



Family Reunification through Recovery Court **Participant Handbook**

650 Dan Street · Akron · Ohio 44310
330-643-2915 · juvenilecourt.summitoh.net

Table of Contents

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION	1
IMPORTANT NUMBERS.....	1
HOW TO START	2
PLAN FOR SUCCESS	2
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS.....	4
TREATMENT TEAM MEETINGS AND STATUS REVIEW HEARINGS.....	5
PHASES.....	5
SUBSTANCE USE MONITORING.....	6
When to Test:.....	6
Where to Test:	6
Test Results/Response to Positive Test:	7
INCENTIVES	8
THERAPEUTIC RESPONSES	9
SANCTIONS.....	9
GRADUATION	10
Successful Completion	10
DISCHARGE.....	11
Neutral Discharge	11
Unsuccessful Discharge.....	11
GLOSSARY.....	12

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The mission of the Family Reunification through Recovery Court (FRRC) is to partner with court-involved families to create a healthy, stable home environment that allows the family to permanently reunify. The FRRC is an intensive program for parents who are struggling to stay clean and sober. FRRC is different than the traditional court process. In FRRC the Judge/FRRC Magistrate, Prosecutor, Defense Attorney, Summit County Children Services and treatment providers work with you to help you meet the goals of your recovery plan so you can stay clean and sober, provide a stable home environment and work toward reunification with your child(ren). The program is approximately one year; however, some may finish sooner and some later depending on individual progress. This Handbook explains the participants' rights and responsibilities and should be read carefully.

"I will never in a million years be able to truly express the gratitude I have for this program. This program not only gave me the opportunity to be a mother again but it gave me another chance at life! This program taught me the proper way to communicate, the right kind of advocacy. It taught me that sometimes it's ok not to be ok. The program pushed me to be the best ME possible. If I had to do it all over, I would do it the exact same way. My higher power doesn't make mistakes, He is always right on time. Thank you FRRC!"

– L.M., FRRC Graduate

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Color Line	330.643.8558
FRRC Coordinator: Constance Sales	330.643.4547
Attorney: _____	_____
SCCS Worker: _____	_____
SCCS Assistant: _____	_____
CASA: _____	_____
Counselor: _____	_____
Counselor: _____	_____
Recovery Coach: _____	_____
Other: _____	_____
Other: _____	_____

HOW TO START

1. Ask for help – Start with the list above
2. Show up
 - a. To Court – every week (at least at first)
 - b. To Treatment
 - c. To Parenting Time
 - d. To Substance Screening – every time your color is called
 - e. To Sober Supports – at least twice a week
3. Ask for help
4. Build a network of sober support
5. Ask for help

“The FRRC program is a great way to teach us addict parents to be accountable, it taught me to trust the process. I’m so blessed to have gone through the program, my children and I are better to thanks to the amazing staff of this program. Blessed.”

- M.G.K., FRRC Graduate

PLAN FOR SUCCESS

Orientation	
	Meet with FRRC Coordinator
	Observe FRRC Hearing
	Sign Releases of Information
	Complete Intake Screening Interview
	Complete Substance Use and/or mental health assessment with a preferred provider
	Review FRRC Participation Agreement with Attorney
Phase 1 – Compliance Phase	
The primary goals of this phase are to attain sobriety and connect with community services.	
	Complete Recovery Plan with FRRC team
	Receive assigned color for substance screening
	Call-in to color line or receive text daily
	Provide at least 2 random substance screens each week on assigned day
	Submit negative random substance screens as required at least 2 weeks in a row
	Attend Weekly Status Review Hearings every Wednesday for at least 30 days
	Engage in recommended treatment with a preferred provider
	Complete steps to be assigned a Recovery Coach – meet with provider and complete intake
	Have daily contact with recovery coach
	Participate in at least 2 sober supports each week
	Be on time for parenting time with your child(ren) each week
	Attend all scheduled appointments for at least 2 weeks in a row
	Complete all sanctions ordered and personal goals contained in recovery plan
	Submit Application for Phase Advancement
Phase 1 is designed to last between 30 and 90 days.	
If a participant is in phase 1 for longer than 60 days, a team meeting will be held between the participant, FRRC coordinator, case worker, and others to update the recovery plan.	

