



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
JOCELYN BENSON, SECRETARY OF STATE  
**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**  
LANSING

DATE: April 6, 2021

TO: Circuit, District, Family and Municipal Court Judges and Staff

FROM: Court Liaisons David Handsor and Melissa Noll  
Michigan Department of State

SUBJECT: New Sobriety Court Responses and Descriptions and Other Updates

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As you know, with the CARS implementation, there have been many changes to the way abstracts are sent and reports are received by the courts. Please see the following updates:

- The Abstract and FAC/FCJ return files changed on March 16, 2021:
  - These now return exactly as they were sent with error messages included within the return files;
  - File layouts have been included for these return files;
  - Return files are best viewed in a text file viewer such as Notepad;
  - The return files act as a confirmation the input files were received;
    - Emails will no longer be sent when a file is received
  - Input files should be submitted by 9:30 p.m. for them to be processed the same night.
- An Abstract and FAC/FCJ error file is being developed like the one that was previously received.
- The Abstract & FAC-FCJ Errors document has been updated. This guide provides a list of errors with descriptions and what actions are required to resolve them.
- An update will be provided in the coming weeks.
- All documents can also be retrieved on the Court Liaison/Court SharePoint site. If you do not have access yet, please email Melissa Noll with your request and all individuals who should have access. Please include their name and email address.

### **New Sobriety Court Responses and Descriptions**

Effective immediately, Sobriety Court responses have a different look since the implementation of CARS. This memorandum provides the newest Sobriety Court responses, and the description of the inquiry courts will receive when completing a Sobriety Court eligibility check via E-Service/Direct Access. The list is in addition to the eligible response with corresponding date of eligibility.

**Response**

**Description**

Not Eligible- No open action associated with new Qualifying Alcohol Conviction.

Does not meet base criteria of two alcohol convictions with one activity open.

There is an active restraint that cannot be enrolled.

An open action is preventing enrollment.

Not Eligible- no eligible prior offense.

Two alcohol convictions not found.

Not Eligible- No qualifying alcohol offense.

The newest alcohol offense is not eligible.

Must serve 45 days of minimum sentence eligible for enrollment.

45 days of suspension/revocation must be served before the Sobriety Court restricted license is issued.

Not Eligible- Disqualifying activity on driving record. Record Id: <Record ID #>  
Eligible on: <Eligibility Date>.

An open action is preventing enrollment. The Record ID for the specific disqualifying action is provided for research on the MDR, and the eligibility date is provided based on that action.

Open Drug Crime Reinstatement fee owed. fee before applying.

Driver needs to pay an open drug crime reinstatement fee.

Most recent alcohol conviction already enrolled in sobriety court.

Driver already enrolled in Sobriety Court on the most recent conviction.

Most recent alcohol conviction has already been reinstated.

The most recent alcohol action is closed out and is no longer active.

Most recent alcohol conviction is out of state.

The most recent alcohol conviction occurred out of state and is not eligible for Sobriety Court.

If you have any questions, please contact David Handsord, [handsord@michigan.gov](mailto:handsord@michigan.gov), (517) 636-0129 or Melissa Noll, [nollm1@michigan.gov](mailto:nollm1@michigan.gov), (517) 241-3460.