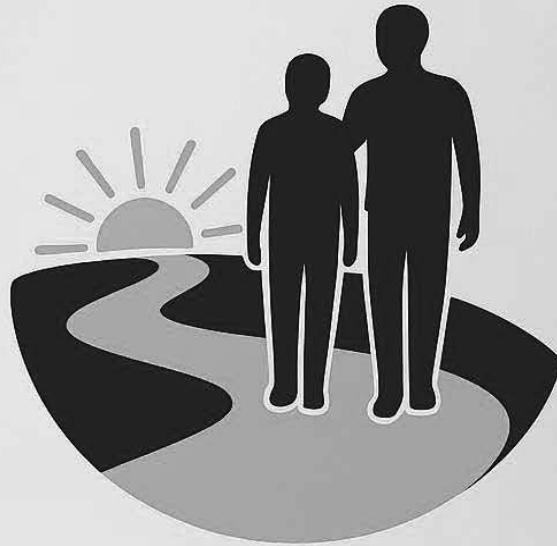


Cherokee County Juvenile Court



PATH PROGRAM

Promoting Accountability Through Healing

Creating a PATH to a Brighter Future

Cherokee County
— GEORGIA —

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IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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232 River Park N. Drive
Woodstock, GA 30188
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Welcome to the Cherokee County Juvenile Court P.A.T.H. Program!
This handbook is designed to answer your questions and provide information necessary to prepare you for your upcoming journey.

As a PATH Participant, you and your parent(s)/legal guardian(s) will be expected to follow the instructions given in this handbook and by the PATH Team. Any changes to the handbook will be provided to you in writing by the Coordinator.

This handbook explains what is expected of you and your parent(s)/guardian(s) as a Participant. If you are reading this handbook, it means that you have been accepted into the program based on your history of drug/alcohol use and other encounters with law enforcement. It also means that we are confident that the PATH Program will help you learn to make successful choices free of the influence of drugs or alcohol.



PATH PROGRAM TEAM MEMBERS

Judge: Judge Amanda Speights

Drug Court Coordinator: Shannon Kirby

Probation Representative: Cheryl Drane

Defense Attorney: Ellie Hammonds

Assistant District Attorney: Sarah Santander

Treatment Provider: Noelle Rich and Faith Ayers

Additional Team Support May Include:

Compliance Officer: Robert Jones

Guardian ad Litem: Jessica Long

School Social Workers: Marcie Firebaugh and Tia Bryller

Child Welfare Representative: Missi Lundell

CHINS Representative: April Timms

Delinquency Program Manager: Kaila Morris

PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS

As a PATH Participant, you will sign an agreement upon entrance into the program. This agreement details all requirements and rules of the program. The agreement also waives the Participant's rights of confidentiality related to treatment. The Defense Attorney will review all forms, documents, and contracts with the participant before meeting with the Judge. The Participant will then appear before the Juvenile Judge for sentencing, and the Judge will inform them of the rights and program expectations.

The Participant will be responsible, once in the program, to follow through on the following:

- Participate fully in each phase of the PATH Program.
- Abide by all rules of the PATH Program.
- Actively participate in all required groups and treatment-related activities.
- Accept responsibility for self and actions by being honest and open in treatment.
- Attend Court as directed by the Judge and Coordinator.
- Attend Case Management as directed.
- Submit to random drug screenings as required.
- Stay up to date on Participant Fees.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents/Legal Guardians are critical to the rehabilitation of the minor and the successful completion of the PATH Program. Parents/Legal Guardians are required to attend all court sessions with their child. Parents/Legal Guardians may be required to engage in services to support their child through the recovery process. Parents/Legal Guardians must also support the court by requiring their child to comply with court orders and the rules of the PATH Program. The PATH Program Team recognizes how important family members are to each young person's success in the program.

The program is a substance abuse treatment/rehabilitation program that includes:

- Frequent, random drug testing;
- Judicial supervision;
- Individual and Family Counseling;
- Group Treatment
- Educational/vocational training;
- Life skills training;
- Social skills training; and
- Use of court-imposed sanctions and incentives.

