



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Fayette County Adult Drug Court to have opening ceremony, graduation planned in Monongalia County

For immediate release

FAYETTEVILLE, W.Va. – The Fayette County Adult Drug Court will have an opening ceremony at 1:30 p.m. Monday, May 16, in the courtroom of Twelfth Judicial Circuit Judge Paul M. Blake, Jr., in the Fayette County Courthouse, 100 North Court Street, Fayetteville.

The next day, on Tuesday, May 17, the Monongalia County Drug Court will have a graduation ceremony at 5 p.m. in Judge Russell Clawges' Courtroom on the Third Floor of the Justice Center, 75 High Street, Morgantown.

The 2014 Justice Reinvestment Act passed in 2014 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 cover 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.

Adult and juvenile drug courts are open only to non-violent offenders whose underlying crimes are linked to substance abuse. Referrals are made by judicial officers, law enforcement, probation officers, prosecutors, and defense attorneys. Juveniles also can be referred by school personnel, parents, and child protective services/youth workers.

Both adult and juvenile drug court programs have multiple phases and minimum lengths. Both require intensive supervision; frequent, random, and observed drug testing; counseling sessions; regular meetings with probation officers; appropriate sanctions and incentives; and other rehabilitative services. Juvenile drug courts also involve family participation and promote self-sufficiency.

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