructed at Community Counseling Center or Signature Health to undergo a complete mental health and substance use assessment;
- Sign a Release of Information form;
- Become familiar with the location of the service providers and address any issues of transportation and/or employment;
- Review the participant handbook and the participation agreement with your defense counsel; and
- Remain law abiding.

**If you have any questions regarding eligibility and your desire to participate in Renewal Court, please talk to your defense counsel. You will complete the Orientation Phase once all assessments and relevant forms are completed.**

### **Phase I (Compliance)**

The goal of the Compliance Phase is to provide you with the skills and supports needed to manage behavioral health symptoms while connecting you to others in the recovery community. During Phase I you will be expected to do the following:

- Attend weekly status review hearings;
- Follow your Individual Treatment plan and attend all treatment sessions;
- Call in and submit to random alcohol and drug testing;
- Attend all required meetings and follow all rules of supervision with the Renewal Court Administrator and Probation Department;
- Cooperate with random home visits by the Probation Department;
- Engage in pro-social and sober community support activities; and
- Remain law abiding.

*To advance you must do the following:*

- ✓ Compliance with above; and
- ✓ Minimum 14 consecutive days substance-free and no infractions.

**Movement through this Phase is based upon your compliance and progress with program rules and your Individual Treatment Plan.**

### **Phase II (Program Engagement)**

During Phase II you will begin to address the issues that led you to become a participant in Renewal Court. During this phase, you will begin to develop skills, improve family relationships, and set employment, vocational and/or educational goals. During Phase II you are expected to do the following:

- Regularly attend Status Review Hearings before the Judge to review your progress;
- Comply with your Individual Treatment Plan;
- Continue to attend all treatment sessions, including required self-help recovery programs, or other Court approved evidence-based programs;
- Continue to attend all required meetings and follow all rules of supervision with the Renewal Court Administrator and Probation Department;
- Continue to cooperate with random home visits by the Probation Department;
- Continue to call in, submit and provide negative results to all random alcohol and drug testing occurring at a minimum of two times per week or as specified in their Individual Treatment Plan;
- Continue to engage in pro-social and sober community support activities;
- Follow through on housing, educational, vocational, and employment referrals; and
- Remain law abiding.

*To advance you must do the following:*

- ✓ Compliance with above; and
- ✓ Minimum 60 consecutive days substance-free and no infractions for 30 days.

### **Phase III (Growth and Development)**

This phase is focused on developing self-sufficiency. You will begin to utilize skills learned in treatment and programming, continue to improve family relationships, and begin to make long-term employment, educational, and/or vocational plans, and demonstrate on-going stability. During Phase III you will be expected to do the following:

- Regularly attend status review hearings before the Judge to review your progress;
- Comply with your Individual Treatment plan;
- Continue to attend all treatment sessions, including required self-help recovery programs or other Court approved evidence-based programs;
- Continue to attend all required meetings and follow all rules of supervision with the Renewal Court Administrator and Probation Department;
- Continue to cooperate with random home visits by the Probation Department;
- Continue to call in, submit and provide negative results to all alcohol and drug testing;
- Continue to engage in pro-social and sober community support activities;
- Obtain/maintain stable, clean, sober housing;
- Obtain/maintain employment, schooling, vocational training, or engage in other Court approved activity;
- Have a realistic plan for payment of restitution, fines and supervision fees;
- Begin the Restorative Justice Process; and
- Remain law abiding.

*To advance you must do the following:*

- ✓ Compliance with above; and
- ✓ Minimum 90 consecutive days substance-free and 30 days no major infractions.

### **Phase IV (Maintenance)**

During the maintenance phase, you are required to continue to adhere to all treatment and Renewal Court requirements successfully and faithfully, and to continue to meet the same obligations as set forth above in the other phases.

Graduation from Renewal Court will occur after you have successfully completed all of the Phases. In order to graduate you will have to demonstrate the following compliant behavior and accomplishments.

- Demonstrated abstinence from alcohol and drugs as evidenced by submitting negative screens for a minimum of one hundred twenty (120) days prior to graduation;
- Successfully completed or continuing treatment and regularly attended required self-help recovery programs or other Court approved evidence-based programs;
- Demonstrated stability in the community;

- Regularly attended status review hearings before the Judge to review the participant's progress;
- Continued to attend all treatment sessions, including required self-help recovery programs or other Court approved evidence-based programs;
- Continued to attend all required meetings and follow all rules of supervision with the Renewal Court Administrator and Probation Department;
- Continued to cooperate with random home visits by the Probation Department;
- Obtained/maintained stable, clean, sober housing;
- Obtained/maintained employment, schooling, vocational training, or engage in other Court approved activity;
- Complete Restorative Justice process;
- Complete any other outside requirements (parenting classes, family counseling, financial counseling etc.); and
- Paid in full restitution, fines, supervision fees and court costs, unless otherwise determined.

*To advance you must do the following:*

- ✓ Compliance with above; and
- ✓ Minimum 120 consecutive days clean/30 days no infractions

### **Commencement Phase**

Once you have successfully completed Phase IV you will enter the Commencement phase, and be required to:

- Complete and submit the written Application for Commencement;
- Complete Commencement interview;
- Remain compliant with all Renewal Court requirements through actual Commencement ceremony; and
- No sanctions/infractions within 30 days of Commencement ceremony.

