

# Opioid-Related News and the Courts

## Weekly Review

June 9, 2023



### National

#### [Drug Treatment Courts](#)

U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs

##### Annotation

The two-page flyer provides an overview of drug court and other problem-solving court program models and available guidance. The document is updated regularly with information on program and research resources supported by BJA, OJJDP, and NIJ, with hyperlinks to current training and technical assistance providers and relevant documents.

##### Abstract

Drug courts are specialized court-docket programs that target persons (adults and juveniles) charged with a crime and not convicted, those convicted of crimes, as well as parents with pending child welfare cases who have alcohol and other drug dependency problems. Although the features of drug courts vary according to the population served, as well as the resources allocated, programs are generally managed by a multidisciplinary team that includes judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, community corrections, social workers, and treatment service professionals.

### Pennsylvania

#### [Lackawanna County officials deny allegations the county bars use of medications to treat opioid addiction](#)

Times-Tribune

Lackawanna County officials say a federal lawsuit wrongly alleges the county court system has a blanket policy that bars offenders with opioid use disorder from using certain medications to treat their addiction.

The lawsuit, filed by the U.S. Department of Justice in federal court in Philadelphia, alleges Pennsylvania's judicial system and several counties, including Lackawanna and Luzerne, are violating the Americans with Disabilities Act for prohibiting offenders under court supervision from using medication-assisted treatment options, including methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone.

In an interview Monday, Lackawanna County Judge Michael Barrasse, who oversees the county's drug court, and Barbara Durkin, director of the Lackawanna/Susquehanna Office of Drug and Alcohol Programs, said there may be instances in which an individual defendant is not approved for the medications, but there is no blanket policy against their use.

## **South Carolina**

### [‘Drug court saved my life’: Six Graduate from Berkeley County Drug Court Program](#)

ABC 4

“Fentanyl is real. It’s killing people. It took my stepmother from me and I was right there behind her,” Dorothy said. “I was overdosing almost every time I used before I got clean. My heart tells me that that was it, that it was over with.”

The program has been in place since 2017. It has helped 42 people go through the rehabilitation program and get their drug charges removed.

“Sometimes it’s as easy as looking at the mugshots and seeing how awful they look in a mugshot, compared to how you see them down the road six months, eight months, a year or two years down the road,” said Judge Dale Van Slambrook.

For many of the graduates, today was just the beginning of new relationships with their families.