RESPONSE TO BEHAVIOR



Incentives reward participants for taking positive steps to attaining a sober, healthy, and positive lifestyle. Participants could also be awarded for compliance with Case Management and Treatment goals, personal achievements, positive reports from school, obtaining a GED, and obtaining employment.

Examples of Incentives:

- Praise by the Court/Judge
- Public Recognition
- Applause during Court
- Certificates/Awards (Example: Star Student)
- Virtual Case Management
- Early dismissal from Court
- Gift cards
- Prize Wheel Spin
- Basket Draw
- Candy/Snack Grab
- Extended curfew
- Early promotion to next phase
- Termination of Probation (after completion of program requirements)



Sanctions are the result of the Participant failing to adhere to the requirements of the program. Sanctions assist the Participant in recognizing and changing behaviors that may result in dismissal from the program. Sanctions are discussed by the PATH Team and are imposed by the Judge based on the behavior of the individual. Participants who do not comply with the program requirements may receive sanctions for behaviors that include but are not limited to:

- Positive drug test results
- Tampered or diluted urine sample

- Failure to submit a screen upon request/failure to appear for a screen as directed
- Curfew violation
- Unexcused absences from court
- Unexcused absence from case management and/or treatment
- Uncooperative, disruptive behavior
- Aggressive language or behavior
- Failure to complete Case Management tasks
- Failure to submit grades
- Failure to appear in court for any scheduled appointments
- Other non-compliance issues
- Violations of probation
- Removal from group
- New criminal charges

Sanctions for the above behaviors/non-compliant behaviors are individually based, are not listed in any particular order and may include but are not limited to the following:

- Admonishment
- Delay of Phase Progression
- Essay
- Increased academic monitoring
- Completion of schoolwork at courthouse under supervision
- Community Service Work at an approved location
- Fewer privileges
- Modified curfew
- Additional lab drug screens
- Electronic Monitoring
- House Arrest
- Time in detention
- Termination from the program

TERMINATION

The PATH Team will employ incentives and sanctions to make successful completion achievable and expulsion from the program difficult. Nevertheless, certain circumstances may warrant termination.

All terminations require notice, a hearing, and a fair procedure. The Judge presiding over the PATH Program will also sit as the Judge conducting the termination hearing. Termination from the program will be the final decision of the Judge with the team's input. If a Participant is a danger to the physical or mental well-being of others, in violation of program rules, or has a new arrest and/or conviction on new charges, termination may be enforced. Termination might also be enforced if the Participant is caught tampering with urine samples, dealing/selling/buying alcohol, drugs, or drug-using paraphernalia.

MEDICATIONS (PRESCRIBED/OTC)

PATH Participants cannot use illegal drugs, alcohol, or nicotine. All medication, whether over the counter or prescribed, must be authorized by the Coordinator prior to it being taken. Any prescription medications must be required by a doctor, and you should not have any prescription filled before receiving approval from the Coordinator. This prohibition includes dietary supplements and vitamins. Taking prohibited substances will make your recovery harder. The use of prohibited substances can also cause a positive drug test. Unless otherwise approved by the Coordinator, use or possession of the following substances is NOT allowed in the program:

- Narcotic painkillers such as Percocet, Oxycodone, Darvocet, Tylenol 3, Vicodin
- Barbiturates
- Benzodiazepines such as Ativan, Valium, or Xanax
- ADHD Medicine with Amphetamines such as Adderall, Dexedrine, Procentra, etc.
- Anything marketed as a "mood enhancer" or "dietary supplement"
- Tranquilizer also known as "tranq" or xylazine
- Muscle Relaxers
- Stimulants or Caffeine Pills such as Vivarin or NoDoze or Energy Drinks of any kind
- Diet or Weight Loss Aids, and unapproved vitamins
- Sleep Aids or hypnotics such as Ambien, Soma, Lunesta, melatonin, or "PM" pain medication
- Sleepwalkers, TIANNA, or synthetic psychedelics
- K2, Spice, Salvia, Morning Glory, Dabs, Wax, Shatter, BHO and/or any type of natural or synthetic cannabinoid
- THC, CBD Gummies, candies, edibles, body products
- MDPV, Mephedrone, bath salts, and all designer drugs even if legal in any other state
- Herbal Smoking Mixtures
- Inhalants
- Poppy Seeds or food containing Poppy Seeds
- Allergy, cough, or sinus medication containing alcohol, codeine, dextromethorphan (DM), pseudoephedrine, phenylpropanolamine, diphenhydramine, doxylamine

