**Participant agreement**

Medications for Opioid Use Disorder forin the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Treatment Court

We are asking you to read this form (or have it read to you) and sign it before starting or to keep taking medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Treatment Court.

We will check with you to be sure you understand each part of the form and will ask you to write your initials below each part to show you understand it.

**Before you sign this form, you may want to speak more about it with** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **(the defense lawyer on the treatment court team), your private defense lawyer if you have one, your counselor or therapist, or any other person you trust.**

**If you have trouble reading this form or are confused by any of the words or sentences, please let staff know and they will read it to you and explain the meaning.**

**Please read the MOUD brochure (or have it read to you) that is provided free by the treatment court to be sure you understand what MOUD is and how it works. If you have any questions, please ask staff.**

**1. Permission to Receive MOUD**

The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Treatment Court provides safe and effective treatment while also protecting your welfare, the welfare of other people in the program, and public safety.

Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) including *methadone, buprenorphine* (for example, Suboxone or Subutex), and *naltrexone* (for example, Revia or Vivitrol) [INSERT OTHER BRAND NAMES USED IN THE PROGRAM IF DESIRED], along with counseling and social services, make treatment work better for many people who have serious problems from using opioids or opiates, such as heroin, fentanyl, Percocet, morphine, or Vicodin.

You are allowed to take MOUD if it is prescribed by a doctor or other medical professional who is legally permitted to prescribe it, and who has personally met with you, examined you, and will keep meeting with you to be sure you are getting better and staying medically healthy.

After the doctor examines you and talks with you about the right medication to take, he or she will tell the treatment court team what you decided. Most of the time, the treatment court team will follow the doctor’s advice. Sometimes, the team may ask you to meet with a second doctor to be sure about the plan. Although this usually doesn’t happen, the team may ask you to work with the second doctor instead of the first one and will tell you why, so you understand. You can always explain why you want to work with a particular doctor, but the final decision will be up to the treatment court team.

Whether or not you take MOUD, you will receive all of the same treatments and other services as other people in the treatment court and you will get all of the same benefits from graduating.

You do not need to change medications or stop taking medication to come into the program or to graduate from the program.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand this information

**2. Choosing the Medication and Dosage**

Different medications work better for different people, and some medications have side effects that can make some people ill. You and your doctor will decide together what is the best medication for you and how much of it you should take.

Most of the time, the treatment court team will follow what you and your doctor decided. Sometimes, the team may ask you to meet with a second doctor to be sure about the plan. Although this usually does not happen, the team may ask you to work with the second doctor instead of the first one and will tell you why, so you understand. You can always explain why you want to work with a particular doctor, but the final decision will be up to the treatment court team.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand this information

**3. Choosing Your Doctor**

At the back of this form is a list of doctors and other medical professionals who can prescribe MOUD and have worked well with the treatment court. You can pick anyone on this list for your treatment.

If you would rather work with someone who is not on this list, you can, but that person must be well-trained and legally allowed to provide MOUD. You must also give the treatment court team that person’s phone number and address, and sign forms allowing us to talk with them about your treatment.

As was said before, most of the time the treatment court team will let you work with the doctor you choose. Sometimes, however, the team may ask you to meet with a second doctor to be sure about the plan. Although this usually doesn’t happen, the team may ask you to work with the second doctor instead of the first one and will tell you why, so you understand. Again, you can always explain why you want to work with first doctor, but the final decision will be up to the treatment court team.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand this information

**4. Deciding Whether MOUD Is Right for You**

Your doctor or other medical provider will meet with you to decide whether MOUD is right for you and what medication is likely to work best. The doctor will examine you and ask about such things as your past use of opioids, how opioid use may have affected your life, and whether you have medical or other problems that might cause you serious problems if you take certain medications. The doctor may also talk to other doctors you have seen in the past or look at your past medical records from other doctors to learn about treatment you had in the past.

**Nothing you say about opioid use or other substance use during these meetings will be used against you. You will not be prosecuted or sanctioned in the program for your past use of opioids or other drugs. The only reason for these meetings is to decide whether MOUD is likely to work and be safe for you. You can, however, be prosecuted for selling or trading your medication to someone else if the police find out about it on their own, and not because of something you said while in treatment court.**

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand this information

**5. Letting Us Talk to Your Doctor**

You must sign forms letting the treatment court team talk with your doctor about your treatment. The doctor will only tell the treatment court team what is necessary to be sure you need MOUD, why you need it, and that you are taking the medication safely and getting better.

