



OPENING

COURTHOUSE DOORS

DRUG COURTS: PERSONAL STORIES

CLASSROOM LESSON AND PANEL DISCUSSION

CENTER

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INNOVATION

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C E N T E R

FOR

C O U R T

I N N O V A T I O N

The Center for Court Innovation is a unique public-private partnership that promotes new thinking about how the justice system can solve difficult problems like addiction, quality-of-life crime, domestic violence, and child neglect. The Center functions as the New York State Unified Court System’s independent research and development arm, creating demonstration projects that test new approaches to problems that have resisted conventional solutions. Nationally, the Center disseminates the lessons learned from its experiments in New York, helping court reformers across the country launch their own problem-solving innovations. For more information about the work of the Center, visit WWW.COURTINNOVATION.ORG

The **Drug Courts: Personal Stories Toolkit** is a short curriculum to help educate youth about the important work of drug courts and to promote understanding of the justice system. The objectives of this Toolkit are especially timely with the recent reform of the “Rockefeller Drug Law,” which will give judges throughout the State greater discretion to place non-violent offenders in treatment instead of jail or prison.

The Toolkit uses excerpts from *Drug Courts: Personal Stories*, a collection of short personal narratives written by drug treatment court graduates, to prompt students’ exploration of two critical questions:

“What is the connection between substance abuse and crime?”

“How do courts promote community safety beyond punishing offenders?”

The Toolkit is comprised of two parts:

A classroom lesson plan: Using a personal narrative from the book, students explore the impact of substance abuse by reading and discussing a drug court graduate’s autobiographical essay. Students then consider the connection between substance abuse and unlawful behavior and learn how drug treatment courts address that behavior.

A panel discussion and conversation: Students meet a panel of local drug treatment court stakeholders to learn about their work and the challenges they face. The panel includes a judge and drug treatment court graduate, and, if possible, other stakeholders such as attorneys, treatment providers and community members.

NOTE ON CONTENT

Because of the topics being discussed, this lesson may prompt a student to seek advice or help for someone he or she knows who has a problem with drugs or alcohol. Prior to the lesson, you may want to identify resources within the school community that would be available to students should such a situation arise. Similarly, students may want to voice personal concerns about experiences with the court system. The students should not discuss personal stories of family and friends during the lesson or with the panel. This is to protect the students’ privacy and to keep the lesson on track. Additionally, if students ask questions about actual legal situations, they should be informed that only a lawyer – and in most cases the lawyer on that case – can provide advice about a case or situation.

STANDARDS CORRELATION

National Standards for Civics and Government

5-8 Content Standards

- I. What are civic life, politics, and government?
- II. How does the government established by the constitution embody the purposes, values, and principles of American democracy?

9-12 Content Standards

- I. What are civic life, politics, and government?
- III. How does the government established by the constitution embody the purposes, values, and principles of American democracy?
- V. What are the roles of the citizen in American democracy?

Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning (McREL) Standards

Civics Standards:

- Standard 3. Understands the sources, purposes, and functions of law, and the importance of the rule of law for the protection of individual rights and the common good.
- Standard 18. Understands the role and importance of law in the American constitutional system and issues regarding the judicial protection of individual rights.
- Standard 21. Understands the formation and implementation of public policy.
- Standard 27. Understands how certain character traits enhance citizens' ability to fulfill personal and civic responsibilities.

Health Standards:

- Standard 9. Understands aspects of substance use and abuse.

GRADE LEVELS

The Toolkit can be used in grades 7-12.

TIME

The Toolkit is best taught over 3-4 classroom periods, with the last period reserved for the individual or panel presentation by local drug court professionals or graduate.

PANEL DISCUSSION: SUGGESTIONS AND RESOURCES

While the classroom lesson can stand alone as a unit, the curriculum is greatly enhanced by bringing local drug treatment court stakeholders to the school to speak with students about their work and the challenges they face. The panel can include a judge and drug treatment court graduate, and, if possible, other stakeholders such as attorneys, treatment providers, and community members. This Toolkit includes a Moderator's Guide, which provides sample questions for a range of potential guest speakers:

- Judge
- Defense attorney
- Prosecutor
- Drug court graduate
- Substance abuse treatment professional
- Law enforcement

DRUG TREATMENT COURTS IN THE COMMUNITY

School visits by drug treatment court stakeholders and graduates can be arranged by contacting local courts. A list of drug courts in New York State is provided in this Toolkit. For assistance, contact the Center for Courts and the Community at info@courtsandcommunity.org

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT CRIMINAL COURT

Glossary of Terms

www.nycourts.gov/courts/nyc/criminal/glossary.shtml

This glossary, published by the New York State Unified Court system, includes terms and definitions for New York City Criminal Court.

Criminal Justice System handbook

www.nycourts.gov/litigants/crimjusticesyshandbk.shtml

This handbook, published by the New York State Unified Court system, explains how the criminal justice system works in New York State, from arrest through appeal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT DRUG TREATMENT COURT

New York State Unified Court System Drug Court website

www.nycourts.gov/ip/drugcourts/index.shtml

This website provides an overview of drug courts in New York State including contact information for local drug treatment court programs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE

Free Vibe

www.freevibe.com

Free Vibe is a website designed for teens created by the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, a program of the Office of National Drug Control Policy. The site has online quizzes, information about specific drugs, how to get help, stories by teens and other resources. It also provides information for youth who are concerned about a friend's or parent's drug or alcohol use.

National Institute on Drug Abuse

www.drugabuse.gov

The National Institute on Drug Abuse's site is geared towards researchers and health professionals, parents and teachers, and students, and contains funding information as well as numerous fact sheets, publications, newsletters, reports, and other resources.

National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information

<http://ncadi.samhsa.gov/>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information.

GOAL:

The student will be able to explain the connection between substance abuse and unlawful behavior and describe how drug courts address those crimes.

OBJECTIVES

- The student will be able to identify the impact of untreated substance abuse on public safety.
- The student will be able to describe the goals of drug courts.

KEY TO LESSON PLAN

The Lesson Plan uses different type styles to guide the teacher, as follows:

- *Notes for instructor*
- Teacher's script

TEACHER PREPARATION

- Read Introduction to Drug Courts
- Read From Handcuffs to Aspiring Lawyer, by Spencer, Buffalo Drug Treatment Court
- Review Glossary
- Make and distribute copies of the following to all students:
 - From Handcuffs to Aspiring Lawyer, by Spencer, Buffalo Drug Treatment Court
 - Glossary
 - How Drug Courts Work

STUDENT READING ASSIGNMENTS PRIOR TO LESSON:

- From Handcuffs to Aspiring Lawyer, Spencer, Buffalo Drug Treatment Court
- Glossary
- Introduction to Drug Courts (optional)

LESSON PLAN

Opening

- (A) Who has seen a judge on television or in the movies?
- (B) What do you think a judge does in the courtroom?
- (C) *Modify the following script as necessary for the event that will take place:* On _____, we are going to meet with Judge _____. The judge sits in a special kind of court for people who have a problem with drugs or alcohol, called a drug treatment court. We will also meet with someone who is a recovering addict who participated in the drug treatment court, and attorneys and other professionals who work in the court.
- (D) Today, we will prepare to meet with the people from _____ Court. First, we're going to discuss an essay by someone who had a drug problem. Then we'll think about the impact of drug addiction on community safety. Finally, we'll learn about courts designed specially for crimes committed by people who are addicted to drugs or alcohol.