- Any product sold with the warning that it is not for human consumption
- Alcohol and any product with alcohol such as hand sanitizer, mouthwash, Dayquil, cooking extracts, aftershave
- Other people's medications, regardless of type
- Vaping paraphernalia including e-cigarettes (THC, vaping oils, "carts", etc.)
- Nicotine in any form- *NICOTINE is illegal for anyone under the age of 21 to purchase, consume, or possess. This includes chewing tobacco, cigarettes, XYN pouches, snuff, dip, snus, etc.*
- Psychoactive Botanicals (psychoactive plants and herbs) including but not limited to Kratom, Kanna, Damiana, Amanita, and Fly Agaric
- Kombucha
- Phenibut-also known as "pheni or "Feni" or "smart chill", or "but"
- THCA-also known as diamonds, crystals, or crystalline
- Mushrooms-also known as "shrooms"
- Items sold containing tianeptine, "gas station heroin", Neptune's Fix, Happy Jacks, etc.

Below is a small list of **approved** medications:

- Pain and Fever Relief: Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), Naproxen (Aleve), Aspirin, Acetaminophen (Tylenol), Midol
- Skin (topical): Benadryl Itch Stopping Cream, Cortaid, Preparation H, Monistat
- Stomach: Alka Seltzer, Beano, Maalox Tablets, Pepto-Bismol, Tums, Rolaids, Pepcid AC, Prilosec, Mylanta, Ipecac
- Birth Control

TREATMENT

Treatment plans shall match Participant needs with an appropriate level of treatment and supervision. The length of the PATH Program is partly up to the participant and their compliance and success. The program is a minimum of twelve (12) months but will not exceed twenty-four (24) months. Treatment plans will consist of four active phases with the fifth phase being reserved for continued care. Continued care is to prepare you for relapse prevention after court oversight has concluded. Each phase will have specified treatment objectives, therapeutic, and rehabilitative activities, and requirements for graduation. They will include standardized, evidence-based practices, drug testing, and counseling. Each Participant will receive an

assessment through an intake referral completed by the Coordinator. Advancement from each phase will be determined by the PATH Team on the condition that the Participant has satisfied the established criteria. Each phase will vary for each Participant depending on their treatment progress, drug test results, and individual progress. Completion of the program will be determined by the PATH Team based on the Participant's performance.

PROGRESS REPORTS

Prior to each court session, the Judge will be given a progress report presented by the Coordinator, your Case Manager, Probation Officer, Treatment Provider, and Compliance Officer. The report will reflect drug screen results, attendance, participation and cooperation in treatment, school attendance, grades, and behavior at home. The Judge may ask you about your progress or any issues you may be having. The Judge will also have the opportunity to discuss your successes as well. The Judge may discuss incentives or sanctions with you depending on the progress report.



JDTC PHASES

Phase 1: Stabilization and Orientation

Eligible to advance to Phase 2 in approximately 30 days

- Participant and Parent/Guardian complete Orientation with Coordinator.
- Enroll in school full time (Polaris, Mountain Education Charter High School, or GED enrollment must be approved by the Judge). Grades must be submitted to coordinator weekly when school is in session
- Parents must apply for medical insurance for you if you do not already have insurance and proof of insurance must be provided to the Court Coordinator.
- Write autobiography and submit to Coordinator
- Complete a Safety Plan.
- Attend weekly Case Management.
- Attend all scheduled Court reviews.
- Attend all scheduled counseling sessions (individual, group, or family), per individual treatment plan (minimum of **four** sessions).
- Attend group treatment as directed (minimum **four** groups)
- Meet with Probation Officer as directed.
- Submit to all drug screens requested by Probation Officer, Compliance Officer, or as directed by Coordinator.
- Be at home by curfew (7:00 PM).
- Pay \$30/month fees to the Juvenile Clerk's Office.
- Complete 2 hours of community service at an approved location.
- No positive screens for 14 c/s days
- No new sanctions 14 c/s days
- No new violations of state law or probation conditions for 14 c/s days

