# PARTICIPANTS' RIGHTS IN HEALING TO WELLNESS COURTS

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#### SOVEREIGNTY

- Indian Nations are sovereign nations outside U.S.
   Constitution
- Prior to colonization Indian Nations exercised full criminal jurisdiction
- Indian Nations are governed by tribal constitutions, codes, case law, customs and traditions
- U.S. interference in Indian nations' criminal jurisdiction
  - Federal jurisdiction
  - State jurisdiction
  - Non-Indians
  - Limitations on sentencing





### INDIAN CIVIL RIGHTS ACT (ICRA)

- Prohibition against unreasonable search and seizures
- Right again self-incrimination
- Right to an attorney
- Right to liberty
- TLOA issues sentenced to up to three years
  - Right to effective counsel
  - Indigent right to counsel
  - Judges training requirement
  - Maintain a record of the proceeding





# ENTRY INTO HEALING TO WELLNESS COURT

- Do I have a right to enter into HWC?
- Should I enter a plea prior to entering into HWC?
- Do I have a right to talk to my attorney prior to entry into HWC?
- What am I consenting to?
- Court capacity: what if the Wellness Court does not have enough spots?





#### **SANCTIONS**

- Right to a hearing for sanctions
  - If there is *potentially* a loss of liberty due process rights attach.
  - Good Rule of Thumb: If sanction will amount to loss of liberty – due process rights attach.
- What process is owed?
- Will sanctions be greater than no Wellness Court participation?
- The importance of feeling due process



### MORE ON JAIL



- Be cautious about using jail as a sanction in a pre-plea situations.
- What about contempt?
  - Direct contempt Conduct must occur in the "immediate view and presence of judge" and actually disrupt court for immediate sanction
  - Indirect contempt Hearing required



### ASIDE FROM JAIL/DETENTION

- Intermediate sanctions do not implicate the same due process concerns but some type of hearing is necessary.

  (State v. Rogers, Idaho, 2007)
- Defendant who voluntarily agreed to drug court cannot opt-out to avoid jailbased drug treatment.

(Walker v. Lamberti, Florida, 2010)



#### "TIME SERVED"

- Argument: Time served as a sanction should be credited towards un-imposed jail sentence in underlying criminal matter.
- Held: No consensus
  - Denial Waived credit when signed participation agreement – if it's specific
  - Credit for time served waiting to be admitted and/or following termination but denied credit for time served as participant
  - Credit granted
  - Credit not granted when serving for contempt of court



### OTHER LEGAL CONSEQUENCES

Arrests while in Wellness Court

 Restitution, Wellness Court fees, and other financial obligations

 Reunification and other dependency case outcomes



#### TERMINATION

 Termination ≅ Probation Revocation – same rules apply.

(People v. Anderson, Illinois, 2005, State v. Cassill-Skilton, Washington, 2004, Hagar v. State, Oklahoma, 1999, In re Miguel, Arizona, 2003, State v. Rogers, Idaho 2007)

- •What about right to counsel?
  - Not required for US Constitution, may be required by state law
  - Tribal? Not required by ICRA, may be required by tribal constitution or law



#### CAN I WAIVE A TERMINATION HEARING?

 Cannot prospectively waive due process right.

(State v. LaPlaca, New Hampshire 2011, Staley v. State, Florida, 2003)

•Failure to provide pre-termination hearing was a violation of due process when removal from Drug Court would result in imposition of suspended sentence.

(Gross v. Maine, 2013).

•Under Tribal law?