Exploring the connection between substance abuse and criminal activity

- (A) Today, we're going to discuss the story you read for homework, From Handcuffs to Aspiring Lawyer.
- (B) *Ask the students to take out their copies of the story.*
- (C) What did you think of the essay?
- (D) In the first part of this essay, Spencer writes about the cost his drug use had on his life. What are some of the negative effects that he describes?
- *Possible student responses:*
 - *He lost family, friends, economic security, employment, and educational opportunities.*
 - *He would hurt anyone, including himself.*
 - *He stole.*
- (E) Spencer describes doing things that were against the law. What were they?
- *Possible student responses:*
 - *He stole*
 - *He bought illegal drugs*
 - *He drove under the influence (meaning while high or drunk)*
 - *If students ask why Spencer was arrested: although the arrest charge is not specified in the essay, being drunk or high and causing a public disturbance or posing a safety hazard to other people can be cause for arrest.*
- (F) Why do you think Spencer stole things?
- *Possible student responses:*
 - *To support himself, because he didn't have a job or go to school*
 - *To buy more drugs*
- (G) Why do you think he kept buying drugs?
- *Possible student responses:*
 - *He was addicted*

- *He couldn't stop*
- *He didn't have anything else in his life*

Introducing the purpose of drug treatment courts

- (A) Spencer writes that a major turning point in his life was getting arrested and entering drug treatment court. Drug treatment court is not like traditional criminal courts.
- (B) In the late eighties and early nineties, the courts and other people who work in the justice system looked at the high number of cases that were coming to the court because of a drug or alcohol addiction. A new type of court – called a drug treatment court - was created to address those cases in a new way.
- (C) A drug treatment court has two primary goals:
 - Reduce the possibility of future crimes by people who are addicted to drugs or alcohol.
 - Stop substance abuse by people arrested for drug-related crimes.
- (D) Drug courts only handle cases in which the defendant (the person who is accused of committing a crime) is addicted to drugs or alcohol. In most drug treatment courts, the defendant must plead guilty (admit to committing the crime) in order to participate in the program. If the defendant does not want to plea guilty, the case can be heard in a traditional criminal court, where there can be a trial.
- (E) Drug courts try to address a defendant's substance abuse by linking the defendant to long-term drug treatment instead of jail or prison. A typical sentence orders the defendant to participate in treatment programs and stay sober. Drug courts also connect participants to medical, mental health, housing assistance, employment, and family counseling services. Some of those services may also be part of the defendant's sentence and are therefore required.

How drug treatment courts

- (A) *Distribute copies of How Drug Courts Work handout.*
- (B) In a traditional criminal court there are two sides, "prosecution" and "defense," and each side has a different position on whether a person committed a crime. Typically, the prosecuting attorney argues that the defendant is guilty. The defense attorney will argue that the prosecutor has not proved the allegation to be true (in other words, has not met his or her burden of proof). Each side's goal is to convince a judge or jury that its point of view is the correct one. The defendant is considered innocent unless the prosecutor can prove that he or she is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. If the judge or jury finds the defendant guilty, the court will then decide on a sentence (or punishment) for the defendant. In a traditional criminal court, a sentence usually includes jail, prison, or other sanctions.
- (C) Despite what we see in television or in the movies the majority of criminal court cases don't go to trial because the prosecutor and defense attorney make a deal, in which the defendant pleads guilty and gets a sentence that is less than what would probably have been decided after a trial.
- (D) Drug courts convert this reality into an opportunity to not only uphold the law and

punish the defendant, but to help him or her stop using drugs.

- (E) In a drug court, a team of people work together to support the defendant through treatment AND make sure the defendant obeys the law. You will be hearing from some of these people on _____.
- The **judge** oversees the entire court process and monitors the defendant's compliance with the sentence.
 - The **prosecutor** looks at the crime allegedly committed and the defendant's background and decides whether to send the case to drug court instead of traditional criminal court.
 - The **defense attorney** represents the defendant in court, and helps the defendant decide whether to enter drug court, while protecting all of his or her legal rights.
 - A **substance abuse treatment professional**, who works for the court or a treatment provider and is trained to understand and work with people who have addictions, recommends a treatment plan to the court and monitors the defendant's progress throughout the case.
 - The **treatment provider**, an organization separate from the court system, provides drug treatment services and reports to the court case manager on the defendant's compliance and progress.
 - *Anticipated question: What if a person can't stay sober/can't stop using drugs?*
 - *Defendants are given many chances to stay in treatment programs. But if someone just can't comply with the sentence, then he or she will get an alternative sentence – usually jail or prison.*

Spencer's drug court experience

- (A) Now, we're going to look at what happened to Spencer after he was arrested. Spencer entered the Buffalo Drug Treatment Court.
- (B) What were Spencer's feelings about Drug Court during his first six months?
- *Possible student responses:*
 - *He hated everyone involved and everything about the program*
 - *He felt as if the court was taking away a part of him – his drug use*
 - *It was a long and difficult process – legally, physically, and mentally.*
- (C) Spencer writes that after 6 months, he went to jail for a week because of discipline problems at the treatment center. He says that during that week he had an awakening. What do you think he means by an awakening?
- *Possible student responses:*
 - *He realized he had to change his life*
 - *He changed his attitude*
- (D) What are some positive things that happened to Spencer's life during and after treatment?
- *Possible student responses:*
 - *He stopped using drugs*
 - *Got his GED*
 - *Got an associate's degree*

- *Works at a law firm*
 - *Plans on attending law school*
 - *Has true, sober friends and wonderful relationships with his family.*
- (E) What is the connection between Spencer participating in Drug Court and these positive changes?
- *Possible student responses:*
 - *Drug court helped him stop using drugs. Once he stopped using drugs, he was able to accomplish other things.*

Closing

- (A) On _____, you will hear from the judge, staff, and graduate of a drug treatment court. The judge and staff are going to talk about the court and their responsibilities, and the graduate will talk about his or her experiences. The graduate isn't Spencer, but will be someone who also was arrested and completed drug court.

OPTIONAL STUDENT EXERCISE

On March 27, 2009, New York Governor David A. Paterson and legislative leaders announced the reform of the Rockefeller Drug Law, decades-old legislation that, among other things, established mandatory prison sentences for the unlawful possession and sale of controlled substances. This reform will give judges greater discretion to place non-violent offenders in treatment instead of jail or prison.

Using the following resources included in this Toolkit and available online, students can discuss the potential impact of the reform on judges and/or debate the merits of the reform.

“Trust Judges in Drug Reform”

by Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman, March 25, 2009

<http://m.timesunion.com/topic/1859-Opinion/articles/190870909>

In this op-ed Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman argues for the reform of the Rockefeller Drug Law to expand judges' discretion to divert more offenders to treatment.