**The Renewal Court Judge will determine when you graduate.**

### **How Do I Complete Renewal Court?**

A participant can complete Renewal Court in one of three ways: successful completion, unsuccessful completion, and neutral termination.

### **Criteria for Successful Completion**

Successful Completion and Graduation from Renewal Court occurs after a participant has successfully completed all of the Phases. In order to graduate, a participant must demonstrate the following behavior and accomplishments:

- Demonstrated period of treatment compliance:
  - Evidenced by submitting verification of treatment attendance; and

- Medication regime compliance as reported from Treatment Provider.
- Displayed a positive change in thinking, attitude, and beliefs;
- Successfully completed treatment or programming, or continues to be actively engaged in treatment process;
- Maintained consistent employment and housing;
- Demonstrated ability to identify and eliminate criminal thinking patterns; and
- Paid in full fines, court costs, restitution (if applicable), and treatment costs (inability to pay costs in full does not necessarily prevent successful completion).

Accomplishments may include:

- Medication regime compliance;
- Demonstrated abstinence from alcohol and drugs as evidenced by negative screens;
- Completion of treatment or continued engagement in treatment;
- Aftercare plan established;
- Completed Renewal Court requirements;
- Completed vocational or educational plan;
- Paid in full restitution, fines, and court costs, unless otherwise determined;
- Displayed responsibility for his or her behavior; and
- Demonstrated stability in the community.

***The Renewal Court Judge has sole discretion to determine whether and when the participant will successfully complete the program.***

In general, the process for determining when a participant has successfully completed Renewal Court includes the following steps:

1. Nomination: The participant and/or member of the Treatment Team offers a nomination of a participant for successful completion.
2. Treatment Team Review: The Treatment Team conducts a review of compliant behavior and accomplishments, to include drug testing results, violations/sanctions, incentives, treatment compliance, aftercare activities, and the Application for Commencement.
3. Treatment Team Recommendation: The Treatment Team then makes a formal recommendation to the Renewal Court Judge.
4. Judicial Decision: The Renewal Court Judge determines that the participant successfully completed the Renewal Court.
5. Graduation Ceremony: Each graduate has a formal graduation ceremony in which they are presented with a certificate of completion and addressed by the Treatment Team and participants. The Renewal Court Judge makes a formal statement indicating the accomplishments of the graduate, thus reinforcing expectations for other participants.

6. Final Disposition: Depending on case type, the underlying case is closed, or in cases implementing intervention in lieu of conviction, the underlying case is dismissed.

### **Unsuccessful Termination**

Common behaviors that lead to unsuccessful termination include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Ongoing noncompliance with treatment;
- Failure to attend treatment appointments;
- New serious criminal convictions;
- A serious Renewal Court infraction or series of infractions; and/or
- A serious probation violation or series of probation violations.

Common effects of unsuccessful termination include:

- May affect an individual's ability to reenter Renewal Court
- Further legal action, including revocation of intervention in lieu of conviction, or motion for probable cause or probation violation; and
- Depending on the circumstances, the participant may be subject to jail and other penalties.

If a participant is an intervention in lieu/diversion participant and unsuccessfully terminated from the program for failure to comply with the terms and conditions of Renewal Court, the stay of legal proceedings will be lifted, and the offender will be sentenced to the usual sanctions allowable under the law for the offense(s). Disposition of the charge(s) will then be determined by the Judge and the Prosecutor/Law Director.

If an offender is a post-conviction participant and unsuccessfully terminated from the program for failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the program, a complaint for violation of probation will be filed and the matter will be set for a violation hearing. Should the Court determine that the offender violated the terms of probation for being terminated from Renewal Court, then he or she will be sentenced to the usual sanctions allowable under the law for the offense.

### **Neutral Discharge**

There may be circumstances in which the participant is discharged from Renewal Court through a Neutral Discharge status. This status is assessed in situations when the participant has reached maximum benefit for various possible reasons:

- a serious medical condition;
- cognitive impairment;
- serious mental health condition that cannot be addressed by Renewal Court;
- death; and
- other factors that may keep the participant from meeting the requirements for success completion.

- Upon neutral discharge from Renewal Court, the case will be returned to the original docket for determination of appropriate disposition based on the specific facts surrounding the case.

### **Inactive Status**

There may be circumstances that necessitate a participant being placed in “inactive status,” whereby they are not formally discharged from Renewal Court yet are not actively participating. Examples of situations warranting this status include participants who are:

- Placed in a residential facility and cannot be transported for status review hearings;
- Charged with new crimes pending adjudication and/or a final disposition for sentencing;
- In need of further assessments or evaluations to determine if Renewal Court is beneficial to the participant and the program;
- Unable/unwilling to comply with program requirements in a timely manner as directed; or
- Under an outstanding warrant for non-compliance from the specialized docket and the issue has not been resolved.

***If you have any questions about the contents of this Handbook, please ask your Defense Counsel or the Renewal Court Administrator.***