

FTC Informational Sheet for Respondent Attorneys



Why Should an Adult Respondent consider FTC?

- One-on-One case management by FTC Case Coordinator,
- Learn skills for long-term sobriety,
- Quicker access to treatment,
- No “3 clean screens” rule before visits with children,
- Faster decisions made in underlying case,
- Attorneys are frequently updated on Respondent’s progress, and
- Possible reunification quicker than traditional improvement period.



Who is Eligible for FTC?

- Abusing Respondent in pending JA proceeding,
- Adjudicated*,
- Placed on Post-Adjudicatory Improvement Period (“IP”)*,
- Meets the diagnostic impression of a substance use disorder (will determine this during referral screening and interview).

**A referral can be made prior to adjudication and being granted a post-adj. IP. Participant will not officially start FTC until after placed on post-adj. IP.*



Discussion Points for your Client

The following are recommended steps to take and helpful topics to discuss with your client about FTC:

- Review the JA Petition & other court documents to see if your client has allegations of alcohol/drug use and therefore, appropriate for FTC,
- Speak to your client about the nature and purpose of FTC,
- Advise them of the conditions they would need to follow while in FTC,
- Advise them of the alternative courses of action (legal & treatment alternatives) available to them,
- Discuss the benefits of long-term recovery (higher quality of life, job and family opportunities, etc.),
- Explain that during the FTC screening/assessment interview, any information related to their recent use (e.g., admits to using yesterday) will not be used against them in the JA case. Being open and honest is necessary to determine whether they have a substance use disorder,
- Advise them you may not be able to represent them during the weekly FTC hearings but will be there if legal action needs to be taken. However, you, as the respondent attorney, can be present at any time,
- Advise them that if they are accepted, they may speak directly to the Judge and not through an attorney during FTC hearings, and
- Inform them FTC is voluntary and to make an informed decision.