Phase 2: Intensive Treatment

Eligible to advance to Phase 3 in approximately 90 days

- Continue to attend school full time (transfers to Polaris, Mountain Education Charter High School, or GED program must be approved by the Judge). Grades must be submitted to the coordinator weekly when school is in session.
- Complete Relapse Prevention Plan with help of the treatment provider.
- Work with Treatment Provider to develop a list of pro-social activities/interests and contacts.
- Attend weekly Case Management.
- Attend all scheduled court reviews.
- Attend all scheduled counseling sessions (Individual, group, or family) per individual treatment plan (minimum of **twelve (12)** sessions).
- Attend group treatment as directed (minimum of **twelve (12)** groups)
- Meet with Probation Officer as directed.
- Submit to all drug screens requested by Probation Officer, Compliance Officer or as directed by Coordinator.
- Be at home by curfew (8:00 PM).

- Pay \$30/month fees to the Juvenile Clerk's Office.
- Complete 2 hours of community service at an approved location.
- No positive screens for 30 c/s days
- No new sanctions 30 c/s days
- No new violations of state law or probation conditions for 30 c/s days

Phase 3: Recovery Skills Development: Treatment, Self-Help, Life Skills

Eligible to advance to Phase 4 in approximately 90 days

- Continue to attend school full time (transfers to Polaris, Mountain Education Charter High School, or GED program must be approved by the Judge). Grades must be submitted to coordinator weekly when school is in session.
- Attend bi-weekly Case Management.
- Attend court reviews as directed. (typically reduced to once per month)
- Attend all scheduled counseling sessions, per individual treatment plan.
- Attend group treatment as directed.
- Integrate pro-social activities a minimum of twice per month.
- Meet with Probation Officer as directed.
- Submit to all drug screens requested by Probation Officer, Compliance Officer or as directed by Coordinator.
- Be at home by curfew (9:00 PM).
- Pay \$30/month fees to the Juvenile Clerk's Office.
- Complete 2 hours of community service at an approved location.
- No positive screens or sanctions for 45 c/s days
- No new violations of state law or probation conditions for 45 c/s days

Phase 4: Transition to Continuing Care

Eligible to advance to Phase 5 in approximately 90 days

- Continue to attend school full time (transfers to Polaris, Mountain Education Charter High School, or GED program must be approved by the Judge).
- Attend monthly Case Management.
- Attend court reviews as directed.
- Attend all scheduled counseling sessions, per individual treatment plan.
- Attend group treatment as directed.
- Integrate pro-social activities at least once per week.
- Meet with Probation Officer as directed.
- Submit to all drug screens requested by Probation Officer, Compliance Officer, or as directed by Coordinator.
- Be at home by curfew (10:00 PM).
- Pay \$30/month fees to the Juvenile Clerk's Office.
- No positive screens for 60 c/s days
- No new sanctions 60 c/s days
- No new violations of state law or probation conditions for 60 c/s days
- Complete 4 hours of community service at an approved location, present during court

Phase 5: Continuing Care

Eligible to graduate in approximately 65 days

- Continue to attend school full time-must send grades to coordinator weekly
- Attend any schedule counseling sessions, per individual treatment plan
- Complete updated relapse prevention plan with help of treatment provider
- Meet with Probation officer as directed
- Submit to all drug screens requested by Probation Officer, Compliance Officer, or as directed by Coordinator
- Be home by curfew (10:00 PM)
- Pay \$30/month fees to the Juvenile Clerk's Office
- No positive screens for 90 c/s days before being deemed eligible for graduation
- No new sanctions for 65 consecutive days
- No new violations of state law or probation conditions for 65 consecutive days
- Complete the request for graduation.
- Complete the exit survey with the Coordinator

