



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Kanawha County to hold Adult Drug Court Graduation

For immediate release Wednesday, February 19, 2014

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Five people will graduate from the Kanawha County Adult Drug Court program in a ceremony at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 20, in the Ceremonial Courtroom, also known as Courtroom No. 4, on the second floor of the Kanawha County Courthouse in Charleston.

This will be the eleventh graduation ceremony for the adult drug court in Kanawha County, which is in its fifth year of operation.

The event is open to the press and the public.

West Virginia has a growing network of adult and juvenile drug courts, which are intensive supervision probation programs.

Juvenile drug court participants are usually in the program for six to eight months. Initially, a participant meets 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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