



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Mason County adult drug court to open

For immediate release Wednesday, November 6, 2013

POINT PLEASANT, W.Va. – Chief Justice Brent D. Benjamin will be the keynote speaker at the opening of the Mason County Adult Drug Court at 11 a.m. on Friday, November 8, at the Mason County Courthouse in Point Pleasant.

Fifth Judicial Circuit (Calhoun, Jackson, Mason, and Roane Counties) Judge David W. Nibert will be the supervising judicial officer. Christopher Johnson will be the Adult Drug Court Probation Officer.

West Virginia now has twenty-two operational adult drug courts and sixteen operational juvenile drug courts.

Adult and juvenile drug courts are intensive supervision probation programs. Juvenile drug court participants are usually in the program for six to eight months. Participants meet with the drug court judge weekly and a probation officer several times per week. Juvenile drug court is intended for youths who are at risk of becoming addicted, not those who are already addicted.

Adult drug courts include those who already are addicted. Participants complete a treatment program of no less than twelve months. They are required to attend group and individual counseling, to take drug tests multiple times per week, to perform community service work, to participate in education programs, and to work on individualized rehabilitation plans as directed. They meet with probation officers frequently and see the drug court judge at least weekly.

The average annual cost incurred by the state for one adult drug court participant is approximately \$7,100 compared to \$18,000 in jail or \$25,000 in prison. About 10 percent of drug court graduates return to jail compared to 80 percent of drug offenders who have not gone through drug court programs.

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