Phase 2 – Program Engagement	
The primary goal of this phase is to develop a solid foundation for sustained recovery.	
	Update Recovery Plan with FRRC team
	Call-in to color line or receive text daily
	Provide at least 2 random substance screens each week on assigned day
	Submit negative random substance screens as required for at least 30 days in a row
	Attend Status Review Hearings at least every other week on Wednesday for at least 60 days
	Engage in treatment with a preferred provider as directed by the provider
	Meet with Recovery Coach at least twice each week
	Participate in at least 2 sober supports each week
	Take initial steps to secure long-term stable housing
	Take initial steps to secure stable employment; and/or further education
	Participate in any recommended parenting support
	Attend scheduled parenting time each week and demonstrate parenting skills
	Attend medical, educational, and other appointments for your child(ren)
	Attend all scheduled appointments for at least 2 weeks in a row
	Complete all sanctions ordered and personal goals contained in recovery plan
	Submit Application for Phase Advancement
Phase 2 is designed to last between 60 and 180 days. If a participant is in phase 2 for longer than 120 days, a team meeting will be held between the participant, FRRC coordinator, case worker, and others to update the recovery plan.	
Phase 3 – Growth and Development	
The primary goal of this phase is for the participant to sustain success and stand alone.	
	Update Recovery Plan with FRRC team
	Call-in to color line or receive text daily
	Provide random substance screens each week on assigned day as directed
	Submit negative random substance screens as required for at least 90 days in a row
	Attend Status Review Hearings on Wednesdays as directed for at least 90 days
	Engage in treatment with a preferred provider as directed by the provider
	Meet with Recovery Coach on a weekly basis
	Participate in at least 2 sober supports each week
	Secure long-term stable housing appropriate for self and child(ren)
	Secure employment/income sufficient to meet basic needs
	Demonstrate ability to meet educational, medical and other needs for your child(ren)
	Demonstrate positive appropriate parenting skills during parenting time
	Schedule and/or attend medical, educational and other appointments for your child(ren)
	Complete all sanctions ordered and personal goals contained in recovery plan
	Submit Relapse Prevention Plan
	Submit Application for Graduation
Phase 3 is designed to last between 90 and 120 days. If a participant is in phase 2 for longer than 120 days, a team meeting will be held between the participant, FRRC coordinator, case worker, and others to update the recovery plan.	
Maintenance Phase	
	Connect to FRRC Alumni Group
	Stay engaged in sober support activities

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who are preferred providers?

- Providers that have agreed to work with the FRRC program. You can receive a current list from the FRRC Coordinator.

What if I did not receive a color line text?

- Do not panic. Call the color line – 330.643.8558

What if I missed my drug screen?

- Call your caseworker or the FRRC Coordinator and they will help you figure out what to do.

What if I tested positive?

- Talk with your provider and your FRRC to determine your next steps.

What if I missed a treatment appointment?

- Call your provider right away and reschedule.

What if I missed a Court hearing?

- Call the FRRC Coordinator right away.

“FRRC changed my life as I was early in my recovery. They have amazing resources and amazing staff that hold us accountable weekly for our actions. And as an addict you need to be held accountable. They never judged. they never made you feel bad about yourself if you took a step back, they were always caring loving and encouraging. I don't know where I would be without them. The program overall is an amazing place to be as a mother or father in early recovery.”

- J.A., FRRC Graduate

TREATMENT TEAM MEETINGS AND STATUS REVIEW HEARINGS

The FRRC monitors each participant's performance and progress through the treatment team meetings and status review hearings.

