



Parenting In Recovery/ Family Drug Treatment Court

Creating a foundation where families take root and grow.

Palm Square Building, 100 North IH 35, Suite 3000, Austin, TX 78701
Phone: (512) 854-5903 Fax: (512) 854-5907



The Parenting in Recovery/ Family Drug Treatment Court Program

The Travis County Parenting in Recovery/ Family Drug Treatment Court (PIR/FDTC) is a program for parents who are struggling with problems of alcohol/ drug use disorder and are involved in the Child Protective Services Civil Court system of Travis County. The Court is designed as an enhancement to the Child Protective Services (CPS) Court docket.

PIR/FDTC Program Goals and Overview

The **goal** of the PIR/FDTC is to maintain children in the care of their parents while they begin the journey of recovery from addiction and develop the skills and ability to safely parent their children. This focus of support and accountability for the parents and their children is to promote the goal of stopping the cycle of abuse/ neglect and addiction for the next generation.

Success of PIR/FDTC participants is achieved through very close monitoring by the Court and the use of frequent and incremental incentives and sanctions. The Court provides the parent with encouragement and the parent develops an individual relationship with the Judge. Small goals, via frequent Court orders, are set to monitor progress. This process relies on the parent's individual strengths and their family support to ensure the parent's success.

The PIR/FDTC program is designed to be a **non-adversarial approach**. It is the hope of the PIR/FDTC team that the participants will view the team as a resource and an additional support to help them with their lifetime goal of sobriety, continued recovery and safely parenting their children. All members of the PIR/FDTC team focus on building healthy and respectful relationships with the participants, to promote the empowerment of the participants to continue similar positive relationships in the future.

Eligibility for the PIR/FDTC Program

PIR/FDTC participants are Travis County residents who have been **identified by the Texas Department of Family & Protective Services, Child Protective Services (CPS)** as exhibiting symptoms of substance use disorders that impact the care and well-being of their young children.

Initially, participants enter residential substance abuse treatment—typically with one child under the age of six. Potential participants then observe and ultimately join the PIR/FDTC program after they have consulted with a court appointed attorney.

Child Protective Services (CPS) Referral Types

Eligibility for PIR/FDTC starts with the nature of the CPS referral, which may occur under any of the following three basic admission criteria:

- A mother gives birth to a baby who tests positive for drugs.
- A mother is pregnant and tests positive for drugs and has at least one child under age five in the home.
- A parent is using drugs and has at least one child under age five in the home.



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Eligible participants must also meet the following conditions:

- Parent presents with a substance use disorder.
- Parent is not in acute distress due to a mental health diagnosis such that it would preclude him/her from actively participating in substance abuse treatment.
- The residence and caretaking plan of the children fit into one or more of the following categories:
 - Children are with mother and will accompany her into treatment.
 - Children are with relatives or fictive kin in Travis or a contiguous county.
- Parent demonstrates his/her willingness to participate in PIR/FDTC by entering substance abuse treatment and enrolling in PIR/FDTC.

Additional Legal Factors:

In order for a parent to be considered for the Family Drug Treatment Court (PIR/FDTC) program, the parent must be the respondent of a civil suit filed by the District Attorney's Office representing the Department of Family and Protective Services (Child Protective Services). Parents must also be part of a Court Ordered Services case (where the Department seeks only for the Court to order the parent(s) to comply with requested Court orders). Cases that are filed initially as Temporary Managing Conservatorship cases (where the Department seeks custody of the subject child(ren)) are not eligible for PIR/FDTC participation.

The PIR/FDTC Team

PIR/FDTC brings together a large coalition of public agencies and community service providers who cooperatively provide a flexible, comprehensive continuum of services to parents, children, and families who are involved in the state child welfare system as a result of drug and/or alcohol use disorder.

The PIR/FDTC partnership is comprised of the following entities:

Travis County Health & Human Services—administrative oversight & support
Texas Department of Family & Protective Services, Child Protective Services
Austin Recovery—substance abuse treatment program
Foundation Communities—housing supports
Travis County District Attorney's Office
Texas Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)—child advocates
Travis County Court Appointed Family Advocates (CAFA)—parent attorneys
The Travis County Office of Child Representation—children's attorneys
Austin Travis County Integral Care—administrative support and children's therapists
Communities for Recovery—peer recovery coaching
SAFE—domestic & family violence counseling & supports
Manos de Cristo—dental care
Austin Oxford Houses—transitional sober living
MedSavers Pharmacy—prescription medications
Dr. Scot Flynn—psychiatry
Workforce Solutions—Capital Area—employment programs
TSO—optometry



Travis County Health and Human Services & Veterans Service

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PIR/FDTC Contacts

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