



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Judge Thompson, DJS piloting program for juvenile home confinement

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MADISON, W.Va. – Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit (Boone and Lincoln Counties) Judge William S. Thompson is beginning a pilot project with the West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services to provide electronic home confinement for juvenile offenders.

The project allows juveniles to remain in their own schools and with their families while saving the state money.

“With this tool we can help ensure that the offenders don’t have the opportunities to commit crimes as when they were unmonitored. We are here to protect victims of crime, as well as treat the kids,” said Boone County Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Justin Marlowe, who handles the majority of juvenile cases in Boone County.

The WVDJS provides electronic GPS home confinement equipment and a full-time employee to monitor juveniles in the program. Juveniles wear tamperproof ankle bracelets that track their location 24 hours a day. The WVDJS monitor also will regularly visit their homes and schools.

Chris Brown of Danville began his new duties as the home confinement officer this month. Brown has been an employee of the WVDJS since 2002.

Jason Wright, the Assistant Director of Community Based Services at WVDJS, says the cost to monitor each case is approximately \$47 a day. To house a juvenile in an out-of-home placement can cost hundreds of dollars a day.

The WVDJS operates juvenile detention and commitment facilities across the state, including the Donald R. Kuhn Center in Julian, Boone County.

Judge Thompson said, “This gives us one more option to provide services to juveniles before the need to place them out-of-home. Placement out-of-home is always the last resort, after all other options have been exhausted.”

Judge Thompson also supervises the adult and juvenile drug court programs in Boone County.

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