

FAQ section. Reserved for common questions for Judge's listening session on Saturday.



SPECIALIZED DOCKET  
DIVISION

## Contact Us

Franklin County Municipal Court

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Franklin County Municipal Court

Presiding Judge  
Honorable Cindi Morehart

Program Coordinators  
Mallorie Davis, LSW  
Kyle Keckley, IMFT, LPCC

Probation Officer  
Amy Witchey



## What is LINC?

- Formally known as Mental Health Court, LINC is a voluntary specialized docket with a focus on mental health disorders.
- LINC is certified by the Supreme Court of Ohio.
- An opportunity for participants to engage in mental health and addiction treatment.

## What are the requirements for entering LINC?

- A new misdemeanor charge or revocation hearing.
- Certain felony charges are considered.
- Criteria must be met for a serious mental health concern.
- Referred by a defense attorney, prosecutor, or Judge. The defense attorney, prosecutor, and Judge must all sign off on the referral.

## Why Utilize Specialized Dockets?

### Community Safety

Defendants who enter into specialized dockets are heavily supervised. In many cases, they are required to check in weekly, drug test several times per week, and still meet the requirements of standard probation.

### Restorative Justice

Approximately 1 in 10 Americans adults have a substance abuse disorder, and 1 in 5 have a mental health disorder. Many have both mental health and substance use. \*

Rather than sending these individuals to jail where they continue to be stigmatized and receive no treatment, we work with individuals to address their needs so that they can become productive members of society and maintain community supports.

### Efficiency

For every \$1 invested in specialized dockets, approximately \$27 of taxpayer money is saved.\*

\*NADCP Statistics

## What to expect as a participant

Participants in LINC agree to the following:

- Participants receive a mental health assessment and follow through with treatment recommendations.
- Participants comply with any medications prescribed by a medical doctor.
- Participants appear in court as required, starting off at one time per week.
- Participants call in for randomized drug screens.
- Participants meet regularly with their probation officer outside of normal court requirements.
- Participants follow through with any additional requirements set by the LINC treatment team.

Participants in LINC may gain the following benefits:

- Participants may have certain charges vacated and dismissed upon successful completion, making it easier to seek out jobs and housing.
- Participants may avoid lengthy jail sentences.
- Participants may get help with vocational training, housing, or other resources that help maintain their stability.
- Participants learn to navigate the mental health system independently so they can continue their treatment after the program.