



# Hays County Mental Health Court

## What is Mental Health Court?

- A collaboration between the court and criminal justice system with the common goal of diverting individuals from jail into treatment with the support of the Mental Health Court (MHC) team. The team includes Judge Brown, Court Administrator, Court Caseworker, MHC Prosecutors, Community Supervision, and Hill Country MHDD.
- 12 months of continuous engagement in treatment and attending all appointments and court hearings.
- The goal is for the participant to become stabilized in their recovery and integrate into the community. The participant will learn new skills, gain access to resources and support through treatment, as well as receive a more favorable disposition for their legal case.

## What is the criteria?

- Resident of Hays County (if out of county, case by case basis).
- At least 17 years of age or older.
- Diagnosis of a mental health disorder, co-occurring disorder, or intellectual/development disability disorder. Diagnoses are determined during the evaluation Hill Country MHDD completes as part of the referral process.
- Facing a misdemeanor offense or a felony that can be routed down to a misdemeanor. (This would need to be discussed further on a case-by-case basis with prosecutors.)
- Deemed competent to stand trial.
- The participant who will be most successful in this program is someone who has insight into their mental health, and who is motivated and willing to engage in recommended treatment. The participant must understand the benefits of this program, time commitment, and intensity of the program; as well as their legal obligations.

## What are the next steps?

Let's start the referral process.

Contact Kaimi Mattila,  
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[Submit a referral](#)

