

Tribal Court Incentive and Gift Card Policy

This policy outlines the restrictions for when gift cards may be distributed to Waabshki-Miigwan Drug Court (WMDCP) and/or Probation clients. The policy also outlines who may distribute gift cards and how gift card will be kept and tracked. This policy will apply to all purchases, distribution, and tracking of gift cards within Tribal Probation and the Waabshki-Miigwan Program.

The Waabshki-Miigwan Coordinator or the Senior Court Clerk can request the purchase of gift cards to use as program incentives in order to encourage client success and participation and also to help with the client's program expenses (i.e. gas, transportation). The Court Administrator or the Chief Judge can authorize the purchase. Types of gift cards purchased may include: gas cards, retail cash cards, movie passes and food vendor cards (chain restaurants) and/or general merchandise gift cards.

In a Drug Court setting, incentives are used to promote behavioral modification that reinforce recovery and heighten client accountability. Incentives should be administered in a manner that supports sobriety and guides them on their healing-to-wellness journey. Gift cards/general merchandise cards will be awarded upon a majority vote of the Drug Court Team to clients who successfully complete tasks per the WMDCP manual, who successfully engage in treatment and/or complete a treatment goal, who overcome a unique obstacle, or who go beyond what is asked of them to engage in activities that support their sobriety. The Drug Court Judge, the Court Administrator or a majority of the Drug Court Team can also direct the issuance of gift cards to cover costs necessary to fulfill program requirements. Some examples include the following:

1. A gas card may be issued to a client to help them attend the required peer recovery meetings per week;
2. A gift card may be issued to a client to help them purchase appropriate business attire for the Program's career enhancement requirements;
3. A Walmart gift card may be issued to a client to purchase work boots so the client can fulfill their mandated 30 hours of work per week.
4. Movie passes may be issued to a client to help them fulfil a Court order that requires them to spend quality time with their family; and
5. Program incentives may be utilized to promote behavioral modification by promoting successful behaviors so they successfully engage in society and/or complete program requirements.

No incentive may be used for alcohol or tobacco. The Court's order will specifically acknowledge that incentives may only be used in conformity with this Drug Court policy. Failure to follow Court orders may result in a client being found guilty of Contempt of Court failure to follow this or any other court order may result in a client being found guilty of contempt of court

which is punishable by, but not limited to, a fine, compensatory remedies, community service or confinement to jail for a period of no longer than seven (7) days.

Clients will be given a form to sign that acknowledges that the gift card shall not be used for alcohol or tobacco and the potential sanction. The form will be kept in their file.

All purchased gift cards will be kept and secured by the LTBB Senior Court Clerk's Office in a locked drawer, behind two locked doors, or similarly secure location. An inventory will be kept by the Senior Court Clerk who will record the awarded client case number, the date awarded and the type of award.