



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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McDowell County Adult Drug Court to open

For immediate release

WELCH, W.Va. –The McDowell County Adult Drug Court will hold its opening ceremony at noon on Friday, January 15, in the courtroom of Eighth Judicial Circuit (McDowell County) Judge Booker T. Stephens.

Supreme Court Justice Brent D. Benjamin; Judge Stephens; and Mike B. Lacy, Director of West Virginia Probation Services, will speak.

The McDowell County Adult Drug Court was established June 16, 2015. The program's first participant was accepted November 24, 2015.

A drug court is a specially designed court program. The purpose is to achieve a reduction in recidivism and substance abuse and to increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation through early, continuous, and intense treatment; mandatory periodic drug testing; community supervision; appropriate sanctions and incentives; and other rehabilitation services, all under the supervision of a judicial officer.

Rigorous evaluation and research has demonstrated that where drug courts are implemented consistent with models and procedures based on objective studies, they significantly reduce recidivism and substance abuse among high-risk substance abusing offenders. Drug courts that are properly implemented also increase the likelihood of successful rehabilitation while simultaneously reducing the cost to the public below the historic costs of addressing these problems in the criminal justice system.

The First Adult Drug Court in West Virginia was established in the Northern Panhandle in 2005.

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