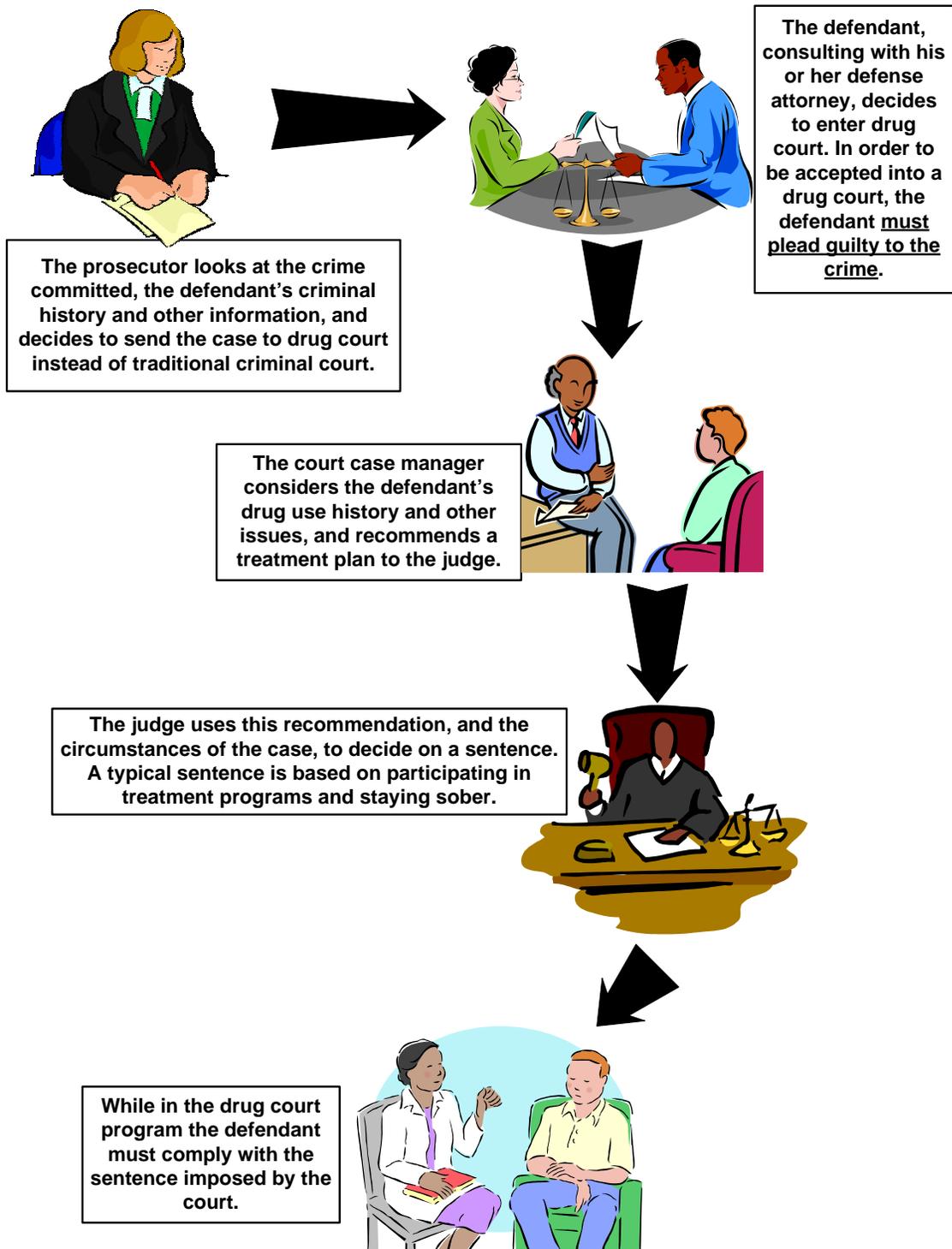
“Senate Republicans, DAs opposing drug law reform”

by Lauren N. Johnson, March 26, 2009, Legislative Gazette

www.legislativegazette.com/day_item.php?item=769

This article summarizes opposition to reforming the Rockefeller Drug Law as voiced by Republican legislators and law enforcement officials.

Drug Court Process



The goal of drug courts is to stop substance abuse by addicts arrested for drug-related crimes. By doing this, drug courts seek to reduce the possibility of future offending, improve public safety and lower expenditures on jails and prisons. Drug courts link nonviolent, drug-addicted defendants to long-term, judicially-supervised drug treatment instead of incarceration. Drug courts offer a combination of incentives to defendants who successfully complete the program, including dismissal of charges, reduction of sentences and lesser penalties.

The first drug court was established in Miami in 1989 to address rising caseloads of drug-related crimes that were taxing law enforcement, courts and correctional facilities. Traditional processing of drug-related cases—arrest, adjudication, and incarceration—did not address underlying addiction and abuse that contributed to the offense. Defendants’ addictions and patterns of substance abuse often led to a “revolving door”—after being arrested, processed and serving time, defendants returned to communities where their ongoing substance abuse problems led to another arrest.

In New York, the first drug courts were established in Rochester, Buffalo and Brooklyn in the mid-1990s. As of December 2007, New York State had 196 drug courts (with at least one in every county), 16,911 graduates and 7,469 active participants. As of April 2007, figures indicated there were 1,699 active drug courts in the United States and 349 more were being planned.

The Criminal Drug Court Model:

Who is eligible to participate in a drug court?

Eligibility varies by state and within each jurisdiction. Some courts process only felony cases, some only misdemeanors, and some handle both. Some courts only take first-time offenders, while some require the offender to have previous convictions. Nearly all exclude defendants charged with violent offenses or those with convictions for violent crimes. In New York State, a defendant may be eligible if he or she faces charges on a non-violent drug-related crime, such as possession of an illegal substance or theft motivated by drug use. The prosecutor offers the defendant the opportunity to participate in the drug court program; the defendant makes the decision whether or not to participate after consulting with his or her defense attorney.

What happens when a defendant decides to participate?

Drug courts aim to engage, assess and link participants to treatment as soon as possible after arrest. Research shows that immediacy in placement correlates with improved retention in treatment. First, the defendant pleads guilty to the pending charge(s). Next, a substance abuse treatment professional assesses the defendant and recommends to the court a treatment plan that would best meet the defendant’s needs. Based on the recommendations of the substance abuse treatment professional and the circumstances of the case, the judge orders the defendant to participate in the treatment plan.

What kind of treatment does a participant receive?

Drug courts provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services. Programs commonly require consecutive placements in in-patient detox

programs, residential treatment programs and out-patient treatment services. Drug courts also promote education and job placement. Graduation criteria may include a GED or high school diploma, employment or enrollment in a higher education program. Further, drug courts link participants to medical, mental health, dental, housing assistance, employment, and family counseling services.

What is the judge's role during treatment?

Judicial involvement is a key component of a successful drug court. Defendants appear before the judge at periodic hearings. Especially in the beginning, these appearances take place frequently; their frequency increases or decreases, depending on compliance with treatment protocols.

Abstinence is monitored by regular random testing. Some programs include unannounced home visits to perform drug and/or alcohol testing. Treatment providers and case managers keep the court apprised of the participant's progress; the judge can use this information to modify the treatment plan as necessary.

What happens when a defendant relapses?

Successful drug court participants commonly relapse during their treatment, so drug courts highlight the importance of "multiple chances."

Drug court judges impose graduated sanctions for non-compliance and offer incentives to defendants who achieve interim goals during the recovery process. This coordinated approach helps build clients' self-esteem and confidence during recovery, ensures accountability and requires participants to take responsibility for their actions. Examples of sanctions include increased frequency of drug testing or jail time. Incentives can include certificates, applause, journals, less frequent court appearances and less frequent drug testing.

How long are defendants in the drug court program?

The length of participation varies, depending on the individual defendant's needs and progress. Participation can range from 6-18 months; the average length of participation in Brooklyn's Drug Treatment Court, for example, is one year. A drug court participant is eligible for graduation when he or she has tested clean for a set number of months and has met any other graduation requirement set by the program.