Community Service

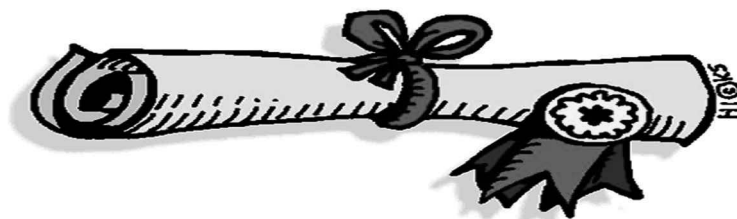
Each Participant will complete a total of ten (10) hours of community service while in the program. A minimum of two (2) hours community service (per phase) is required in Phases 1-3. You are required to complete a minimum of four (4) hours in Phase 4. The community service activity and location must be approved by the Coordinator in advance. Unapproved locations may not count towards the phase requirement. You are encouraged to seek out locations and projects that are of interest to you or play into one of your strengths. The Case Manager, Treatment Provider, and Probation Officer will assist in identifying these locations

- A minimum of ten (10) service hours documented on a timesheet
- No payment or credit of any kind may be received for the service provided.
- Community Service must be completed in Cherokee County

In Phase 4 you will complete a four (4) hour project and present the information about your service in court for the PATH Team and Participants. This is required for Graduation.

Phase Movement

Each participant will be given the requirements/goals of each phase. Phase requirements will be dependent upon Phases. All fees, sanctions, assignments, and requirements must be completed before permission is granted to advance to the next phase. Phase progression is announced in Court by the Judge and is not based on time in the phase.



Graduation

Upon successful completion of the PATH Program and satisfaction of all other court requirements, you will graduate and be considered for an early termination of your probation.

In Phase 5, participants must complete a Request for Graduation form and Graduation Questionnaire, as well as schedule an exit interview with the Coordinator.

Graduation from the PATH Program is recognized as a very important event. Your loved ones will be invited to join you at a special ceremony as the PATH Team congratulates you for successfully completing the program and achieving your goal to establish a healthy life, free of substances.



PATH PROGRAM RULES

1.Absences

All absences from treatment or court must be approved ahead of time by the Coordinator. Most absences will not be excused for those in Phase One or Phase Two. If a Participant is out sick, a doctor's note must be provided the next day. Unexcused absences from court will result in a sanction, which could include incarceration.

2.Curfew

Your curfew is determined by your phase and your compliance. You must be in your residence every night by curfew, and you may not leave your home before 5:00 a.m. If you are doing well in the program and complying with treatment and case management, you may request permission from the Coordinator for an extended curfew or overnight for a special occasion.

3.Emergencies

If Participants experience an emergency, they should call the program Coordinator as soon as possible and advise them of the situation. If the participant were to miss a treatment session, drug screen, court or case management, the participant must bring in official documentation.

4.Participant Fees

Each Participant is responsible for a fee associated with the accountability court. Missed fees could result in sanctions. All program fees must be paid in full for the participant to be eligible for phase up or graduation.

5.Drug Screening

The accountability court team will develop a plan for random urine drug screenings, which may occur on weekends or holidays. All Participants are required to submit to random and observed drug screens. During the first four phases, each Participant will have a minimum of twice per week. Testing will be provided by a trained individual, i.e. probation officer, compliance officer or lab technician, and will be directly observed. Results will be given to the program Coordinator for data collection. Any Participant who wants to challenge a positive drug screen may do so at their own expense. However, if the external laboratory concludes that the initial screen was a "false positive" the Participant will be reimbursed. Creatinine violations and drug screens scheduled and missed without a valid excuse (determined by the Judge) will be considered positive drug screens. Positive screens may result in sanctions and/or behavior/treatment responses.

6.Medications

Medications may only be taken under the supervision of a medical professional. (See section about medications). All medications must be written on the chain of custody prior to drug screen.

7.Be on time

Be on time for all court scheduled hearings/activities, case management and treatment.