- Treatment team meetings will be held every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.
 - The FRRC magistrate, or a substitute magistrate when necessary, manages the treatment team meetings.
 - The FRRC coordinator(s), FRRC director, prosecutor, defense counsel, SCCS caseworker and/or social work assistant and treatment providers will attend the treatment team meetings.
- Status review hearings are held Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. These hearings may be held in-person, by zoom, or in hybrid format.
 - The Judge or magistrate will conduct weekly status review hearings with the program participant throughout Phase 1, which will last for at least the first thirty days of FRRC involvement.
 - Defense counsel is present at all status review hearings.
 - After the completion of Phase 1, frequency of status review hearings will be based on participant's length of time in the program and progress toward individual goals. Participants will not be required to attend every status review hearing.
 - Status review hearings will be conducted in a group setting to provide participants with an opportunity to learn from each other and support each other through the process of reunification.
 - The magistrate will provide an on-going explanation of responses to compliance and noncompliance, including criteria for termination during status review hearings.

PHASES

Phases are the steps in which a participant's performance and progress through the specialized docket are monitored.

- Progression through the FRRC is based on the participant's performance in the treatment plan and compliance with the FRRC phases.
- Phase advancement is not solely based on preset timelines.
- Time between status review hearings will generally increase as participants move through the phases but may be increased or decreased based upon compliance with treatment and observed progress.
- Parenting time shall be increased regularly from supervised, to monitored, to unsupervised and overnight based on compliance, engagement, and the needs of the child.
- The three primary intervention phases are designed to last for a minimum of six months and not more than eighteen months. Ultimately, a program participant must maintain 90 consecutive days of documented sobriety to successfully complete the program.

In all phases participants are required to:

- Demonstrate a connection to services by attending all scheduled appointments;
- Sustain sobriety as demonstrated by frequent, random negative urine drug screens;
- Comply with all court orders and the requirements set forth in the SCCS case plan and the FRRC treatment plan;
- Complete all sanctions ordered and personal goals contained in recovery plan; and
- Complete a Petition for FRRC Advancement.

SUBSTANCE USE MONITORING

The FRRC monitors a participant's substance use by random, frequent and observed alcohol and drug testing protocols.

When to Test:

- Substance-use monitoring is based on individual alcohol and drug testing plans that are a part of the FRRC recovery plan. Individual alcohol and drug testing are based on several factors, including: the participant's diagnosis, the participant's drug of choice, suspected use, and/or length of time in the program.
- The FRRC staff may test a participant for alcohol or drugs at any time at the discretion of the staff.
- Participants will be tested at least 2 times per week.
- The FRRC utilizes a color-based random urine drug testing protocol to ensure that substance monitoring is random. If the participant's color has been assigned for that day, the participant must submit to a urine drug screen at the Community Health Center, with his/her treatment provider, or as arranged with FRRC staff.
- The participant is responsible for calling the number provided by the FRRC Coordinator daily to determine if he or she must submit a urine drug screen. The participant may provide his or her telephone number for text notification of when he or she must submit a urine drug screen.

**If the participant fails or refuses to submit to testing, submits an adulterated sample, a diluted sample or a sample from another individual, the results of the drug/alcohol screen will be considered positive for drugs and/or alcohol and you will be immediately sanctioned.*

Where to Test:

The bulk of alcohol and drug monitoring is completed by CHC Addiction Services or the participants' AOD treatment provider. FRRC participants will be required to present themselves for alcohol and other drug testing at Community Health Center on a frequent and regular basis as required by their individualized alcohol and drug testing plan. The testing agency will immediately notify the FRRC coordinator of alcohol and other drug testing results. FRRC participants may also be required to submit to random swabs for alcohol and other drug testing as required by FRRC staff.

CHC Addiction Services Testing Hours at 719 E. Market St., Akron:

Day	Time
Monday	5:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday	5:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday	5:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Thursday	5:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Friday	5:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

*If arriving before 6:30 am and the participant states they are in FRRC and employed they will be permitted to provide a UDS early.

*If the testing agency changes, the FRRC participants will be notified of the new testing agency and their hours of operation.

The FRRC participant is responsible for the ingestion of or exposure to any over-the-counter medication, food, or substance which results in a positive test.

- The positive test will not be excused and will be followed by an immediate and progressive sanction.

FRRC participants are responsible for notifying FRRC staff of medical conditions or prescriptions which may result in a positive test.

