



Supreme Court of Appeals State of West Virginia

News

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Putnam County to hold first drug court graduation

For immediate release

WINFIELD, W.Va. – The Putnam County Adult Drug Court will hold its first graduation ceremony at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 25.

Five people will graduate during the event in the courtroom of Twenty-Ninth Judicial Circuit Judge Joseph K. Reeder in the Putnam County Judicial Building, 3389 Winfield Road, Winfield.

The ceremony is open to the press and the public.

There currently are twenty-four adult drug court programs serving forty counties and sixteen juvenile drug court programs serving twenty counties.

Rigorous evaluation and research has demonstrated that, where adult drug courts are implemented consistent with models and procedures developed based on objective studies, they significantly reduce recidivism and substance abuse among high-risk substance abusing offenders. Properly implemented adult drug courts 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.

West Virginia's first adult drug court was established in the Northern Panhandle in 2005. In 2009 the West Virginia Legislature enacted legislation which codified adult drug courts in West Virginia under the administration, control and responsibility of the Supreme Court. As part of the Justice Reinvestment Act passed in 2014, adult drug courts will be established in all of West Virginia's counties by July 1, 2016.

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