8.Dress appropriately for all PATH Program related activities

This includes court, case management, drug screens, treatment, and group treatment. As a Participant, you will be expected to wear a shirt, blouse, pants, dress, or skirt at reasonable length. Pants must be worn at the waist. Participants may not expose their midriff, cleavage, or underwear. Participants may not wear shorts of any kind and no pajamas. Shoes must be worn at all times. Clothing displaying profanity, violence, sexist, racist, drug or alcohol related themes or promoting or advising alcohol or drug use is considered inappropriate. Gang attire is also prohibited. Hats may not be worn anywhere in the Courthouse. The dress code applies to all venues related to the program.

9.Surveillance

All Participants are monitored by Compliance officers throughout the week. Field visits are unannounced and may occur during the day or evening and on weekends. You are subject to drug screen during the visit. Your Compliance or Probation officer will check to ensure you are abiding by all your drug court rules and probation conditions. The officer(s) will inquire if anyone is present in the home that is not listed as a resident.

10.Cell phones

A search of a Participant's cell phone is permitted upon reasonable suspicion or proper consent.

11. Behavior

Participants are expected to behave appropriately at home, school, treatment and at Court. They must follow the rules of their parents, guardians or persons with whom they are living or placed. They must be respectful toward the Court, PATH team, and all other PATH Participants. Participants must not chew gum, use inappropriate language, slouch in their chairs, or use their cell phone during court proceedings.

12.Association

It is a violation of your probation to associate with anyone having an adult or juvenile record (past or present) or have unsupervised contact with anyone under court supervision. This includes other PATH Participants and their parents. Do not associate at school, in the community, over social media, or online gaming. Do not accept or offer rides from one another.

13.Tobacco usage

The use of tobacco products is a violation of the law and is prohibited.



Search and Arrest Requirements

As a participant in the PATH Program, you are required to submit your person, vehicle, place of residence or area to search and seizure of narcotics, drugs or other contraband any time of day or night with or without a search warrant, without prior notice and without probable cause by any peace officer or Probation Officer. Any Law Enforcement Officer who observes a current participant of Accountability Court in any of the following circumstances is authorized to arrest that individual:

- Possessing a controlled substance, marijuana, alcohol or OTC (over the counter) medications
- Ingesting a controlled substance, marijuana, alcohol or OTC medication
- Being under the influence of a controlled substance, marijuana, alcohol or OTC medication
- Being in the presence of a person in possession of controlled substance(s) and there are objective factors present so that a reasonable person in a like position would conclude that drugs are present

Participants placed in detention will be brought before the Juvenile Judge for a hearing.

Confidentiality

State licensing requires that your privacy be protected. In response to these regulations, the Juvenile PATH Program and its Treatment Providers have developed policies and procedures that guard your privacy. You will be required to sign a Release of Information Form. Before you will be allowed to participate in the program you must agree that everything you see and hear in court or treatment regarding other juveniles is confidential and may not be repeated, described, or otherwise disclosed to any person who is not present in the courtroom.

I understand that I MUST comply with the above-listed rules in order to successfully complete the PATH Program. I further understand that I will be sanctioned for violation of any of these rules.

Child _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Witness _____

Date _____

**Cherokee County PATH Program
Initial Meeting Form**

I acknowledge that I, _____ (participant name), met with _____ (PATH representative) on _____ (date) to review my acceptance into the Cherokee County PATH Program.

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Program Handbook. I have a week to review the handbook and return the signature page to the Coordinator, Shannon Kirby.

I understand that any questions I have regarding the paperwork may be addressed with an attorney of my choice, or with my Defense Attorney.

I acknowledge that the Cherokee County PATH Program is an accountability court. The members of the accountability court include the Judge, Defense Attorney, Coordinator, Probation Officers, Compliance Officers, and Treatment Providers. I understand that all the members of the accountability court/PATH Program team will discuss my case during court proceedings, staffing, and when issues arise outside of court. My participation serves as a knowing and voluntary waiver of confidentiality as it pertains to those persons directly involved with the program (child and parents) during the time that the child is a participant in the PATH Program for the purpose of sharing information vital to the Court (including, but not limited to, new charges, relapse, hospitalization, changes in housing, school, or employment).

Child Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____