- A participant who has a medical condition which may result in a positive substance screen or is provided with a prescription that may result in a positive substance screen must provide verification of the medical condition or prescription along with a statement that the condition or prescription is known to cause a positive test for a specifically named substance. This condition must be provided as soon as possible after the diagnosis or receipt of prescription but no later than the next scheduled FRRC review hearing.
- Participants must also sign a release of information to permit FRRC staff to speak with the licensed professional who made the diagnosis or wrote the prescription.
- A participant who is prescribed medication but submits a drug screen which is negative for the prescribed substance will also receive an immediate and progressive sanction.

Test Results/Response to Positive Test:

The FRRC program relies on saliva testing, urine drug testing, breathalyzers, and Secured Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring (SCRAM). Testing may be conducted by any FRRC staff member as well as by SCCS staff, any treatment provider, Community Health Center, Oriana House, or a probation officer. If substance use is monitored by FRRC staff, SCCS staff, a treatment provider or Community Health Center, those results are shared with the FRRC program promptly and may be the basis for sanctions if the participant tests positive, fails to submit to testing, submits an adulterated sample or the sample of another individual or dilutes the sample. A SCRAM is an ankle bracelet worn continuously by the participant, which monitors for the presence of alcohol through the sweat glands. When a participant is placed on a SCRAM, the monitoring facility notifies the court by sending a fax of the results when there is either a tamper alert for the bracelet or the presence of alcohol is detected.

- As quickly as possible after the positive results are received, the FRRC coordinator will notify the participant and make an appointment to meet with the participant and his or her team an appropriate response to the positive result. That appointment will be held as quickly as possible.
- The participant will also be required to attend the next FRRC status review hearing to address the positive test with the judge or FRRC magistrate.
- The participant will face sanctions for the positive test and if the participant continues to provide positive tests for alcohol or other drugs, they will face sanctions of increasing severity.

*Should the participant dispute the results of a urine drug or alcohol screen, the participant may request a confirmation test at his/her own expense. (*Positive saliva tests are confirmed prior to the results being received by the court and cannot be retested.*)*

- A participant who continues to test positive at weekly status review hearings will meet with his or her team to discuss appropriate referrals and barriers with the goal that the participant will provide a negative test for alcohol or other drugs. If the participant continues to provide positive tests for

alcohol or other drugs, and therapeutic responses have failed, he or she will face sanctions of increasing severity.

- A participant who tests positive for alcohol or drugs after achieving an initial period of sobriety shall meet with his or her team to discuss appropriate referrals and barriers with the goal that the participant will provide a negative test for alcohol or other drugs.
- If the participant is placed on a SCRAM unit and the unit is damaged or lost participant may receive sanctions and may face additional consequences through the monitoring agency, such as the imposition of fees and costs.

INCENTIVES

Immediate, graduated, and individualized incentives govern the responses of the FRRC to the participant's compliance. Incentives are individualized according to the specific recovery plan and directly related to the participant's achievements as certain milestones of the FRRC are attained. Incentives are tracked to ensure that the participant is rewarded on a consistent basis.

Reasons for receiving an incentive:

- Attending required court appearance
- Attending required treatment appointments
- Maintaining close and productive contact with case manager
- Reaching individual recovery plan goals
- Achieving the first negative urine drug screen
- Abstaining from alcohol and drugs, as evidenced by negative alcohol and drug screens
- Engaging in vocational or educational activities
- Securing stable housing
- Completing individual recovery plan goals
- Advancing in FRRC phases
- Accomplishing any other milestone identified by the team

Types of incentives:

- Encouragement and praise from the judge or FRRC magistrate
- Ceremonies and tokens of progress, including advancement in specialized docket phases
- Reporting first in court and given the option to leave early
- Being permitted to attend virtually using videoconferencing
- Reducing supervision contacts
- Decreasing frequency of court appearances
- Increasing or expanding privileges
- Encouragement to increase participation in positive activities the participant finds pleasurable, such as writing, art work, or other positive hobbies
- Gifts of inspirational items, including books, pictures and framed quotes
- Assistance with purchasing clothes for job interviews
- Gift cards for restaurants, movie theaters, recreational activities, or personal care services

- Gifts of small personal care items, hobby or pet supplies, plants or small household items
- Gifts to build relationships with child(ren) such as phone cards, toys, books, music, disposable cameras, and videos
- Graduating from FRRC
- Other incentives chosen specifically for each participant

THERAPEUTIC RESPONSES

Treatment services and participation in community-based mutual support meetings are not used as sanctions and any alterations in requirements to participate in these activities are based solely on the clinically informed interests of the participant.