Specialized drug courts:

In addition to the criminal drug court model described above, three other types of drug courts have been established to address specific populations of offenders:

Family Treatment Courts, part of the Family Court system, adjudicate cases where parents are charged with neglect that stems from substance abuse. The courts work to help parents achieve sobriety and to keep families together. The courts link families to a range of services to address the challenges they face.

Juvenile Treatment Courts, also part of the Family Court system, adjudicate juvenile delinquency drug-related cases. The juvenile court programs are customized to address the needs of an adolescent population.

Many jurisdictions have DUI/DWI courts specifically for those arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol.

How does the justice system know that drug courts work?

Many criteria point to the success of drug courts, including reduced recidivism, post-program reduction of drug and alcohol use and financial savings for criminal justice systems. Several independent and government agencies have conducted studies and evaluations of the efficacy of drug courts. For example, in 2004, the Center for Court Innovation and the New York State Unified Court System completed an evaluation of 11 New York drug courts, and found consistent and meaningful recidivism impacts across sites studied.¹

How does court-mandated treatment compare to voluntary treatment?

Research has shown that court mandates motivate participants to comply with treatment. Drug court participants stay in treatment longer than people who enter treatment voluntarily. Research also suggests that participants are more likely to succeed when they face more serious charges and longer sentences. This can be attributed to the fact that the longer a person is in treatment, the higher the likelihood of long-term abstinence—and the supervisory structure of the court, combined with graduated sanctions in the event of non-compliance, motivates participants to stay with treatment programs even after setbacks.

1 Rempel, M., Kralstein, D., Cissner, A., Cohen, R., Labriola, M., Farole, D., Bader, A., and Magnani, M. 2003. *The New York State Adult Drug Court Evaluation: Policies, Participants, and Impacts*. Report submitted to the New York State Unified Court System and the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance. New York, NY: Center for Court Innovation.

- **Treacherous** (adj.) marked by hidden dangers or hazards; unsafe; risky.
- **Moderate** (adj.) medium; in between a little and a lot.
- **Opiate** (n.) A drug containing or made from opium and tending to cause sleep and lessen pain. Examples: morphine, codeine.
- **Oxycodone** (n.) a medicine prescribed by doctors for pain relief.
- **Surrealistic** (adj.) having a strange dreamlike atmosphere; weird.
- **"Driving under the influence"**: refers to driving while drunk or high.
- **Inebriated** (adj.): drunk.
- **"Disciplinary discharge"**: dismissal from a program because of discipline problems, unwanted behavior, or breaking the rules of the program.
- **"Long-term adolescent rehabilitation program"**: A program that is specifically designed to restore teenagers to good health.
- **Incarcerated** (adj.): in jail or prison.
- **Sanction** (n): punishment.
- **"Rehab"**: short for "rehabilitation program," which is a program that helps return a person to good health.
- **GED**: Stands for General Educational Development, a program sponsored by the American Council on Education. GED students can prove they have acquired a level of learning similar to that of high school graduates by taking a GED test and getting a High School Equivalency Diploma awarded by the GED program.
- **Significant** (adj.): important.
- **Influential** (adj.): powerful.
- **Outpatient** (adj.): describes a program in which a patient does not stay overnight; the patient visits the program and lives elsewhere.
- **Self-help meetings** (n.): meetings that bring together people with similar experiences; participants provide understanding and help each other cope with common problems.
- **Comply** (v.): obey; act as required or requested.
- **Opposition** (n.): resistance; disagreement.
- **Recovery** (n.): improvement; in drug and alcohol use, refers to the process of combating drug or alcohol use.
- **"Recognition date"** (n.): drug court graduation day.
- **Tremendously** (adj.): very; enormously.
- **Aspects** (n.): pieces; parts.
- **Associate's degree** (n.): an academic degree awarded by colleges and universities usually given for the completion of a two year program.
- **"Bachelor's"** (n.): short for "Bachelor's degree," which is an academic degree awarded by colleges and universities usually given for the completion of a four year program.
- **Cumulative grade-point average** (n.) an average of all grades for a student.
- **Obtain** (v.): to get by effort.
- **Sober** (adj.): not drunk; not using drugs or drinking alcohol.
- **Estranged** (adj.): separated; not speaking.

DRUG COURTS—Personal Stories

Buffalo Drug Treatment Court

FROM HANDCUFFS TO ASPIRING LAWYER

by Spencer



AT THE MERE AGE OF 11, I WANDERED DOWN THE dark path of destruction towards a lifestyle devastated by drug addiction. The treacherous fate began at a mild pace with moderate use of marijuana and the occasional binge drink. Time went by in the blink of an eye.

By the age of 16, I began to heavily use cocaine and crack cocaine, which quickly led to daily opiate use. Two years later, I was severely physically and mentally addicted to Oxycodone and heroin. I lost so much, including family, friends, economic security, employment, and educational opportunities. Most significantly, however, I was losing control of (and almost permanently lost) the wonderful life I once had and that now seemed like a surrealistic joke.

I stole and spent on drugs enough money to purchase a small house. I burned enough bridges to cause the atmosphere to heat a degree or two. I did not care about anything or anyone, including myself, except my next fix, and I would do anything and hurt anyone, including myself, to get it.

A little short of four years ago, I struck a telephone pole while driving under the influence, sending the engine block of the vehicle through the dashboard. The following night, I proceeded to become completely inebriated, more so than the night before, and was arrested in the City of

Buffalo, which subsequently resulted in my placement in Judge Robert T. Russell's Drug Treatment Court.

During the first six months of my time in Buffalo Drug Treatment Court, I hated everyone involved, and everything about the program. I felt as if the court was taking away part of me. Drug use was all I had known for the last seven years and now I was being told I had to rid my life of it or face time in jail.

Drug court was a long and difficult legal, physical, and mental process. After six months in the program and facing a disciplinary discharge from the long-term adolescent rehabilitation program I was placed in, I was incarcerated as a one week sanction. During that week I had an awakening and realized it was time to change my life regardless of the difficulty and fear that it might bring. After the sanction, I went back to rehab where I spent another eight months, for a total of 14 months.

I obtained my GED which afforded me the opportunity to enroll in college, which has become the most significant and influential aspect of my life since. Upon completing the program, I moved back home with my parents, attended outpatient and self-help meetings, and continued to comply with the Buffalo Drug Treatment Court. Although I still felt some opposition to the court from time to time, one valuable thing I have learned since beginning on the path towards recovery is that you do not have to agree with something to accept it.

After a date just one week shy of two years, I had my recognition date. I realized that although I was excited to finally have it behind me, I was going to miss court. Unlike traditional courts, drug courts create a personal bond

between the accused and court officials. That support was, and still is, a tremendously important factor in my success.

The Buffalo Drug Treatment Court continues to assist me with aspects of my life. Judge Robert Russell allowed me to interview him for a legal research project for a class that I was taking at the time. As I previously mentioned, school has become a very important aspect of my life. Today I have an associate's degree. I am in my junior year working towards my bachelor's and majoring in law and government with a 3.8 cumulative grade-point average.

I work at a law firm and, after obtaining my bachelor's, I plan to attend law school. Go figure that I now work for the law instead of appearing in handcuffs before it. Today I have true, sober friends and wonderful relationships with my family. I owe my life to my mom and stepfather for sticking behind me every step of the way, and it is wonderful to now have a relationship with my father, who was somewhat estranged to me during my use.

