



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Wayne Adult Drug Court to hold first graduation

For immediate release Tuesday, October 15, 2013

WAYNE, W.Va. – The Wayne County Adult Drug Court will be conducting its first graduation ceremony at 5 p.m. Thursday, October 17, in the large Circuit Court Courtroom in the Wayne County Courthouse.

Three adults are scheduled to graduate from the program.

Chief justice Brent D. Benjamin is scheduled to attend.

The event is open to the public and the press.

West Virginia has twenty operational adult drug courts and sixteen operational juvenile drug courts.

Adult and juvenile drug courts are intensive supervision probation programs. Juvenile drug court participants are usually in the program for six to eight months. Participants meet 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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