Reasons for receiving a therapeutic adjustment:

- Failure to attend court appearances and treatment appointments
- Failure to follow FRRC rules
- Failure to keep scheduled appointments with FRRC Coordinator, case manager or any other team member
- Non-compliance with other requirements of the recovery plan
- Non-compliance with random alcohol and drug screens or testing positive for alcohol and drugs
- Failure to improve troublesome behaviors
- Failure to meet employment or vocational goals as determined by the treatment team
- Failure to keep other appointments as scheduled, such as those for public benefit aid, health care benefits, housing assistance, social security applications, etc.

Types of therapeutic adjustments:

- Increasing frequency of alcohol and drug testing, including the use of passive alcohol monitoring
- Increasing frequency of court appearances
- Scheduling a meeting with the participant's caseworker, treatment provider, and FRRC Coordinator
- Increasing level of care
- Increase in required number of sober support activities

SANCTIONS

Noncompliance will be addressed with immediate, individualized sanctions of increasing seriousness. Sanctions are used to help the participant conform behavior to FRRC requirements. Sanctions are crafted in an individualized and creative manner, as well as in a progressive manner based on the infraction. Sanctions are issued when there is non-compliance with both program protocol and the recovery plan. Sanctions are a deterrent to negative behavior, as well as an encouragement for future compliance. Parenting time will be used as a sanction only if the change in visitation is in the best interests of the child.

Reasons for receiving a sanction:

- Repeatedly not following FRRC rules
 - Repeatedly not attending court appearances and treatment appointments
 - Repeatedly not keeping scheduled appointments with FRRC Coordinator, case manager or any other team member
 - Repeatedly not keeping other appointments as scheduled, such as those for public benefit aid, health care benefits, housing assistance, social security applications, etc.
- Repeatedly not submitting random alcohol and drug screens or testing positive for alcohol and drugs as required
- Loss or damage of electronic monitoring and/or SCRAM unit

Types of sanctions:

- Warnings and reprimand from the Judge/FRRC Magistrate
- Reporting last in court or reporting alone after other participants are excused
- Refusing specific requests of the participant
- Denying additional or expanded privileges or rescinding privileges previously granted
- Increasing contacts and monitoring with FRRC coordinator or member(s) of treatment team
- Individualized responses, such as writing essays, reading books, or performing other activities to reflect upon unacceptable behavior
- Requiring community service
- Sitting at counsel table with FRRC Defense Counsel
- For ongoing alcohol use, the use of a SCRAM bracelet
- Discharge from the FRRC
- Filing of a Motion to Show Cause or Contempt of Court

GRADUATION

Successful Completion

A FRRC participant may petition for successful completion during Phase 3 of the program after submitting negative random substance screens as required for 90 consecutive days of documented sobriety. The judge or FRRC magistrate has discretion to decide the completion or termination of a participant from the FRRC program in accordance with the written criteria.

In order to successfully complete the program the FRRC participant must demonstrate to the treatment team that they are able to sustain their life changes independent of the FRRC program. The FRRC participant must:

- Demonstrate abstinence from alcohol and drugs as evidenced by negative alcohol and drug screens
- Demonstrate ability to access supportive services such as treatment providers, sober support, financial support and other ancillary services

- Demonstrate stability and responsibility in the community with housing, employment, and the ability to parent his or her child(ren)
- Complete case plan and FRRC treatment plan requirements
- Complete a Relapse Prevention Plan and petition for successful completion

DISCHARGE

Discharge Classifications

Discharge from the program may occur at any time upon the filing of a motion for discharge. The decision of whether to discharge a participant is at the discretion of the judge or FRRC Magistrate. There are two types of discharge: Unsuccessful Discharge and Neutral Discharge.