Buffalo City Drug Court, along with many other institutions, has given me my life back, and I would not change a single part of my life today for anything in the world.

PANEL DISCUSSION OVERVIEW

The panel discussion features stakeholders in the local drug court. The goal of the panel is to familiarize students with how drug courts work and the ways in which they strive to solve community safety issues, to identify the strategies used by drug courts to support a person going through substance abuse and in ongoing abstinence.

After a brief introduction by each panelist, the moderator will ask panelists to respond to prepared questions, and will facilitate a question and answer session with the assembled student and teacher body.

Each panelist should begin by making a 3-5 minute introduction, which should include the personal and professional experiences that led to their involvement with the drug court; the role they play in the drug court; and a description of a typical work day.

Once all panelists have introduced themselves, the moderator will follow up with questions designed to elicit more detail on how drug court works and the role it plays in the community. Next, students have an opportunity to ask questions of the panelists.

PRIMARY TOPICS:

- Responsibilities of key players in the drug court
- How the drug court contributes to solving community problems

Introductions: Each panelist should begin with a 3-5 minute introduction, which should highlight professional experience that led to involvement with the drug court; the role they play in the drug court; and a description of a typical work day.

Questions: Once all panelists have introduced themselves, the Moderator follows up with questions designed to elicit more detail on how drug court works and the role it plays in the community:

FOR ANY PANELIST:

Where did the idea for a drug court and its initial support come from in this community?

Please describe concerns raised and obstacles (if any) that had to be overcome to establish the court.

What impact has the drug court had on public safety in this community?

FOR JUDGE:

How does being a judge in a drug court differ from being a judge in a traditional court?

How does the court know the defendant is complying with his or her treatment mandate? What happens if a defendant is non-compliant?

FOR DEFENSE ATTORNEY:

How does the role of defense attorney differ in a drug court from a traditional court? What, if any, challenges or questions has this difference created for you?

How does taking a collaborative, as opposed to adversarial, approach to criminal court proceedings affect your role as defense attorney?

Under what circumstances (if any) would you advise a defendant who has been offered the opportunity to participate in drug court not to do so?

FOR PROSECUTOR:

How does the role of a prosecuting attorney differ in a drug court from a traditional court? What, if any, challenges or questions does this difference create?

What types of cases are referred to the drug court? Have there been differences of opinion as to who should be eligible? How do you decide when to offer a defendant the opportunity to participate in drug court?

FOR DRUG COURT GRADUATE:

What were your first impressions of the drug court? How did your views change over time?

How did participation in drug court change your relationships with friends and family?

How did participation in drug court change your professional or academic life?

How did participation in drug court change your view of the court system?

If you had previously had a case in a traditional criminal court, how was this experience different?

Do you have any advice for students about drug experimentation and use?

FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROFESSIONAL:

What is in a typical treatment plan for a drug court participant?

What are some strategies you use to work with drug court participants – especially when they are having difficulty complying with mandated treatment?

How do drug courts help participants access and stay in treatment?

What are some benefits of recovery to the defendant, his or her family and friends and to the community?

FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT:

What types of crimes do you see committed by people when they are high or drunk?

What is the drug court's impact on public safety?

Opinion

Trust judges in drug reform

By JONATHAN LIPPMAN
Mar 25, 2009

Albany is abuzz with proposals and counter-proposals to reform New York's drug sentencing laws, commonly known as the Rockefeller Drug Laws. Among the issues being debated are which drug offenders should be prosecuted and incarcerated, which offenders should be diverted to drug treatment and whether these determinations should be made by judges or by prosecutors. How these issues are resolved will have important consequences for enhancing public safety, reducing prison expenditures and ensuring fairness in drug sentencing. In crafting a solution, it is imperative that policymakers be mindful of the critical role that judges perform in the successful outcome of these cases.

No matter the final form of legislation negotiated by the Legislature and the governor, it must affirm one key value: Judges matter.

Starting in the mid-1990s, well before reform of the Rockefeller Drug Laws was a politically viable possibility, the New York State Court System began experimenting with judicially monitored treatment as an alternative to incarceration. Specific practices in our "drug courts" vary from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, but in every model addicted offenders submit to substance abuse treatment monitored by the judge. If the offenders successfully complete treatment, the charges against them are dismissed or reduced. Those who fail are sent to jail or prison.

Unlike other efforts to link offenders to treatment, the New York model emphasizes rigorous accountability. Judges closely monitor each offender's compliance through regular drug testing and ongoing court appearances. The judge encourages progress by administering rewards and sanctions.

There is ample evidence that this carrot-and-stick approach makes a difference. The average one-year retention rate in treatment for drug court participants in New York is 66 percent. By contrast, only 10 to 30 percent of addicts who enroll in treatment voluntarily are still active in treatment one year later. More important, a statewide evaluation completed by the Center for Court Innovation documented a 32 percent reduction in recidivism among those who participated in judicially mandated treatment. Another study documented \$9,488 in government savings -- mostly in reduced incarceration costs -- per drug court participant.

Two factors have been crucial to our success with addicted offenders. The first is motivational. There must be clear legal incentives for addicts to complete treatment. The knowledge that failure in treatment can lead to incarceration is a powerful inducement to stick with the program,

even in the face of the inevitable obstacles and relapses. In fact, felony offenders tend to do better than misdemeanor offenders in treatment, in part because the consequences of failure are greater.

The second key element is judicial supervision. Outcomes are consistently better when addicted offenders are required to appear biweekly before a judge, which underscores a message of accountability.

The impact of appearing regularly before a judge is especially pronounced for high-risk offenders who have previously failed treatment.

Judges can ensure that treatment is a real sentence for them, not just a get out of jail free card.

New York's court system has shown that treatment, when combined with clear legal incentives and active judicial involvement, can be successful. We know what works.

And that's where reform of the Rockefeller Drug Laws comes in. New York's drug courts now admit 2,600 new felony offenders each year, a small fraction of the 43,000 new felony drug arrests that come through the system. While not every case is appropriate for diversion to treatment, many more offenders could benefit from the opportunities that judicially monitored alternatives to incarceration provide them.

So the bottom line of Rockefeller Drug Law reform is crystal clear. Above all else, legislative reform must recognize and bolster the critical role that judges perform in these cases. By expanding judges' discretion to divert more offenders to treatment, the legislation that emerges can serve the public interest by enabling the courts to do more of what we have been doing for years -- using the authority wielded by judges to help addicted offenders turn their lives around, making New York a safer place for all of us.

Jonathan Lippman is chief judge of New York.

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LEGISLATIVEGAZETTE.com

Senate Republicans, DAs opposing drug law reform

Thursday Mar 26 3:07 PM

By LAUREN N. JOHNSON, Gazette staff writer

As the Senate majority move toward putting finishing touches on a budget resolution that likely includes Rockefeller drug law reform, the Republican conference and law enforcement officials announced this afternoon their opposition to passing such legislation.

Senate Minority Leader Dean Skelos, R-Rockville Centre, along with members, Sen. Martin Golden, R-Brooklyn, Sen. John DeFrancisco, R-Syracuse, and Sen. Dale Volker, R-Depew, agreed the legislation could potentially put as many as 5,000 to 8,000 drug dealers back on the streets, if included in the final budget.

“Many have heard, yet we have not seen because negotiations occurring behind closed doors, that an agreement has been reached between the Senate and the Assembly that concerns changing the drug laws as they exist in New York state,” said Skelos.

