

Franklin County Municipal Court



PRESS RELEASE
APRIL 10, 2024

Free Vending Machine in the Franklin County Municipal Court Can Help Residents Reduce Harm

Products that can reduce drug overdose deaths and sexually transmitted diseases are now available free of charge at the Franklin County Municipal Court.

The court added a new harm-reduction vending machine called the “FCMC Safety Station” that offers Fentanyl test strips, Naloxone nasal spray, which can reverse an opioid overdose, condoms, and pregnancy test kits. Up to five items are available at once and all are free.

The Safety Station is conveniently located on the 6th floor of the 375 S. High Street courthouse, just outside the MARCH Program office. This strategic placement ensures easy access for all visitors. The introduction of this machine is made possible by a grant from the Columbus Public Health.

To obtain the free items, residents must check in at the MARCH office and answer a few demographic questions. People will be asked for their gender, age, ethnicity, zip code, and if they have ever overdosed. Staff then provide an ID that can be used to make up to five selections from the machine.

The demographic information collected does not include any personal identifying details and is strictly confidential. It is solely shared with grant officials for statistical purposes, ensuring your privacy is protected.

The availability of the harm reduction items is not limited to justice-involved individuals. All courthouse visitors, regardless of their legal status, are eligible to receive these items. The aim is to assist not only those battling addiction but also to equip families with the means to safeguard their loved ones.

The MARCH Program is a court-sponsored onsite resource center that links residents to Medical-Assisted Treatment, Assessments, Referrals, Collaboration, and Hope. The center is open and available to give machine codes Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Pictures of the machine are available upon request.

Franklin County Municipal Court
375 S. High St.,
Columbus, Ohio, 43215
614-645-8214
FranklinCountyMuniCourt.org

Contact - Jodi Andes
Public Information Officer
Desk - 614-621-9389
Cell - 614-400-1359
Jodi.Andes@FranklinCountyMuniCourt.org