

You have been recommended for treatment. Now what do you do?

Background

Iowa law requires a drug and alcohol evaluation (sometimes called a drug and alcohol screening) for people convicted of driving under the influence. Those evaluated as not needing treatment are reported to the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), and that step of getting their driver's license back is complete. If you are evaluated as needing treatment nothing is reported to DOT and you must complete treatment in order to get your driver's license back. IWCC does not provide treatment, so you must make arrangements with an agency that provides treatment. You should have been given a list of local treatment agencies.

Selecting a treatment agency

Among the questions you should ask when selecting a treatment agency are:

Do you have health insurance and what does it cover?

Does the agency take your insurance?

What will the fee be?

Do they have a sliding fee scale for low income people?

What type of treatment is offered?

Are the locations and times convenient?

How soon can you get started?

Evaluation Results

After you have selected a treatment agency, tell them you have completed a substance abuse evaluation with Iowa Western Community College. Most agencies will want to see the results of your evaluation before your first visit for treatment. Your evaluation is good for 90 days at most agencies. (After 90 days, they may want to do another one. Things change.) You may sign a release with us, and we will send your results to your treatment agency. Alternately, you may sign a release at the treatment agency and they will forward it to us. We do not charge for sending your results.

Treatment

Almost all of our recommendations for treatment are for out-patient treatment. Recommendations for in-patient treatment or emergency admissions are rare. Our recommendations are just that, recommendations. Your treatment agency will get to know you much better than we have after only one visit, and your progress will determine what they do and for how long. It is similar to your family doctor referring you to a specialist. The specialist determines the course of action.

12-Step Programs

It may have been recommended that you attend a 12-Step program (AA/NA) and find a sponsor. You should have been given a 12-Step "Where and When" that will tell you where to locate local meetings. Duration and frequency of attendance will be determined by your supervising officer, the court systems, and/or the treatment agency you select to attend. Frequently, evaluators will recommend weekly attendance and contact with your sponsor. It is in your best interest to follow their professional advice.

Report of Completion

Most treatment agencies in Iowa will report your satisfactory completion of treatment to the Iowa Department of Transportation. If you use an out-of-state agency that does not know how to report to DOT, they can report your completion to us, and we will report it to DOT. This reporting is done electronically by authorized agencies. DOT will not accept any paper documentation you may have from us or other agencies.

You were not arrested for DUI

If you had a screening for reasons other than DUI, such as MIP, other court ordered, employment related, or your mother brought you in, we will report the results of the screening to the interested parties if you sign a release directing us to do so. They will determine what action, if any, you need to take. The results will not be reported to DOT as they don't care about none driving offenses.

Questions

If you have questions you may call 712-325-3361. Depending on the nature of our questions, ask for clinic support staff or the Clinic Director.