



National Judicial Opioid Task Force

Tools and Resources for Courts

The National Judicial Opioid Task Force (NJOTF) Resource Center for Courts at www.ncsc.org/opioids is a repository of publications, best practices, policies, research, statistics, podcasts, and more on opioids in the courts from a variety of expert sources. Included in the resource center are the tools and publications created by the Task Force to assist courts in addressing the opioid crisis. Instructions for printing the NJOTF publications professionally can be found at <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/E09B5AF8C42E464D8F69899824779ED5.ashx>.



Recommendations for Addressing the Opioid Crisis in the Justice System (7/2019) Best practice and policy recommendations to guide state and local courts in their development, operation, and assessment of court-system responses to the opioid epidemic. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/57B847A50B404782AFCEB2FDF2D18C7E.ashx>

Confronting a crisis. Promoting solutions. (12/2018) The creation and work of the National Judicial Opioid Task Force, including the Task Force's Five Principles for Courts. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/C57F3AC35A0B485F9C8B4DD4201A4989.ashx>

Understanding Addiction: A New Perspective (12/2018) Informative video explanation of the physiology of addiction. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YLzEXYhMhs8&feature=youtu.be>

Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (9/2018) Key issues surrounding medication assisted treatment (MAT), the evidence that underlies treatment types for opioid use disorder, best practices, and legal implications. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/CA7C3ABE246646C28C43D048429A89F4.ashx>

Civil and Criminal Justice



Judicial Leadership in Creating and Leading a Multidisciplinary Team to Address Substance Use Disorders (5/2019) Discusses how judges can bring otherwise disconnected stakeholders together to form partnerships, through multidisciplinary teams (MDTs), that work to achieve successful outcomes. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/38B847B8466D4BE7910D0F43BE8181AA.ashx>

Naloxone Use in the Courthouse – A Judicial Bench Card (4/2019, NJOTF): Describes the signs of overdose, what to do if one occurs, how naloxone can be used to reverse the toxic effects of an overdose, and suggestions for a naloxone policy. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/CB86C63E80D24CC9A41608AB552D6434.ashx>

The Fundamentals of Screening and Assessment in the Justice System (3/2019, NJOTF): Describes the purpose of substance use disorder screening and assessment, available tools, and examples of courts that successfully use screening and assessment in their justice systems. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/659C5565E1BC4B00B5DEA200113DCEEB.ashx>

Promising Strategies in Providing Opioid Use Disorder Treatment to Rural, Frontier, and other Underserved Communities (1/2019) Information on barriers to treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in rural areas and what some states are doing to overcome those barriers. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/816F3878067C4E55A167487820DEDC65.ashx>

Fentanyl, Carfentanil, and Their Analogs in the Courthouse (12/2018) Information on fentanyl, carfentanil, and their analogs; what risks they present; and precautionary measures implemented by courts. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/E8F6DF8DBC664AB2BCA8398866493E1A.ashx>
11x17 trifold: <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/E6F9AAB5A76E4DCBBAF1F7E7C3AC62B8.ashx>

Involuntary Commitment and Guardianship Laws for Persons with a Substance Use Disorder (10/2018) List of states that have enacted involuntary commitment and guardianship laws for those suffering from alcoholism and/or substance use disorders (SUDs). <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/4EC4A03001EB4E5BB5F649FE2D4F7802.ashx>

Understanding the Basics of Addiction (10/2018) The basics of addiction including contributing factors, treatment, and innovative court programs being used to combat the opioid crisis. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/D9ECBC7D992948CD9EAE77C8A03B4244.ashx>

PDMPs and the Courts: Part 1 (9/20/2018) Recording of Part One in a series on PDMPs and how they are used in the justice system. <https://pdmpassist.wistia.com/medias/c8m8cs9ruw>

PDMPs and the Courts: Part 2 (11/15/2018) Slides for Part Two in the series on PDMPs and how they are used in the justice system. https://www.pdmpassist.org/pdf/NCSC_PDMPs_Courts_Part2_20181115a.pdf

Children and Families



Family Treatment Courts: First-Ever National Best Practice Standards Just Released (11/2019, NJOTF) Provides descriptions and provisions of the eight best practice standards released in October 2019. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/F846EFDB73FB4E3DB316EB2BF60ADE5B.ashx>

