



## **POSITION STATEMENT OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Use of Technology in the Detection of Alcohol Among DWI Court and Drug Court Participants**

DWI Courts and Drug Courts target high-risk repeat offenders and other individuals who present a pattern of substance abuse and criminal behavior which demonstrates a need for enhanced supervision and extended treatment. Effective monitoring is essential to both increased public safety and attaining the goal of sobriety for the participants.

Since abstinence is a requirement of DWI Courts and Drug Courts, participants are prohibited from consuming alcohol. Because alcohol is rapidly eliminated from the body and therefore difficult to detect, technology can be a valuable tool for monitoring alcohol use.

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) recognizes the importance of using all proven and effective technological tools available to assist DWI Courts and Drug Courts in supervising the participants in conjunction with treatment to address the root cause of the addiction to alcohol and other impairing substances.

The NADCP supports the continued development, evaluation, and research of relevant technological tools and the implementation of effective tools to assist the courts in monitoring the use of alcohol.

The NADCP does not promote, endorse, or sponsor any specific technological monitoring device or instrument which may be marketed and sold by vendors to monitor offender use of alcohol.

### **Ignition Interlock Devices**

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals supports the use of ignition interlock devices for DWI Court and Drug Court participants.

Research demonstrates that ignition interlock devices are an effective tool in stopping an individual from starting a vehicle after consuming alcohol while the device is installed on that vehicle. The device prevents a vehicle from starting if a person's blood alcohol level exceeds a pre-set limit.

Research also demonstrates that once the ignition interlock device is removed from the vehicle, recidivism rates eventually return to pre-installation levels. To achieve a long-

term change in behavior and reduce long-term risk, individuals should also be involved in a comprehensive alcohol/drug treatment program.

Community public safety supports the installation of ignition interlock devices to stop an addicted person from driving after drinking while the benefits of treatment are accruing.

### **Continuous Transdermal Alcohol Monitoring**

The National Association of Drug Court Professionals supports the use of continuous transdermal alcohol monitoring devices for DWI Court and Drug Court participants.

Research demonstrates that consumed alcohol can be reliably measured in a person's insensible perspiration using transdermal alcohol testing. There is a strong correlation between a person's blood alcohol concentration (BAC) and transdermal alcohol concentration (TAC). Transdermal alcohol testing is effective in determining specific levels of alcohol over extended time periods.

Transdermal continuous alcohol monitoring is a valid and reliable way to detect alcohol consumption.

Approved by the DWI Court Committee of the NADCP Board on 05/20/10

Approved by the External Policy Committee of the NADCP Board on 05/31/10

Approved by Unanimous Vote by the NADCP Board of Directors on 06/01/10