The doctor will tell the treatment court team such things as:

Whether you have an opioid use disorder and why you need MOUD

Whether you are coming for medical appointments

Whether you are taking the medication the right way and not taking it in a way that can be medically dangerous for you

Any side effects that you may be having and how to deal with them safely

Whether you are getting better, such as having fewer cravings for opioids, withdrawal symptoms, or other problems like depression, boredom, or irritability

Whether you have tried to avoid or cheat a drug or alcohol test

Whether you have been hostile or disruptive to the doctor or anyone else

The doctor will also request what is called a *PDMP report* (this stands for prescription drug monitoring program). This lets the doctor know if you got any prescription from another doctor without telling the treatment court team. The doctor will tell the treatment court team if you got such a prescription without the team knowing.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand this information

**6. Using Medicine the Right Way**

The treatment court team will keep a close eye on you to be sure you are using the medication the right way and are following your doctor’s advice. If you use the medication unsafely or attempt to share it with anyone else, you may receive sanctions in the program, just as you would for violating other rules of the program.

Some of the things the team may do to be sure you’re being safe include the following. These precautions will be taken only if necessary to avoid problems in how you are likely to use the medication and will be stopped when they are no longer necessary.

* Having you take the medication in front of a medical staff person, a treatment court team member such as a clinical case manager or probation officer, or another trustworthy person like a family member or loved one
* Having you record a video of yourself while taking the medication or FaceTime with treatment court staff while taking it, using your cell phone or another device, so staff can be sure you take it the right way and at the right time
* Doing drug testing to be sure the medication is in your system in the right amount
* Telling you at times to bring your pill bottle to the program to be sure you still have the right number of pills left
* Putting a special cap on your pill bottle that shows how often and when you took pills out
* Having you take the medication as a liquid, in a tape that dissolves in your mouth, or by an injection to be sure you take it in the right amount

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand this information

**7. Using Medicine the Wrong Way**

If you intentionally take medication the wrong way or share or sell it to anyone else, you may be sanctioned just as you would for violating other rules of the program. For example, you may be sanctioned if you take more than the prescribed dosage to get “high,” mix the medication with another drug to get high, or get a prescription from another doctor without telling the treatment court team.

Such sanctions will not include making you stop taking the medication unless this is recommended by your doctor or medical provider.

**Sharing or selling medication to another person is very dangerous and is illegal, and you can be arrested or discharged from the treatment court for doing this.   
So don’t do it!**

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand this information

**8. Other Services in the Treatment Court**

Whether or not you take MOUD, you will still receive all of the other treatments and services in the treatment court, and you must still go to them.

Some services may also be given to you to help you do well on MOUD, such as:

* ***Family education.*** Sometimes family members or loved ones do not like or understand MOUD and may not want you to take it. Your counselor or therapist may meet with your loved ones to teach them about MOUD, help them understand how it works, tell them about potential side effects to be aware of and how to help you with those side effects, and get them to be more helpful and encouraging to you.
* ***Peer mentors.*** The treatment court may pair you up with a peer mentor or peer recovery support specialist. Peer mentors are people with lived experience who understand MOUD and may once have been involved with the criminal justice system themselves. They have been trained in how to be helpful and can help you deal with doctors, find ways to pay for MOUD, take your medication the right way, make it to your appointments, and do well in the program and after you leave.
* ***Recovery groups.*** People in the treatment court are required to go to self-help groups such as Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), Rational Recovery, church groups, or other groups. These groups provide you with support and encouragement, and share advice on how to deal with substance use problems. Some groups may not like MOUD or may discourage people from taking it. The treatment court will do its best to send you to a group that knows about MOUD and accepts it. If such groups are not available in your neighborhood, treatment court staff and your peer mentor will advise you about how to deal with this.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand this information

**9. Changing Your Mind About MOUD**

Deciding whether or not to take MOUD or to stop taking it is up to you. You are not required to take MOUD to be in treatment court.

If you change your mind and decide to stop taking MOUD or want to change the medication or dosage, let your doctor or medical provider or your counselor or another treatment court staff person know about your decision. They may talk to you to try and change your mind, but the decision will be up to you.

**Do *not* just stop taking the medication on your own.** Simply stopping your medication can have serious side effects and can be dangerous. Your doctor or medical provider will develop a plan with you to help you stop taking the medication safely. This may involve slowly reducing the dosage over time to be sure you are safe and comfortable.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ I understand this information

***I HAVE READ THIS FORM AND/OR HAD IT EXPLAINED TO ME. I HAD A CHANCE TO ASK QUESTIONS AND THEY WERE ANSWERED CLEARLY. I AGREE TO THE TERMS:***

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Participant Date

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Participant’s Representative (if applicable) Date

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Treatment Court Representative Date

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OTHER PARTIES AS INDICATED

**Attach List of Preapproved Medical Providers and Their Contact Information**