



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Putnam County Adult Drug Court to open

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WINFIELD, W.Va. – Chief Justice Brent D. Benjamin will attend the opening ceremony for the Putnam County Adult Drug Court at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 25, in the Putnam County Judicial Building, 3389 Winfield Road, Winfield.

The ceremony will be held in the courtroom of Twenty-Ninth Judicial Circuit (Putnam County) Judge Joseph K. Reeder, who will supervise the new drug court serving Putnam County adults. LaKeisha Barron-Brown is the drug court probation officer.

The drug court began operating November 18.

Twenty-Ninth Judicial Circuit Judge Phillip M. Stowers supervises the Putnam County Juvenile Drug Court, which opened in 2010.

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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