“My concern and the concerns of the conference is that many dangerous drug dealers with these proposed changes will be released on the streets and without the agreement with the district attorneys in those respective counties.”

Skelos said the legislation has also been opposed by the New York State District Attorneys Association which gave the indication both the Senate and Assembly are moving in the wrong direction in terms of protecting law abiding citizens of the state.

“We have no problem with trying to help those who truly suffer from an addiction problem, but we do not want to see that changes in our drug laws could basically give individuals a get out of jail free card,” Skelos said.

Golden referred to the pending legislation in the Senate as a “Drug Dealer Protection Act,” advising the public to look toward the large number of drug offenders who would be released back in the streets under the proposed legislation.

Golden said the bill does not address marijuana, yet it puts an emphasis on cocaine, heroin, pills, and other hard drugs. “There are those who would want to coddle criminals at the expense of our hard working law abiding citizens.”

Weighing in on the subject is Ulster County District Attorney Holley Camright who said, “This bill is fundamentally flawed. One problem is that you now have made the judge the prosecutor,” referring to hidden problematic issues in the assembly bill.

“Ulster County is a very rural district, this bill grant the power to the judge at arraignment to divert prosecution for felony drug offenders without the consent of the district attorney. I think that is fundamentally a bad idea,” said Carrright.

In addition to the GOP Senate conference opposing what they are calling “revolving door justice,” within the proposed legislation, they are also concerned with being excluded from budget negotiations.

Skelos referred to the exclusion as “obnoxious and an arrogant” way of hiding in secrecy. I believe the majority conference is acting in total disregard for the public’s right to know and our right for adequate review.

Skelos said the conference does not intend to boycott bills introduced by the Democrats, however, they request a couple of days in order to propose amendments in time for the final budget.

“I think the laws are sufficient as they are now,” said Skelos, in reference to extending sentencing discretion to the judges.

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Operational Drug Treatment Courts in New York State as of January 1, 2009

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

New York County

Manhattan Family Treatment Court
60 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10013
(212) 374-3612 - Emily Parise

Manhattan Felony Treatment Court
100 Centre Street, Rm. 1337
New York, NY 10013
(212) 374-7880 - Deborah Hall-Martin

Manhattan Misdemeanor Treatment Court
100 Centre Street
New York, NY 10013
(212) 374-6216 - Kathleen McDonald

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Kings County

Brooklyn Screening and Treatment Enhancement Part (STEP)
Misdemeanor Brooklyn Treatment Court
120 Schermerhorn St.
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(718) 643-1034 - Mia Santiago

Brooklyn Treatment Court
320 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(347) 296-1140 - Herbert Hardwick

Kings County Family Treatment Court
330 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201
(347) 401-9600 - Emily Parise

THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Albany County

Albany County Drug Court
Albany County Judicial Center
6 Lodge Street
Albany, NY 12207
(518) 487-5018 - Charles Diamond

Albany Regional Treatment Court
Albany City Court
1 Morton Ave
Albany, NY 12202
(518) 462-6714 - Janice Cellucci

Albany Family Treatment Court
Albany Family Juvenile Court
30 Clinton Avenue
Albany, NY 12207
(518) 285-8600 - David Cardona

Columbia County

Columbia County Regional Drug Court
401 Union Street
Hudson, NY 12534
(518) 828-7858 - Dorothy Prest

Columbia Family Treatment Court
Columbia Family Juvenile Treatment Court
401 Union Street
Hudson, NY 12534
(518) 828-3015 - Dorothy Prest

Greene County
Greene County Regional Treatment Court
320 Main Street
Catskill, NY 12414
(518) 943-2050 - Kathy Gorzcyca

Greene Family Court
320 Main Street
Catskill, NY 12414
(518) 943-5711 - Brenda Vandermark

Rensselaer County

Rensselaer County Court
72 Second Street
Troy, NY 12180
(518) 270-3737 - Richard Reilly

Rensselaer Regional (Troy City)
51 State Street
Troy, NY 12180
(518) 271-1602 - Karen Debenedetto

Rensselaer Family Treatment Court
1504 Fifth Avenue
Troy, NY 12180
(518) 270-3761 - Patricia Beelor

Schoharie County

Schoharie County Regional
Schoharie Family Court
300 Main Street
Schoharie, NY 12157
(518) 295-8383 - F. Christian Spies

Sullivan County

Sullivan County Regional
414 Broadway
Monticello, NY 12701
(845) 794-4066 - Earl Lilley

Sullivan Family Court
Sullivan Family Juvenile Court
100 North Street
Monticello, NY 12701
(845) 794-3000 - Christina Benson

Ulster County

Ulster Regional Treatment Court
Kingston City Court
1 Garraghan Drive
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 338-2974 - Nicole Murphy

Ulster Family Treatment Court
16 Lucas Ave.
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 340-3600 - Kathy Lasko

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Clinton County

Clinton County Court
Clinton Family Court
137 Margaret Street
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
(518) 565-4658 - Jan Lavigne

Plattsburgh City Court
24 US Oval
Plattsburgh, NY 12903
(518) 563-7870 - Robin German

Essex County

Essex County Regional
7559 Court Street
P.O. Box 217
Elizabethtown, NY 12932
(518) 873-3375 - Terry Stoddard

Essex Family Court
7559 Court Street
P.O. Box 217
Elizabethtown, NY 12932
(518) 873-3320 - Darlene Gough

Franklin County

Franklin County Regional
355 West Main Street

Malone, NY 12953
(518) 481-1749 - Kimberely Crow

Franklin Family Court
Franklin Juvenile Family Court
355 West Main Street
Malone, NY 12953
(518) 481-5453 - Janice Mock

Fulton County

Fulton County Court
Fulton County Juvenile Court
223 West Main Street
Johnstown, NY 12095
(518) 736-5539 - Patricia Eschler

Fulton Family Court
11 North William Street
Johnstown, NY 12095
(518) 762-3840 - Geraldine Bastolla

Montgomery County

Montgomery County Court
58 Broadway, Rt 30A
Fonda, NY 12068
(518) 853-3834 - Timothy Riley

Montgomery Family Court
58 Broadway, Rt 30A
Fonda, NY 12068
(518) 853-8133 - Donna Caravella

Saratoga County

Saratoga County Court
Saratoga County Misdemeanor Drug Court
30 McMaster Street
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
(518) 884-4753 - Carolyn Hall

Saratoga Family
35 West High Street
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
(518) 884-9207 - Susan Samsacott

Schenectady County

Schenectady County Court
612 State Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
(518) 388-4215 - Sharon Sheffer

Schenectady City Regional
531 Liberty Street
Criminal Court
Schenectady, NY 12305
(518) 388-5077 - Patricia Jordan

Schenectady Family Treatment Court
Schenectady Juvenile Family Treatment Court
Schenectady County Office Building
620 State Street
Schenectady, NY 12305
(518) 388-4305 - Melissa Mills

St. Lawrence County
Ogdensburg City Court
330 Ford Street
Ogdensburg, NY 13669
(315) 393-3941 - Lisa Meyer

St. Lawrence Family Court
48 Court Street
Canton, NY 13617
(315) 379-2410 - Christy Bass

Warren County

Warren County Court
Warren County Municipal Center
1340 State Route 9
Lake George, NY 12845
(518) 761-7695 - Joanne M. Mann