#### THE BASICS OF TERMINATION

- Generally notice, hearing, a fair procedure
  - All required by ICRA

 Create an adequate record of termination hearings

Think – Due Process



#### THE BASICS OF TERMINATION

- •What does this mean for you?
  - •Need a separate judge? Not necessarily
  - Creating a record is good process





# SIDE BAR: RIGHTS IN THE CIVIL CONTEXT

Termination of Parental Rights and Other Legal Considerations in Family Healing to Wellness Court

#### RIGHT TO COUNSEL IN FAMILY COURT

- No right to counsel (under U.S. Constitution) in child protective proceedings, including termination of parental rights cases, except on a case-by-case basis.
  - Lassiter v. Dep't of Soc. Servs., 452 U.S. 18 (1981)
  - Consider representation of children
- Still, most state courts provide counsel for indigent parents in termination of parental rights proceedings
- Counsel for other stages of the case is far more spotty



#### VISITATION AND REMOVALS

- How linked should supervised visitation and length of visitation be with compliance of treatment plan?
  - Child safety and best interest vs. sanction for non-compliance
- Should the removal of a child from the home and/or visitation be separately litigated, or waived as part of Wellness Court?





#### SEARCH AND SEIZURE



- Post plea and on probation
  - Typically upheld

- Pre plea and not on probation
  - Split in jurisdictions as to whether these are upheld



# LIMITATIONS / PROHIBITIONS ON PLACES AND HOUSING

- Court has discretion and must be exercised in a reasonable manner
  - Cannot be overly broad when viewed in light of desired goals
  - •Is restriction related to nature of offense or rehabilitation of probationer?



# OTHER RESTRICTIONS ON PARTICIPANT'S FAMILY

- For juveniles
  - What if parents have drugs and/or alcohol in the home?
  - What if participant is truant?
- For adults
  - What if children reside in the home?
  - Can community supervision search a nonparticipant's room during a home visit?



#### DRUG TESTING



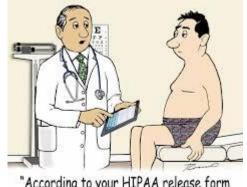
 Must be related to Probationer's rehabilitation, protection of the public, or assuring appearance in Court

• When can a participant dispute a drug test result?





#### HIPAA



"According to your HIPAA release form I can't share anything with you."

- Drug Court may not be a covered entity but providers are
- Rule/Order allows for transmission of information in court proceedings. (45 CFR 164.512 (a) and (e)
- Consent forms include notice of release of information as part of participation. (45 CFR 164.508(b)(4)
- Consent must be revocable.



#### FEDERAL CONFIDENTIALITY

- General Rule: Patient Identifying Information cannot be disclosed
- Consent requirements must be met
- Right to revoke:
  - Criminal: No revocation
  - Juvenile & Family: May revoke



#### CONFIDENTIALITY AND COURT

- Closed proceedings
  - 42 CFR 2.35 and the need for open courtrooms required denial of motion to close proceedings.

(Florida v. Noelle Bush, Florida, 2002)

- Staffing
  - Based upon uniqueness of Drug Court, Adult Drug Court staff meetings are not subject to open courts provision of Washington Constitution.

(State v. Sykes, Washington 2014)



### CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROVIDERS

- Reluctant to Share Information
- What do you need to know?
  - Appropriateness for Program
    - Moderate to Severe Substance Use Disorder
    - Co-Occurring Disorders
    - Treatment Recommendations
  - Progress in Treatment
  - Changes in Treatment recommendations
  - No need for details



#### CONFIDENTIALITY AND THEIR ATTORNEY

- Participant retains an attorneyclient privilege relationship with their defense counselor.
  - ... So long as communications are made in private.



#### SOCIAL MEDIA

- Participant's availability or use of social media
- Admissibility issues
- Reliability issues
- Authentication issues
  - Messages should be authenticated on a case-by-case basis
    - State v. Fleck, 23 A.3d 818 (Conn. App. Ct. 2011)





#### ACCESS TO SERVICES

- Who pays for treatment and services while in Wellness Court? Who pays after graduation?
- What if some participants receive housing/transportation subsidies, and others do not?
- What if a participant wants to see a different provider?
- Can arrestee access services without participating in Wellness Court?



## YOUR ISSUES?









# TRIBAL LAW AND POLICY INSTITUTE RESOURCES

- www.WellnessCourts.org
- Tribal Healing to Wellness Court Publication Series
  - Tribal 10 Key Components
  - Preliminary Overview
  - Judicial Bench Book
  - Program Development
- Webinars
- Training Calendar
- On- and Off-Site Technical Assistance





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