

Why a Family Drug Treatment Court in the City of Richmond?

- **Per capita, the City of Richmond has more children in foster care than any other jurisdiction in the state.**
- **As of June 1, 2006, this number totaled 526 children in care.**
- **Of these cases, over 80% originate from abuse/neglect related to substance abuse by the parent or caretaker.**
- **The majority of children *not* reunified with their parent/caretaker involve substance-abuse-afflicted families.**



The drug court team collaborates to help the family gain or regain health, well-being, and life skills to ensure sustained recovery.

RFDTC Partners Include:

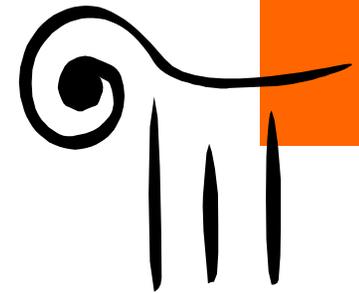
- Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations (J&DR) District Court
- Richmond Department of Social Services (RDSS)
- Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA)
- Office of the City Attorney
- Richmond Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Greater Richmond SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now)
- Richmond Public Schools
- Virginia Treatment Center for Children
- Greater Richmond Juvenile Bar Association
- Virginia Commonwealth University Health System

For additional information, please contact:

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CITY OF RICHMOND

Family Drug Treatment Court



New Blueprint for
Hope & Healing

What is the Richmond Family Drug Treatment Court (RFDTC)?

The RFDTC is a special court program designed to provide an integrated, collaborative response to the needs of drug-addicted parents and their children. By providing parents with treatment, parenting skills, ongoing case management, and judicial monitoring, the Court hopes to



provide them with the best possible chance of being safely reunited with their children. In some instances, separation of the family may even be prevented. In addition to treatment offered to parents/caretakers, appropriate therapeutic intervention, alcohol and substance abuse prevention programs, and ongoing case management will be provided to children of all ages.

“Given the substantial number of children in foster care in Richmond due to the abuse or neglect of a substance-abusing parent, I am convinced that we must find a way to creatively and effectively support these families. If we can move a parent to sobriety, perhaps we can move a child home.”

*Former Judge
Anne B. Holton*

How does the RFDTC help children and families?

It is the goal of the RFDTC to safely preserve, reunite, and support the family unit. The needs of substance-abusing parents are complex and not easily dealt with in the traditional court setting. By bringing multiple community partners to the table, the RFDTC hopes to offer a broad array of support services to address the many needs of these families. By addressing all of the underlying cause of the issues that brought the family before the Court, it is hoped that children may remain with or be reunited with substance-free, effective parents.

What is required of a parent participating in the RFDTC?

The RFDTC is a 12-month, four-phase program that uses sanctions and incentives to help motivate parents to achieve their treatment goals. Hallmarks of each phase of the program include regular court appearances, required participation in drug treatment, random urinalyses, regular contact with RDSS social workers, RBHA Clinicians, and CASA, and immediate judicial response to both success and failure. Essential to all the phases is active parental participation in the children's recovery process. Successful completion of each program phase is required for graduation.

- **Phase I** provides assessments and referrals for needed services and the development of treatment plan/service plan goals.
- **Phase II** includes continued participation in recommended treatment program and participation in recommended visitation with children.
- **Phases III and IV** feature continued participation in recommended treatment and aftercare programs and educational/vocational training.

RFDTC graduation requirements include:

- Successful completion of the four phases.
- Development of an on-going recovery plan.
- Evidence of on-going participation with treatment plan/service plan.
- Ability to provide a safe, stable environment for the family as determined by the RDSS Social Worker.
- Completion of parenting skills training.
- Employment and/or enrollment in an appropriate educational/vocational program.

Who is eligible for the RFDTC?

The RFDTC deals exclusively with parents and caretakers who are before the court as a result of an allegation of abuse or neglect. If a finding of abuse or neglect is made by the judge, and the parent or caretaker has a substance abuse disorder, a referral may be made to the RFDTC.

What is the cost of the RFDTC?

There is no charge for the services of the RFDTC. However, there may be specific charges assessed by individual treatment providers. Treatment will be provided regardless of the parent's ability to pay.

