



**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**  
**FOURTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
**WOOD COUNTY JUDICIAL BUILDING**  
**#2 GOVERNMENT SQUARE, SUITE 221**  
**PARKERSBURG, WV 26101**

**JASON A. WHARTON, JUDGE**  
Phone (304) 424-1721  
Fax (304) 424-1726

**WOOD & WIRT**  
**COUNTIES**

December 1, 2023

Christopher Line, Esq.  
Freedom From Religion Foundation  
P.O. Box 750  
Madison, Wisconsin 53701

VIA FAX :1-888-510-2208  
& MAIL

RE: Mid-Ohio Valley Adult Drug Court

Dear Mr. Line:

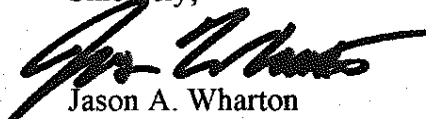
Thank you for your letter dated November 16, 2023 relating your concerns about the Mid-Ohio Valley Adult Drug Court's requirements. I have reviewed the documents that you submitted and directed the drug court probation officer to modify the documents to reflect "a program such as AA, NA, Smart Recovery, or other program approved by the Court." I was not aware of the specific language on the form you included, but I believe that the modified language will make it much more clear to the participants from the onset that they have other options besides AA or NA.

It is important to note that Hernando Escandon is not an employee of the West Virginia Supreme Court and is not a member of the treatment team for the Mid-Ohio Valley Adult Drug Court. Mr. Escandon is the Executive Director of the Mid-Ohio Valley Day Report Center which is one of the treatment providers that we utilize in this area for drug court participants. I am forwarding a copy of your initial letter and my response to Mr. Escandon so that he may be aware of these issues.

As it relates to the issue addressed in your letter, I have been involved in the drug court program since its inception in our Circuit around 2007 either as a prosecuting attorney or now as the drug court judge. It is my understanding that the practice of the drug court has always been to permit individuals the option of alternative treatment options and we will continue to permit such alternatives as we are required to do.

If this response does not satisfy your concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jason A. Wharton