

# City of Wichita

## Mental Health Court



## Program Information

**Municipal Court**  
**455 N. Main**  
**Wichita, KS 67202**  
**Phone: 316.268.4582**  
**[www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov)**

**The number of persons with mental illness at the root of their offending behaviors has risen, and the criminal justice community is straining to keep up. A large percentage of cases filed in the City of Wichita Municipal Court are mental health related offenses.**

**The City of Wichita Municipal Court and COMCARE-Sedgwick County recognized the need to reduce recidivism and connect offenders to appropriate services. As a result, the City of Wichita Mental Health Court was created.**

### What is Mental Health Court?

Mental Health Court is a specialized docket designed to address the unique needs of mentally ill offenders charged with criminal or traffic offenses. Mental Health Court will provide services to reduce recidivism, as well as reduce the number of days mentally ill defendants spend in custody. Mental Health Court will serve offenders who are arrested and/or charged with violations of City of Wichita criminal and traffic codes,

and whose mental illness contributes significantly to the behavior.

### Who is eligible for Mental Health Court?

- ✓ Anyone who has a diagnosed, severe mental illness and who has been charged with a misdemeanor offense.
- ✓ Even those with prior convictions, are eligible.

### How does it work?

The Mental Health Court is an option in which the defendant can participate as an alternative to conventional sentencing. Upon successful completion, the Probation will be terminated.

All candidates must be assessed by the COMCARE – Sedgwick County Offender Assessment Program and the Mental Health Court Team.

The final decision for acceptance



will be made by the Judge.

All participants must complete a minimum one-year program that includes:

- ✓ Treatment.
- ✓ Regular court appearances.
- ✓ Random drug testing.
- ✓ Payment of all treatment and court fees.

***For more information contact:***

*Claudia Safris, Probation Officer  
at (316) 268-4266*

*Gladys Williams, MS, LMFT  
at (316) 660-1900*

## Mission Statement



**The City of Wichita Mental Health Court** will provide a community based program that provides supervision and services to mentally ill offenders through the cooperation of Municipal Court, prosecutors, law enforcement, mental health providers, and nonprofit service agencies. The purpose of this program is to improve access to services, promote participation in treatment, improve the quality of life of the defendant, decrease recidivism, increase community awareness, and promote safety of the offender and the community.

## Mental Health Court Team



**JUDGE**  
Municipal Court

**PROSECUTOR**  
Prosecutor's Office

**PUBLIC DEFENDER**  
Municipal Court

**CLAUDIA SAFRIS**  
Probation Office

**GLADYS WILLIAMS**  
Sedgwick County Offender  
Assessment Program

**This program is a collaborative effort  
of  
The City of Wichita  
and  
COMCARE-Sedgwick County  
Form 15-563**