

## CORE VALUES

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### Accountability

Community Court empowers participants to take responsibility for the harm they caused by connecting them to services that support recovery and better choices.

### Individualized Justice

Community Court matches support and expectations to each participant's needs, helping them make lasting changes and stay out of the justice system.

### Restorative Practices

Community Court uses restorative practices that treat everyone with dignity, and give victims and the community, a voice.

### Collaboration

The Community Court Team works together to support participants, offering encouragement and incentives, and using court guidance when needed.



## COURT LOCATION & HOURS

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Dane County Courthouse  
215 S. Hamilton St  
Madison, WI 53703

Judge Nia Trammell  
Branch 6

5th Floor, Courtroom 5B

Tuesday mornings

For more information contact:

Jael Currie  
**Community Court  
Coordinator**

Office: 608-266-4278

Mobile: 608-516-0501

[currie.jael@danecounty.gov](mailto:currie.jael@danecounty.gov)

# Dane County Community Court

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A Supportive Path  
Forward



**Office of  
Justice  
Reform**

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## WHAT IS COMMUNITY COURT?

Dane County Community Court helps adults facing criminal charges take responsibility for what happened and get the help they need to move forward. Each participant gets a plan based on their needs, which the court orders and monitors for progress. Participants must complete ordered services and supports to have their case resolved.

### **Services and support offered include:**

- Case Management
- Peer Support & Mentoring Services
- Therapy & Mental Health Interventions
- Restorative Practices
- Substance Use Treatment
- Community Service & Restitution
- Education and/or Employment Training

Community Court is designed as a short-term program. Its goal is for most participants to complete the program in less than one year.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

For a case to be eligible, the person charged must:

- Be between 17-35 years of age
- Be charged with a non-violent misdemeanor or felony offense
- Be willing to engage in the program and its requirements

## HOW IT HELPS

Community Court focuses on people, not just problems. When harm is addressed, voices are heard, and real change can begin to take place.

### **Benefits for participants include:**

- Connections to resources and support
- Opportunities to take responsibility and make things right
- Support for life challenges
- Successful completion results in reduced or dismissed charges

### **Benefits for victims include:**

- A voice in the process
- Options to share their story, if they choose
- Accountability from the person who caused harm
- A process focused on repairing harm and meaningful change

### **Benefits for the community include:**

- Less repeat crime
- Less strain on law enforcement, jails, and courts
- Stronger connections between people and local services
- Helps build trust between the court and the community

## WHAT TO EXPECT

Community Court is a voluntary program. If someone chooses not to take part, their case will proceed in the traditional court process.

### **If a case is eligible, this is what happens next:**

- The District Attorney's Office sends a letter to people whose cases may qualify.
- The judge talks with interested people to explain how the program works.
- A Community Court case manager meets with the person to understand needs and create a plan.
- A plea is entered after the judge makes sure the person understands their options.
- The plan is ordered at the first Community Court hearing.
- Ongoing check-ins and court hearings track progress and provide support.
- When the plan is completed, the charges are reduced or dismissed.