

United States District Court for the District of New Hampshire

LASER Docket

Law Abiding. Sober. Employed. Responsible.

FOUR-PHASE PROGRAM

The LASER Docket is a court rehabilitative program for those defendants/offenders whose qualifying crimes are attributable to drug abuse and/or addiction. It is a collaborative effort among the United States District Court (USDC), United States Attorney's Office (USAO), United States Probation Office (USPO), and the Federal Defender's Office (FDO) aimed at transforming criminal defendants into law-abiding, sober, employed, and responsible citizens.

The LASER Docket team, consisting of representatives of the USAO, USPO, defense attorneys, and the USDC, has determined that participants should complete the program requirements in four phases over a minimum of twelve months. The requirements for successful completion of each phase are concrete, clear, and universally applicable. Each phase entails specific goals with a number of distinct, achievable expectations that are consistent with each stage of recovery. Successful participants will gain an understanding of the process of addiction, recognize triggers, and patterns of use and abuse, and appreciate the impact of addiction on themselves, their family, and society. Participants will accept responsibility for their conduct and acquire the necessary tools to achieve a sober, law-abiding lifestyle. Participants will be required to develop a community-based sober support network and a comprehensive relapse prevention plan as conditions of graduation from the LASER Docket program.

Pre-Enrollment Period - Orientation

Each prospective participant is required to obtain an evaluation by a licensed alcohol and drug abuse counselor (LADC) before admission to Phase 1. This evaluation is intended to determine whether the prospective participant is stable enough to successfully engage in outpatient treatment. An offender who is actively using illicit drugs, tests positive for the presence of illicit drugs, or refuses to participate in drug testing will require a greater level of intervention/support to attain stability before admission to the LASER Docket program. The admission process is as follows:

- Attend/observe courtroom session
- Referral is made by USAO, USPO, defense attorney, or Magistrate Judge
- Acceptance into program is determined by U.S. Attorney (if pretrial defendant)
- Evaluation is completed by a LADC
- Modified presentence report is completed by USPO (includes intake application, interview, and home visit)
- Team review to determine eligibility

- Agreement is executed

PHASE 1 - Limited Early Recovery (30 days)

Goals:

The participant will abstain from drug and alcohol use, engage in treatment and stabilize in the appropriate level of treatment services. The participant develops an understanding of the process of addiction, begins to recognize triggers and patterns of use and abuse. The participant develops early recovery tools and a foundation of support for recovery.

Expectations:

- Remain law-abiding
- Abstain from drug/alcohol use
- Comply with supervision conditions, rules and regulations of LASER Docket program
- Mental health assessment conducted within 10 days including a career aptitude test
- Participate in treatment and testing as directed; comply with rules and regulations of treatment program
- Participate in the sweat patch drug testing program if deemed appropriate by USPO
- Compile list of self-help meetings within 25-mile radius of your home or job
- Weekly court appearance
- Minimum of 1 home visit per week by USPO
- Maintain sobriety for no less than 15 consecutive days before transition to Phase 2

PHASE 2 - Early Recovery (90 days)

Goals:

The participant will demonstrate a commitment to living substance free by identifying and understanding the adverse consequences of drug and/or alcohol use. The participant will acknowledge responsibility for his/her conduct. The participant will enter a life skills, educational or employment program, or secure employment.

Expectations:

- Remain law-abiding
- Abstain from drug/alcohol use
- Comply with supervision conditions, rules and regulations of LASER Docket program

- Participate in mental health/substance abuse treatment and testing as directed; comply with rules and regulations of treatment program(s)
- Participate in the sweat patch drug testing program if deemed appropriate by USPO
- Maintain/seek employment or continue education as applicable (community service will be performed in the absence of employment/education)
- Develop plan to obtain GED (if applicable) unless excused by the drug court team
- Obtain assessment of life skills, education, employment, and financial status by 60-day mark; consider ways to enhance educational/vocational qualifications
- Obtain a sponsor
- Attend at least 3 self-help meetings per week (e.g., NA, AA, HA)
- Begin process to obtain/reinstate driver's license (if applicable)
- Weekly court appearance
- Minimum of 1 contact per week by USPO (to include home, community, or office) with 2 home visits per month
- Maintain sobriety for no less than 45 consecutive days before transition to Phase 3

PHASE 3 - Healthy Decision Making (120 Days)

Goals:

The participant will develop a community-based sober support network upon which to rely in making significant decisions and coping with stressors. The participant will complete an employment or educational program, or secure employment.

Expectations:

- Remain law-abiding
- Abstain from drug/alcohol use
- Comply with supervision conditions, rules and regulations of LASER Docket program
- Participate in mental health/substance abuse treatment and testing as directed; comply with rules and regulations of treatment program(s)
- Participate in the sweat patch drug testing program if deemed appropriate by USPO
- Maintain/seek employment or continue education as applicable (community service will be performed in the absence of employment/education)
- Develop a monthly budget which must be completed by 60-day mark

- Establish a primary care physician (must obtain a letter confirming that participant is under a physician's care)
- Develop community-based sober support network
- Complete at least 2 life skills programs (including but not limited to computer class, money management, parenting class, nutrition class, vocational training). Program must be approved by LASER Docket team
- Attend at least 3 self-help meetings per week (e.g., NA, AA, HA)
- Identify volunteer location and submit to LASER Docket team for approval
- Bi-weekly court appearance
- Minimum of 1 contact per week by USPO (to include home, community, or office) with 2 home visits per month
- Maintain sobriety for no less than 90 consecutive days before transition to Phase 4

PHASE 4 - Relapse Prevention Planning/Maintenance (120 Days)

Goals:

Develop a comprehensive relapse prevention and long-term recovery plan.

Expectations:

- Remain law-abiding
- Abstain from drug/alcohol use
- Comply with supervision conditions, rules and regulations of LASER Docket program
- Participate in mental health/substance abuse treatment and testing as directed; comply with rules and regulations of treatment program(s)
- Participate in the sweat patch drug testing program if deemed appropriate by USPO
- Maintain/seek employment or continue education as applicable (community service will be performed in the absence of employment/education)
- Engage in positive social leisure activities as sober adult
- Develop comprehensive relapse prevention and intervention plan; submit relapse prevention and intervention plan for approval
- Set long-term recovery goals
- Attend at least 3 self-help meetings per week (e.g., NA, AA, HA)
- Complete a 20-hour volunteer assignment

- Complete a Manualized Cognitive Behavioral Group program (Thinking for a Change or Moral Reconciliation Therapy); must commence by 30-day mark
- Monthly court appearance
- Minimum of 1 contact per week by USPO (to include home, community, or office)
- Maintain sobriety for entire 120 days (remain in Phase 4 until 120 consecutive days of sobriety)