

# Opioid-Related News and the Courts

## Weekly Review

August 12, 2022



### Michigan

#### [Medication Assisted Treatment Training with NDCI](#)

##### Michigan Courts

What is medication-assisted treatment (MAT)? Why should your treatment court ensure access to MAT? What does the research say about its effectiveness?

The National Drug Court Institute (NDCI), in partnership with the SCAO Problem-Solving Court Team is hosting Medication-Assisted Treatment for Treatment Courts training. This training program is for problem-solving court teams interested in learning about MAT and how to incorporate the use of the FDA-approved medications in their programs. This one-day, skill-building training will answer all of these questions and more. In addition, NDCI will help your treatment court team develop an action plan and assist you in the implementation process. This training will be held remotely via Zoom.

### North Carolina

#### [Madison Drug Treatment Court coordinator: 'It fosters recovery and saves lives'](#)

##### Asheville Citizen Times

[Theresa Banks, Madison and Yancey Counties' Drug Treatment coordinator] said her purpose in presenting to the board was to inform the board about drug court because there have been so many questions among residents about [the opioid settlement funding coming in to the county](#).

“Some people may ask, ‘Why treatment court?’” Banks said. “It’s very clear: It fosters recovery and saves lives. As you all know, there is an epidemic. Fentanyl, we’ve got overdoses every day, and it just keeps getting worse. Almost 21 million Americans have at least one addiction, but only 10% actually get those addressed and receive treatment.”

According to Banks, treatment courts are the most successful intervention for assisting people with substance use and mental health disorders to exit the justice system and into lives of recovery and stability.

### Pennsylvania

#### [Editorial: Unlocking addiction: Courts must drop bans on treatment medications](#)

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Pennsylvania courts are restricting the use of life-saving drugs to treat opioid addiction, putting those under court-ordered supervision at greater risk of relapse, overdose and death. By failing to properly treat addiction to prescription painkillers, heroin, and other opioids, the courts have put entire communities at risk.

Instead of fixing the problem, the Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania, which oversees the state's 60 court systems, disregarded a warning in February from the U.S. Department of Justice. In June, it filed a motion to dismiss a Justice Department lawsuit that asserted Pennsylvania courts were violating the Americans with Disabilities Act by restricting or banning prescribed medications for treating opioid addiction, such as Naltrexone (Vivitrol), Buprenorphine/Naloxone (Suboxone), and methadone.

Coupled with counseling, such drugs represent the medical standard of care for Opioid Use Disorder. They ease the agony of withdrawal and curb cravings for illicit drugs. With long-term use, they reduce the chances of death by 50 percent, national studies show, and enable people to function normally during recovery.

### Virginia

#### [Drug Court provides a new beginning](#)

Bristol Herald Courier

The [graduation] ceremony came complete with a diploma and expressions of encouragement from Circuit Judge Sage B. Johnson, Commonwealth's Attorney Jerry Wolfe and some currently enrolled in the local addiction recovery program, including one who called [the graduate] an inspiration."

Graduating from the lengthy program represents the end of 15 years of substance abuse that found [Karina Jaureguri] in and out of confinement in both Tennessee and Virginia.

"It is a totally new beginning. It's the start of how it's really going to be; how my life is going to be," she said following the ceremony.

The program is for substance-addicted inmates who must follow strict guidelines: hold a job, perform community service, submit to random drug screenings at any time and fulfill other program expectations. For most, it takes 12 to 18 months to complete.