



## Opioids and the Courts News: August 3, 2018

### Florida

[Opioid epidemic is driving thousands of Florida children into foster care, study finds](#)

Tampa Bay Times

The study, published in this month's issue of Health Affairs, shows that addiction to painkillers like oxycodone or morphine has contributed to more than just a dramatic rise in overdose deaths and health care costs, said Troy Quast, a USF researcher and the study's lead author. Quast analyzed the association between the rate of opioid prescriptions in Florida and the number of children removed from their homes due to neglect.

He and his team found that two out of every 1,000 children in Florida were removed from their homes due to parental neglect from 2012 to 2015 — a staggering 129 percent increase over the three-year period. They also found that the number of opioids prescribed by doctors during the same three years rose 9 percent — from 72 prescriptions for every 100 residents in 2012 to 81 prescriptions three years later.

### Illinois

[Kendall County drug court graduates its first class: 'I have a lot of lost time to make up with my kids'](#)

Chicago Tribune

With an ongoing opioid epidemic across America and 13 overdose deaths in Kendall County from Dec. 1, 2016, to Nov. 30, 2017, [graduate Jennifer] Molitor thinks drug court programs could help people find a sober lifestyle. However, the person has to want it for themselves.

“It won't work if you don't want it to work,” Molitor said. “It was not always easy and there were a lot of struggles along the way, but the program definitely works even though as addicts our initial reaction is to be resistant.”

Molitor began smoking marijuana when she was 15, moving on to cocaine and ecstasy as she was older, she said. Eventually, she started using Vicodin and opioids and became addicted. Then she moved on to heroin.

### Indiana

[Opioid Summit Calls For 'All Hands on Deck'](#)

Inside Indiana Business

More than 1,000 criminal justice, health and community officials representing every county in Indiana are at the Indiana Convention Center today for the Statewide Opioid Summit. Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta Rush says the goal is "educating



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all the players" on the front line of the crisis about the science of addiction and evidence-based best practices. Rush says the solution will come from an "all hands on deck" approach, not building and filling more prisons and jails.

### Massachusetts

#### [Governor's Council grills local judicial nominees](#)

Daily Hampshire Gazette

The Governor's Council hearings for two judicial nominees Wednesday were a microcosm of pressing issues facing the state, from the opioid crisis to field sobriety tests to public outcry directed at judges who make unpopular decisions.

[District 2 Governor's Councilor Robert] Jubinville ran [Francis "Frank" E.] Flannery through the gamut, just as he did [Kevin V.] Maltby, from whether juries can make wrong decisions to the acceptability of fines for late court appearances to incarceration for people addicted to opioids who fail a drug test.

### Missouri

#### [Drug Court program in Missouri's 2nd Judicial Circuit gets 37 percent bump in state funding](#)

Herald-Whig

The 2nd Judicial Circuit's Drug Court program will be getting a bump in funding next year.

Local officials involved in the program say the additional funding is coming at a good time because of a recent uptick in cases involving opioid addiction.

"Methamphetamine is still a bad problem as well, but we have a number of people in our program who are addicted to opioids, so we're trying to help with that," said Thomas Redington, an associate judge in the 2nd Judicial Circuit, which covers Knox, Lewis and Adair counties.

### Ohio

#### [Hillsboro court measuring success, 9 lives at a time](#)

Times-Gazette

The old adage "today is the first day of the rest of your life" took on new meaning on Monday for nine people who successfully completed a specialized drug treatment program.

Twenty-five people gathered at the Highland County Justice Center to watch and support eight men and one woman who completed the Hillsboro Municipal Court's Vivitrol



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program which allows defendants to enroll in intervention programming instead of sitting in jail.

As part of the program, residential and outpatient treatment is offered depending on the participant's needs.

### South Carolina

#### [The new face of opioid addiction](#)

Manning Live

"The main people I see in drug court are middle-aged, middle-class, white women," said Amy Land, Third Circuit Drug Court Judge. "They look just like me. It's a very, very scary addiction."

She stated many of the overdoses she has heard about are during the process of kicking the habit. When breaking a habit, be it nail-biting or eating too much candy, a person will have relapses. Land insisted it is the same with a drug habit. However, with opioids, once a patient is off of the drug for a while, sensitivity lowers. If the person takes the high dose used previously, the body can no longer tolerate that dose and overdoses happen.

"A lot of recovery is accountability," said Land. "This year in drug court, there were close to 20 graduates, so there are success stories. We just need to remember what the dangers are."

### Tennessee

#### [Governor Haslam Legacy Extends to Judiciary](#)

WGNS

One of the biggest issues affecting Tennessee is the opioid epidemic. Governor Haslam praised state judges for their efforts in developing and presiding over recovery courts that seek to emphasize treatment over incarceration for non-violent offenders. He also thanked the judiciary for the part it played in the creation of the governor's TN Together plan to combat the state's opioid epidemic.

"The reality is it took us too long to realize that this was more than just a problem, this was a crisis," Governor Haslam said. "People in this room knew that before a lot of the rest of us did. They were saying this is a major issue. This branch of government was not just playing a supporting role but you were playing a leading role because you had seen the problem long before we ever did."