Prenatal Substance Exposure: Improving Outcomes for Women and Infants (6/2019) Information and guidance regarding how courts can help to improve outcomes for substance exposed infants and their families. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/4BC19F87783E46A7878E9B239B3AA73D.ashx>

New Federal Funding Source for Court-Appointed Counsel in Child Protection Cases (6/2019) Discusses how the new policy for Title IV-E funds promotes quality legal representation for parents and children in child welfare dependency cases. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/7781E7A786CE4E1A9B31C92867991C51.ashx>

Treating Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorder (6/2019) Highlights the important evidence-based practices recommended in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) latest and most comprehensive guidance regarding pregnant women with opioid use disorders. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/E5264976BB8A4C179F280CE9906308D0.ashx>

Parent Partner Programs – Promising Practice to Keep Families Struggling with Substance Use Disorder Together (4/2019, NJOTF): Discusses how some states are using parent partner programs to improve reunification outcomes and foster increased trust and confidence in the child welfare and juvenile court systems. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/2C875E982D1949F294073CFBB1901D82.ashx>

Medication-Assisted Treatment for Adolescents with Opioid Use Disorder (4/2019, NJOTF): A resource to educate justice system professionals about opioid use disorder, key issues surrounding medication-assisted treatment, the evidence that underlies treatment types, best practices, and legal implications. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/1124805E3EA944D28B35F5757DF23CF6.ashx>

The Court's Role in Reshaping the Child Welfare System to Focus on Prevention (3/2019, NFOTF): Takeaways and audio recording from a Task Force webinar featuring Jerry Milner and David Kelly from the Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families addressing the need to reshape the child welfare system and the role of the judiciary in these preventative efforts. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/E6667EE364B74FEAB981765CAA1CE446.ashx>. (11/30/2018) Audio recording: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/313243190>

Trauma, Substance Use, and Justice System-Involved Youth (1/2019) Raises awareness of the impact the opioid epidemic has on children and families and shares examples of strategies courts have adopted to become more trauma-informed and trauma-responsive to youth and their families. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/711645F689754CD2BC22F075E923D9B.ashx>

Collaboration and Education



Addressing the Larger Mental Health Context of Opioid Use and Misuse: Suicide and the Opioid Epidemic (11/2019) Discusses actions that courts can take to help address the risk of suicide among those who use and misuse opioids. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/F64340A007314C70AD478E9B3045E811.ashx>

The Court's Role in Combating the Opioid Crisis: Using the Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) as a Place to Start (5/2019) Using the SIM as a foundational framework toward the goal of improved outcomes for people with opioid use disorders. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/A3E0CF7F5C9943CB885D71C79049F532.ashx>

SUD Dictionary for State Courts (4/2019) A resource for judges and court staff who are involved with issues of substance use disorders and who may benefit from a better understanding of technical terms, acronyms, and references used by medical and treatment professionals. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/901B4BCA4F1A42F1AC2D2B1A106CE1D9.ashx>

Creating a Local or Regional Judicial Opioid Task Force (3/2019, NJOTF): Provides an outline for starting a regional or local judicial opioid task force. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/E64D2A7E427C4C3AB2E5083C3FF35813.ashx>

Words Matter – Judicial Language and Substance Use Disorders (2/2019) Research-based recommendations of specific language and phrases judges can use to effectively communicate with individuals with substance use disorder. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/07E41C2FF9EE4D23A433BE341EAD6805.ashx>

Sample Court Transfer Agreement - State and Federal Courts (2/2019) Document designed and recommended for use in jurisdictions where state court judges – especially those who preside over adult drug court programs – operate in proximity to the location of a federal district court. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/B57B9B583D89457DA8B3E5D6EEBF060F.ashx>

Tribal-State Court Forums: Addressing the Opioid Crisis (9/2018) Collaboration between state and tribal courts regarding the opioid crisis. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/133BB1DAA97147209E1F305C33222830.ashx>

Tribal Cultural Competency Information for Judges (9/2018) Basic information for state judges and court employees who interact with members of American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities in their courts. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/054E05A5EEC94D19A5CBA28261ED24B.ashx>

Sample Court Transfer Agreement - State and Tribal Courts (9/2018) Document designed and recommended for use in jurisdictions where state court judges – especially those who preside over adult drug court programs – operate in proximity to the location of a Tribal Healing to Wellness Court. <https://www.ncsc.org/~media/34877E91DE954EBE9726E107CC919B38.ashx>

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NJOTF Tools and Resources for Courts – May 2021 | 2