Warren Family Court
Warren Juvenile Family Court
Warren County Municipal Center
1340 State Route 9
Lake George, NY 12845
(518) 761-6500 - AnnMarie LaVigne

Washington County

Washington County Court
383 Broadway
Fort Edward, NY 12828
(518) 746-2521 - Kathleen LaBelle

Washington Family Court
Washington Juvenile Family Court
383 Broadway
Fort Edward, NY 12828
(518) 746-2501 - Patricia Ross

FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Herkimer County

Herkimer County Court
301 N. Washington Street
Herkimer, NY 13350
(315) 867-1170

Herkimer Family Court
Herkimer County Office Bldg.
109-111 Mary Street
Herkimer, NY 13350
Ph: (315) 867-1139 - Lynn Kohl

Jefferson County

Jefferson County Court
195 Arsenal Street
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 785-3044 - Bonnie Johnston

Jefferson Family Court
175 Arsenal Street
Watertown, NY 13601
(315) 785-3001 - Tanice Gebo

Lewis County

Lewis County Court
7660 N State Street

Lowville, NY 13367
(315) 376-5366 - Bart Pleskach

Lewis Family Court
7660 N State Street
Lowville, NY 13367
(315) 376-5345 - Judy Meekins

Oneida County

Utica City Court
411 Oriskany Street West
Utica, NY 13502
(315) 724-8227 - Steve Pecheone

Oneida Family Court
301 West Dominick Street
Rome, NY 13440
(315) 337-7492 - Barb Porta

Onondaga County

Syracuse City Court
Public Safety Building
511 South State Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315) 477-2785 - Lucia Sander

Onondaga Family Court
401 Montgomery Street
Syracuse, NY 13202
(315) 671-2061 - Sharee Jackson

Oswego County

Oswego County Court
25 East Oneida Street
Oswego, NY 13126
(315) 349-3280 - Theresa Stephens

Oswego Family Court
Public Safety Center
39 Churchill Road
Oswego, NY 13126
(315) 349-3350 - Sherryl Waldron

SIXTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Broome County

Binghamton City Court
Government Plaza
46 Hawley Street - 5th Floor
Binghamton, NY 13901
(607) 772-7006 - Catherine Maloney

Broome Family Court
65 Hawley Street
Binghamton, NY 13901
(607) 778-2156 - Debra Singer

Chemung County

Chemung County Court
224 Lake Street
Elmira, NY 14901
(607) 737-2084 - John Burtula

Chemung Family Court
203-209 Williams Street
Elmira, NY 14901
(607) 737-2902 - Rebecca Kelly

Elmira City Court
317 E. Church Street
Elmira, NY 14901
607-737-5681 - Teresa Seeley

Chenango County

Chenango County Court
Chenango County Office Bldg.
5 Court Street
Norwich, NY 13815
(607) 337-1457 - Catherine Schell

Cortland County

Cortland City Court
Cortland City Hall
Court Street

Cortland, NY 13045
(607) 753-1811 - Kelly Preston

Cortland Family Court
46 Greenbush Street
Cortland, NY 13045
(607) 753-5353 - Laurie Case

Delaware County

Delaware County Court
3 Court Street
Delhi, NY 13753
(607) 746-2131 - Allison Barnes

Delaware Family Court
3 Court Street
Delhi, NY 13753
(607) 746-2298 - Lori Metzko

Madison County

Madison Family Court
N. Court St., P.O. Box 607
Wampsville, NY 13163
315-366-2291 - Cheryl Collins

Otsego County

Otsego County Court
Otsego County Office Bldg.
197 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326
(607) 547-4388 - Gloria Chandler

Otsego Family Court
Otsego County Office Bldg.
197 Main Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326
(607) 547-4264 - Karen Nichols

Schuyler County

Schuyler County Court
105 9th Street, Unit 35

Watkins Glen, NY 14891
(607) 535-7760 - Rita Decker

Tioga County

Tioga County Treatment Court
21 Court Street, P.O. Box 10
Owego, NY 14850
(607)687-0544 - JoAnn Peet

Tompkins County

Tompkins County Court
Tompkins Family Court
320 North Tioga Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
(607) 277-1517 - Cheryl Lidell-Obenauer

Ithaca City Court
118 East Clinton Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
(607) 273-2263 - Jim Jecen

SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Cayuga County

Auburn City Court
153 Genesee Street
Auburn, NY 13021
(315) 253-1570 - Deborah Robillard

Cayuga Family Court
154 Genesee Street
Auburn, NY 13021
(315) 255-4306 - Laura Sarafino

Livingston County

Livingston County Court
2 Court Street
Geneseo, NY 14454
(585) 243-7062 - Diane Murphy

Livingston Family Court
2 Court Street

Geneseo, NY 14454
(585) 243-7070 - Robert Lewis

Monroe County

Monroe County Drug Court
Room 545
Hall of Justice
99 Exchange Blvd
Rochester, NY 14614
(585) 428-2020 - James Hendricks

Monroe Family Court
Monroe Juvenile Court
Hall of Justice
99 Exchange Blvd.
Rochester, NY 14614
(585) 428-5429 - Ronald Pawelczak

Ontario County

Ontario County Court
27 North Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 396-4251 - Kathleen Sweeney

Canandaigua City Court
Canandaigua City Hall
2 North Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 396-5011 - Lisa Shutz

Ontario Family Juvenile Court
27 North Main Street
Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 396-4272 - Barbara Abbott

Seneca County

Seneca Falls Town Court
10 Fall Street
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Seneca County
48 West Williams Street

Waterloo, NY 13165
(315) 539-7021 - Liz Young

Seneca Family Court
48 West Williams Street
Waterloo, NY 13165
(315) 539-4917 - Conchetta Brown

Steuben County

Steuben County Court
3 Pulteney Square E
Bath, NY 14810
(607) 776-9631 - William Deninger

Steuben Family Court
3 Pulteney Square E
Bath, NY 14810
(607) 776-9631 - Pamela Gardner

Corning City Court
City Hall
12 Civic Center Plaza
Corning, NY 14830
(607)936-4111 - Julie Machuga

Hornell City Court
P.O. Box 627
82 Main Street
Hornell, NY 14843
(607) 324-7531 - Love Griffin

Wayne County

Wayne County Court
Wayne County Hall of Justice
54 Broad Street
Lyons, NY 14489
(315) 946-5459 - Ellis Bozzolo

Wayne Family Court
Wayne County Hall of Justice
54 Broad Street
Lyons, NY 14489
(315) 946-5420 - Lorraine Fodera

Yates County

Yates County Court
226 Main Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527
(315) 536-5126 - Margaret DiMartino

Yates Family Treatment Court
Yates Family Juvenile Treatment Court
226 Main Street
Penn Yan, NY 14527
(315) 536-5127 - Roxanne Lynn

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Allegany County

Allegany County Court
7 Court Street
Belmont, NY 14813
(585) 268-5813 - Kathleen Johnson

Erie County

Buffalo City Court
50 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 847-8200 - Sharon Thomas

Erie Family Court
Erie Juvenile Court
One Niagara Plaza
Buffalo, NY 14202
(716) 858-8100 - Frank Boccio

Lackawanna City Court
Lackawanna City Juvenile Court
Lackawanna City Hall
714 Ridge Road
Lackawanna, NY 14218
(716) 827-6672 - Mary Ann Grzeskowiak

Tonawanda City Court
Tonawanda Juvenile Court
Tonawanda City Hall
200 Niagara Street

