



Finding the Right Candidate for Saginaw Recovery Court

Partnering with the Saginaw County Defense Bar

Hon. Andre R. Borrello
Presiding Judge
Saginaw Recovery Court

Partnership • Accountability • Hope





Why I'm Here

- Build a Stronger Partnership with the Defense Bar
- Help Identify the Right Participant at the Right Time
- Improve Lives, Strengthen Families and Enhance Public Safety

Partnership • Accountability • Hope





What is Saginaw Recovery Court

- Treatment
- Accountability
- Judicial Supervision
- Recovery Support
- Long-term Behavioral Change

Recovery – NOT simply avoiding prison





A Brief History of Saginaw Recovery Court

- Established About 14 Years Ago
- One of Michigan's Evidence-Based Treatment Courts
- Continually Evolving Through Research and Best Practices
- Focused on Recovery, Accountability, and Public Safety

Recovery is Our Mission. Public Safety is Our Responsibility





Three Filters for Admission

Every Successful Referral Begins Here

Legal Eligibility

Clinical Eligibility

Readiness for Recovery

Recovery is Our Mission. Public Safety is Our Responsibility





Three Filters for Admission

Every Successful Referral Begins Here

Legal Eligibility

- Charged with Qualifying Felony
- Eligible Under Drug Court Act (MCL 600.1062 et seq)
- Participation is Voluntary
- Admission is Determined by the Court After Assessment and Team Consideration
- Prior Violent Offenses MAY BE CONSIDERED – They Are Not Automatic Disqualifiers

Legal Eligibility Opens the Door – It Does Not Guarantee Admission





Three Filters for Admission

Every Successful Referral Begins Here

Clinical Eligibility

- Genuine Substance Use Disorder
- Criminal Behavior Substantially Related to that Disorder
- COMPAS Score of Medium-High or High-High
- In Appropriate Circumstances Medium-Medium May Be Considered
- Clinical Assessment Supporting Recovery Court

Saginaw Recovery Court is Designed for People Suffering from
Addiction – Not People Who Use Drugs





Three Filters for Admission

Every Successful Referral Begins Here

Readiness for Recovery

- Want Recovery
- Willing to be Honest
- Ready to Change
- Will Trust the Team and the Process
- Committed to Long Term Recovery



Readiness – Not Desperation – is the Foundation for Success

Question Every Defense Attorney Should Ask

Before Recommending Recovery Court

- What Has **Your** Addiction Cost You?
- If Incarceration Were Not Part of the Equation, Would You Still Want Recovery
- What Happens if Nothing Changes?
- Are You Ready to Change **Your** Life - Not Just Your Sentence?

The Answers Matter More than the Charges





What We Are Looking For

What Success Usually Looks Like

- ✓ Genuine Substance Use Disorder
- ✓ Genuine Desire for Recovery
- ✓ Honesty
- ✓ Trust in the Team and the Process
- ✓ Willingness to Change for Life – Not Just for Today

We are Looking for Commitment, Not Pefection





Common Misconceptions

- X Recovery Court is an Alternative to Prison
- X Recovery Court Sets Participants Up for Failure
- X Relapse Means Failure
- X Graduation Means Recovery is Complete
- X Recovery Court is Easier than Incarceration

The Reality is Very Different



Meet the Saginaw Recovery Court Team

Recovery is a Team Effort

- Judge Andre Borrello
- Coordinator Sarah Rogers
- Case Mgr Vern Brenner
- Sgt Heather Beyerlein
- Compliance: Tracy Goetgeluck
- Treatment: Paul Burns, GLBH
- Treatment: Beth Ureche Ten16
- Probation: Toni Cooklin
- Prosecutor John McColgan
- Defense Attorney Gena Amos

Different Disciplines. One Mission





How Saginaw Recovery Court Works

Coordinated, Evidence-Based Team Approach



Every Participant is Evaluated Individually





Responding to Setbacks

Therapeutic Responses, Not Punishment

We Ask Four Questions:

- What Happened?
- Why Did it Happen?
- What Did You Learn?
- How Can We Reduce the Risk Next Time?

Every Setback is an Opportunity to Learn and Grow





Recognizing Progress

Positive Reinforcement is Evidence-Based

- Every Success Matters
- Celebrate Milestones
- Recognize Effort and Growth
- Incentives Encourage Positive Behavior
- Confidence Grows Through Achievement

People Repeat Behaviors that are Recognized and Reinforced



What Success Really Looks Like

Recovery Changes Lives – But it Also Rebuilds Families



“The Program Gave Me What I Needed to Stay in Recovery”



Your Role in Recovery

You May Be the First Person to Help a Client Choose a Different Future

The Defense Attorney Can:

- Recognize Readiness
- Ask the Difficult Questions
- Encourage Honest Self-Reflection
- Help Identify the Right Candidate for SRC





Your Role in Recovery

The Right Referral Can Change a Life

Questions and Discussion

