

Purpose

The Birmingham Court (Gun Court) is constituted in response to the increasing number of weapons offenses being committed in Birmingham and the inherent danger to the community when weapons are possessed on the streets illegally. Gun Court will focus on educating the defendant about gun safety and provide the infrastructure for direct and immediate response to defendants who violate Court Orders and who are recidivists.

City of Birmingham, Alabama
Hon. William A. Bell, Mayor

Municipal Court
Hon. Andra D. Sparks
Presiding Judge

DRUG COURT TEAM

Hon. Andra D. Sparks
Patricia Henderson
Adrienne Adams
Laresha Cade
Pierre Meade
Thomas E. Crow

Municipal Judge
Case Manager
Probation Officer
City Prosecutor
Defense Counsel
Police Department



Birmingham Municipal Gun Court



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What is a Gun Court?

Birmingham Municipal Gun Court is a two-phase program for adults who have been charged with one or more qualifying misdemeanor weapons offense. It is a collaborative effort of the Birmingham Municipal Court, City of Birmingham Prosecuting Attorneys, Legal Aid Public Defender's Panels, Birmingham City Probation and Parole Office, and Treatment Providers. By working together, we seek to provide a variety of programs and consistent supervision geared toward supporting and helping defendants maintain a crime-free life.

General Requirements

BMGC involves frequent court appearances, strong judicial supervision, and random drug testing, frequent, unscheduled home visits by Gun court team members or police officers. The Court awards incentives for compliant behavior and progress and provides interventions for non-compliant behavior. Participants who do not comply with gun court rules and requirements may be jailed, moved back to a previous phase of gun court, ordered to undergo increased treatment or be subject to a variety of other interventions.



O. N. T.A.R.G.E.T. PROGRESS REPORT
 The Gun Court Program is completed in stages. The minimum time required to complete Gun Court is twelve months. Each participant is required to complete the following P.A.T.H. to

PHASE ONE	
Key Concept:	Orientation and Information Restructuring and Life Skills
Length of phase:	At least 6 months of Active Supervision
Requirements:	Become and remain drug-free for at least the last 60 days Gun court attendance bi-weekly (or as required by Judge) Weekly participation and progress in anger management and Moral Recognition Therapy At least 1 random urine test per week Focus on living skills and motivational activities, including job skills training and placement Weekly/monthly office sessions and frequent field contacts with case manager, law enforcement officers
PHASE TWO	
Key Concept:	Independence and Mastery
Length Of phase:	At least 8 weeks and/or minimum 2 months
Requirements:	No new cases and remain drug-free at least the last 180 days Continued progress in treatment Random urine tests Contacts with case manager, coordinator and law enforcement