Tonawanda, NY 14150
(716) 693-3484 - Mary Strobel

Amherst Town Court
400 J. James Audubon Pkway
Amherst, NY 14228
(716) 689-4200

Cheektowaga Town Court
3223 Union Road
Cheektowaga, NY 14227
(716) 686-3436

Lancaster Town Court
Town Center
525 Pavement Rd.
Lancaster, NY 14086 - Jeanne Feldman

Hamburg Town Court
S-6100 South Park Avenue
Hamburg, NY 14075
(716) 649-6111

Cattaraugus County

Olean City Court
101 East State Street
PO Box 631
Olean, NY 14760
(716) 376-5620 - Stella Johnson

Chautauqua County

Jamestown City Drug Court
Jamestown City Young Adult Court
Jamestown Municipal Building
200 E 3rd Street
Jamestown, NY 14701
(716) 483-7561 - Lisa Meacham

Chautauqua Family Court
Gerace Office Bldg.
3 North Erie Street
Mayville, NY 14757
(716) 753-4351 - Frank Baggiano

Dunkirk City Court
Dunkirk City Hall
342 Central Avenue
Dunkirk, NY 14048
(716) 366-2055 - Jean Dill

Genesee County

Batavia City Court
1 West Main Street
Batavia, NY 14020
(585) 344-2550 - Linda Giambrone

Genesee County Family Court
1 West Main Street
Batavia, NY 14020
(585) 344-2550 - Kathleen Blake

Niagara County

Lockport City Court
Lockport City Juvenile
Municipal Building
1 Locks Plaza
Lockport, NY 14094
(716) 439-6673 - Colleen Wagner

Niagara Falls City Court
Public Safety Building
520 Hyde Park Blvd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14301
(716) 286-4505 - Martha Fabro-Lincoln

North Tonawanda City
North Tonawanda City Hall
216 Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
(716) 693-1010 - Sheila McQuade

Niagara Family Court
175 Hawley Street
Lockport, NY 14094
(716) 439-7172 - William McArthy

Orleans County

Orleans County Court
243 South Main Street
Albion, NY 14411
(585) 589-5458 - Barbara Hale

Orleans Family Court
3 South Main Street
Albion, NY 14411-1497
Ph: (585) 589-4457 - Mary Washak

Wyoming County
Wyoming County Court
147 North Main Street
Warsaw, NY 14569
(585) 786-2253 - Rebecca Miller

Wyoming Family Court
147 North Main Street
Warsaw, NY 14569
(585) 786-3148 - Jacqueline Domkowski

Warsaw Town Court
(Heard at County Court)
27 North Main Street
PO Box 184
Warsaw, NY, 14569
(585) 786-2800 - James MEsse

NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Dutchess County

Beacon City Court
One Municipal Plaza
Beacon, NY 12508
(845) 838-5030 - Debra Antonelli

Poughkeepsie City Court
62 Civic Center Plaza
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(845) 451-4091 - Jean Jicha

Dutchess County Court
10 Market Street

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(845) 486-2260 - Ron Variccho

Dutchess Family Court
Dutchess Juvenile Family Court
50 Market Street
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601
(845) 486-2510 - Peter Pallidino

Orange County

Orange County Court
Orange County Government Center
255-275 Main Street
Goshen, NY 10924
(845) 291-2160 - Thomas Adams

Middletown City Court
2 James Street
Middletown, NY 10940
(845) 346-4050 - Linda Padden

Newburgh City Court
Public Safety Building
57 Broadway
Newburgh, NY 12550
(845) 565-3208 - Sharon Reed

Port Jervis City Court
20 Hammond Street
Port Jervis, NY 12771
(845) 858-4034 - Catherine Quinn

Orange Family Treatment Court
Orange County Family Juvenile Court
Orange County Government Center
255-275 Main Street
Goshen, NY 10924
(845) 291-3100 - Elizabeth Holbrook

Rockland County

Rockland Family Court
1 South Main Street
New City, NY 10956
(845) 638-5300 - Anna Kosovych

Rockland County Drug Court
Rockland County Courthouse
1 South Main Street
New City, NY 10956
(845) 638-5563 - John Hussey

Putnam County

Putnam County Drug Court
Putnam County Office Bldg.
40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, NY 10512
(845) 225-3641 ext. 337 - Len Pace

Putnam Family Court
Putnam County Office Bldg.
40 Gleneida Avenue
Carmel, NY 10512
(845) 225-3641 ext. 285 - Karen O'Connor

Westchester County

Mt. Vernon City Court
30 Roosevelt Square E
Mount Vernon, NY 10550
(914) 665-2400 - Lawrence Darden

New Rochelle City Court
475 North Street
New Rochelle, NY 10801
(914) 654-2291 - James Generoso

Peekskill City Court
2 Nelson Avenue
Peekskill, NY 10566
(914) 737-3405 - Jan Laughlin

Westchester Family Court
111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 824-5500 - James McAllister

Westchester County Court
111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.

White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 824-5300 - Donna Minort

White Plains City Court
77 South Lexington Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601
(914) 422-6050 - Patricia Lupi

Yonkers City Court
R.W. Cacace Justice Center
100 South Broadway
Yonkers, NY 10701
(914) 377-6358 - Marisa Garcia

Greenburg Town Justice Court
188 Tarrytown Road
White Plains, NY 10607
(914) 682-5362 - Cecile Sia

TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Suffolk County

Suffolk Family Treatment Court
John P. Cohalan, Jr., Courthouse
400 Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, NY 11722
(631) 853-4289 - Patricia Herlihy

Suffolk Drug Treatment Court
Cohalan Court Complex
400 Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, NY 11722
(631) 853-5435 - Ed Giaella

East End Regional Intervention Court
Riverhead Town Court
210 Howell Avenue
Riverhead, NY 11901
(631) 727-3200 - Charlene Mascia

East End Regional Intervention Court
Southampton Town Court
116 Hampton Road
Southampton, NY 11968
(631) 283-6017 - Charlene Mascia

Suffolk Juvenile Treatment Court
John P. Cohalan, Jr., Courthouse
400 Carleton Avenue
Central Islip, NY 11722
(631) 853-6130 - Patricia Herlihy

Nassau County

Nassau Treatment Court
Nassau County District Court, 1st District
99 Main Street
Hempstead, NY 11550
(516) 572-2563 - Eileen Bianchi

Nassau Family Treatment Court
Nassau Family Juvenile Treatment Court
1200 Old Country Road
Westbury, NY 11590
(516) 571-9348 - Rosalie Fitzgerald

ELEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Queens County

Queens Family Treatment Court
151-20 Jamaica Avenue
Jamaica, NY 11432
(718) 520-3985 - P. Voula Correa

Queens Misdemeanor Treatment Court
125-01 Queens Blvd.
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
(718) 520-3855 - Naima Aiken

Queens Treatment Court
125-01 Queens Blvd.
Kew Gardens, NY 11415
(718) 520-2951 - Rosalind Muir

TWELFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Bronx County

Bronx Treatment Court
Bronx Misd. Treatment Court
Bronx Hall of Justice
265 East 161st Street
Bronx, NY 10451
(718) 618-1371 - Martha Epstein

Bronx Family Treatment Court
900 Sheridan Avenue
Bronx, NY 10451
(718) 590-3813 - Liliana Montana

THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Richmond County

Staten Island Treatment Court
67 Targee Street
Staten Island, NY 10304
(718) 390-8410 - Ellen Burns