



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Two drug courts to hold graduations Friday

For immediate release

The Mason County Adult Drug Court and the Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit (Boone and Lincoln Counties) Drug Court will hold graduation ceremonies on Friday, March 25.

The Mason County ceremony will be at noon at the county courthouse in downtown Point Pleasant. The Twenty-Fifth Judicial Circuit will hold a combined adult and juvenile drug court graduation ceremony at 2 p.m. at the Coal Museum in downtown Madison.

The 2014 Justice Reinvestment Act required adult drug courts to serve all of West Virginia's counties by July 1, 2016. There now are 27 adult drug court programs serving 45 counties. Three additional drug courts are planned to serve the Third (Doddridge, Pleasants, Ritchie Counties), Fourteenth (Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, and Webster Counties), and Thirtieth (Mingo County) Judicial Circuits.

There are 15 operational juvenile drug courts serving 20 counties: Berkeley, Boone, Brooke, Hancock, Harrison, Jefferson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Monongalia, Ohio, Pleasants, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph, Wayne, Wirt, and Wood.

The recidivism rate for adult drug court graduates over two years is 9.4 percent. The one-year, post-graduate recidivism rate is 1.88 percent. That compares to a nearly 80 percent recidivism rate for incarcerated drug offenders. The average annual cost to serve an adult drug court participant is \$7,100, compared to an annual incarceration cost of \$17,611 in jail or \$28,369 in prison.

The recidivism rate for juvenile drug court graduates is 14.6 percent, compared to a 55.1 percent rate for youths in traditional juvenile probation programs. For FY 2012-13, the average cost to serve each graduating youth was \$6,900, compared to \$96,000 per person in a Division of Juvenile Services facility, \$44,000 per person in a residential group facility, or \$99,000 per person in a hospital treatment facility.

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