

Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia



Proclamation

To recognize the success of treatment courts in leading people with substance use addiction into lives of recovery, stability, health, and success, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia proclaims the month of May 2024 as "Treatment Court Month" in the Judicial Branch of the State of West Virginia.

WHEREAS, there are now more than 4,000 treatment courts nationwide and more than 55 operating in West Virginia;

WHEREAS, treatment courts have transformed the way the justice system responds to people with substance use and mental health disorders by combining accountability with evidence-based treatment;

WHEREAS, treatment courts annually refer more than 150,000 people across the country to life-saving treatment and recovery support services;

WHEREAS, treatment courts in West Virginia annually serve almost 2,000 people;

WHEREAS, West Virginia adult treatment court participants have less than a 16 percent recidivism rate;

WHEREAS, treatment courts save West Virginia thousands of dollars for every individual they serve because it can cost the state as much as \$30,000 a year to incarcerate an adult and up to \$100,000 a year for a juvenile in placement, compared to the treatment court cost of \$5,450 a year for an adult and about \$4,000 a year for a juvenile;

WHEREAS, treatment courts significantly improve substance use disorder treatment outcomes and substantially reduce addiction and related crime;

WHEREAS, treatment courts improve education, employment, housing, and financial stability and promote family reunification; and

WHEREAS, treatment courts facilitate community-wide partnerships, bringing together public safety and public health.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia declares that "Treatment Court Month" be established during the month of May.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Tim Armstead", is written over a horizontal line.

Tim Armstead
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of Appeals