Neutral Discharge

The following actions may lead to neutral discharge:

- A medical condition prohibiting continued participation
- A mental-health condition prohibiting continued participation
- Death
- Other factor that may keep the participant from meeting the requirements for successful completion

If a FRRC participant is neutrally discharged from the program then the case is returned to the traditional abuse/neglect/dependency docket.

Unsuccessful Discharge

The following actions may lead to unsuccessful discharge:

- Ongoing noncompliance with treatment or resistance to treatment
- New felony criminal convictions
- A FRRC infraction or series of infractions

If a FRRC participant is unsuccessfully discharged from the program then they may be ineligible for future participation in the FRRC. If a FRRC participant is unsuccessfully discharged from the program then the case is returned to the traditional abuse/neglect/dependency docket.

Recovery opened the gates of hell. And LET ME OUT let me survive and LED
ME TO YOU MY BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL CHILD.

– T.B., FRRC Graduate

GLOSSARY

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA): a CASA provides a judge or magistrate with a carefully researched background of the child to help the court make a sound decision about the child's future. Each home placement case is as unique as the child involved. The CASA must determine if, in his/her opinion, it is in a child's best interest to stay with parents or guardian, to be placed in foster care or to be freed for permanent adoption or some other appropriate option. The CASA makes a recommendation on placement and services to the judge or magistrate and follows through on the case until it is permanently resolved.

Custodian: a person who has legal custody of a child or a public children services agency or private child placing agency that has permanent, temporary, or legal custody of a child.

Defense Attorney: the attorney representing the defendant in a lawsuit or criminal prosecution.

Disposition: the act of disposing, transferring to the care of possession of another. The partying with, alienation of, or giving up of property. The final settlement of a matter and with reference to decisions announced by a court, a judge's ruling is commonly referred to as disposition. Regardless, of level of resolution.

Guardian Ad Litem (GAL): an advocate for a child whose welfare is a matter of concern for the court.

Legal Custody (LC): a legal status that vests in the custodian the right to have physical care and control of the child and to determine where and with whom the child shall live, and the right and duty to protect, train, and discipline the child and to provide the child with food, shelter, education and medical care, all subject to any residual parental rights, privileges, and responsibilities. An individual granted legal custody shall exercise the rights and responsibilities personally unless otherwise authorized by any section of the Ohio Revised Code or by the court.

Magistrate: a civil officer that has power to administer and enforce the law.

Permanent Custody (PC): a legal status that vests in a public children services agency or a private child placing agency, all parental rights, duties, and obligations, including the right to consent to adoption, and divests the natural parents or adoptive parents of all parental rights, privileges, and obligations, including all residual rights and obligations.

Permanent Planned Living Arrangement (PPLA): an order of a juvenile court pursuant to which both of the following apply:

- The court gives legal custody of a child to a public children services agency or a private child placing agency without the termination of parental rights.

- The order permits the agency to make an appropriate placement of the child and to enter into a written agreement with a foster care provider or with another person or agency with whom the child is placed.

Permanent Surrender: the act of the parents or, if a child has only one parent, of the parent of a child, by a voluntary agreement authorized to transfer the permanent custody of the child to a public children services agency or a private child placing agency.

Prosecutor: the government attorney charging and trying the case against a person accused of a crime.

Protective Supervision (PS): an order of disposition pursuant to which the court permits an abused, neglected, dependent, or unruly child to remain in custody of the child's parents, guardian, or custodian and stay in the child's parents, guardian, or custodian, or any other person that the court prescribes, including supervision as directed by the court for protection of the child.

Recovery Coach: personal guide and mentor for individuals seeking to achieve or sustain long term recovery from addiction, regardless of pathway to recovery.

Shelter Care: the temporary care of children in physically unrestricted facilities pending court adjudication or disposition.

Temporary Custody (TC): means legal custody of a child who is removed from the child's home, which custody may be terminated at any time at the discretion of the court or, if the legal custody is granted in an agreement for temporary custody, by the person who executed the agreement.