

# Te Whare Whakapiki Wairua ki Kirikiriroa Waikato Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Court



## PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT

This agreement outlines what the AODT Court expects of you and says what you can and can't do while you're a participant in this court.

It's important that you go through this agreement carefully with an AODT Court lawyer and ask them any questions you have.

I understand that I have been offered a place in the AODT Court. This court helps people whose offending is being driven by their alcohol and/or other drug problems. This court will also help me address my offending behaviours and will offer support for other needs I might have. I will also be held accountable for my offending.

The AODT Court has limited places. I have been offered one of these places because the team believes that I can do the AODT Court programme.

While I'm in the AODT Court I'll be given the tools I need for my recovery journey. I'll be supported by the Judge and AODT Court team, including the Pou Oranga (Māori wellness/cultural advisor) and peer support workers who are living in recovery.

*Please fill out the information below*

**Participant name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Programme start date)

## The AODT Court's expectations:

To become a participant in the AODT Court, I understand and agree to the following:

### How the AODT Court works

1. I understand that the AODT Court programme is long. Court participants are often in the AODT Court for around 18 months (or sometimes longer). I will be required to stay in the AODT Court until I am invited to graduate. The Judge decides when I am ready to graduate based on my progress.
2. I understand that the Judge meets with the AODT Court team, including my lawyer, before Court to discuss how the AODT Court participants are progressing. At this meeting, the team share information about AODT Court participants to ensure that together the team can

make the best plan to help participants in their recovery journey. I understand that this will be different to how lawyers have represented me in the past.

### **Treatment and programmes**

3. If I am in custody, I will be expected to attend any treatment readiness groups until I am released for treatment in the community (when there is a suitable treatment pathway for me).
4. I am not allowed to use, or have, any alcohol, other drugs or medications that are not prescribed to me by a doctor. This includes any psychoactive or synthetic substances (including Kava).
5. In treatment, and in the programmes my case manager arranges for me, I will work hard and follow the rules. I will not leave any treatment programme without permission from the AODT Court and Treatment. I need to do my best to progress well. If I do not, I may be exited from the AODT Court.
6. I am also expected to attend recovery meetings in the community (such as 12 step meetings like Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and/or Narcotics Anonymous (NA)) and other helpful courses and programmes (such as: driver licensing, anger management or parenting classes).
7. My treatment programme may change while I am in the AODT Court based on my progress or behaviours.
8. I understand that the AODT Court team may also offer me help to address other health needs that I may have.

### **Alcohol and Other Drug Testing**

9. While I'm in the AODT Court, I will be randomly and regularly tested for alcohol and other drug use which mainly involves urine testing. I will provide my own urine (or oral fluid) sample without anything added to it. I must always follow the rules when I attend testing, including disclosing any drug use. I must never miss testing (without a reasonable excuse).
10. I may also have to wear an alcohol monitoring bracelet which can detect alcohol use.

### **While I'm a participant in the AODT Court**

11. If I fail to come to court, commit further offences or do not comply with my bail conditions (which include doing what is in this agreement) there will be a consequence. Depending on the circumstances, this could mean a warrant for my arrest is issued, I may be held in custody for my bail to be reviewed, and/or the AODT Court Judge can decide to exit me from the AODT Court.
12. The AODT Court expects me to be honest, open and transparent with the AODT Court team. This approach is needed for my recovery journey.
13. I can only take up paid employment while I am in the AODT Court if the AODT Court agrees to this first.
14. I must act in a respectful way that brings mana to me and to the AODT Court, including in the courtroom. I must not be violent or threatening in my behaviour or use abusive language.
15. I should wear tidy clothing at court and sit quietly to support other participants until it is my turn to speak with the Judge.

- 16. If there are victims of my current offending, the Judge will decide whether I should attend a Restorative Justice meeting with them. The Judge will also decide if I need to pay reparation to any victim(s).
- 17. I will be expected to do community service while I am in the AODT Court, as a way of giving back to my community.
- 18. I will not gamble while I am in the AODT Court.

**Graduating or Leaving the AODT Court**

- 19. I can choose to exit (leave) the AODT Court at any time. I should talk to the AODT Court team if I am struggling. If I exit the AODT Court, either by choosing to leave or the Judge exiting me, I will return to the regular court for sentencing.
- 20. I understand that AODT Court participants are usually expected to be working or studying at the time of their graduation.
- 21. If I graduate, instead of going to prison for my charges, I will be given a sentence that allows me to stay in the community and carry on with my recovery journey.

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- I have been given a copy of the AODT Court Participant Handbook.
  - I have been given my own copy of this agreement so I can read it again later.
  - An AODT Court lawyer has gone through this agreement with me. I have had a chance to ask any questions. On signing below, I agree to everything in this agreement.

**Counsel:** please ensure the defendant does not sign the Participant Agreement until in open court, if a place is formally offered.

**Participant signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**AODT Court lawyer name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Judicial Officer name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature** \_\_\_\_\_