



Opioids and the Courts News: June 15, 2018

National

[In Rural Ohio, An Opioid Crisis Becomes A Meth Crisis](#)

NPR

Vinton County, Ohio was hit hard by the opioid epidemic. But now, as opioids are becoming harder to obtain, more and more users are turning to cheap methamphetamine.

National

[White House launches anti-opioid ad campaign aimed at youth](#)

Associated Press

The White House has launched a series of new advertisements aimed at warning young people about the dangers of opioids, taking another step in the effort to turn the tide against the deadly epidemic. The White House said its first public service campaign would include several partners, including the Ad Council and the Truth Initiative, surrounding four new ads featuring the true stories of young people who have battled addiction.

Georgia

[Opioid Crisis Forum set for June 26](#)

Alpharetta-Roswell Herald

The opioid crisis forum will be held in partnership with the city and will include members of the Fire Department, WellStar North Fulton ER and Roswell Municipal Court Chief Judge Brian Hansford.

Indiana

[Indiana Chief Justice Loretta Rush praises Clark County drug court](#)

News and Tribune

The five-year grant, one of 13 given nationwide, will allow Clark County to expand its drug court from its current 25-member capacity to over 175 families.

This opportunity the court's been given to help the community is huge, said Indiana Supreme Court Justice Loretta Rush, who is also co-chair of the National Judicial Opioid Task Force.

She said in recent years, Indiana has had a 60 percent increase in the number of children going into foster care, due to the opioid crisis. In 2017, the state was number one in the country for removals and Carmichael said Clark County sees about 200 children a year removed from their homes.



Opioids and the Courts News: June 15, 2018

Rush said she's talked with children in the juvenile court system who've been affected by it.

“When you talk to children later in life, they really talk about their removal, not the harm that was done in the home,” Rush said. “So what's beautiful about Brittney's story and the work you're doing in Clark County, I think if you can safely keep a child with a parent while they're going through recovery, I think everyone wins.”

Pennsylvania

[Senate passes legislation helping opioid addicts | News, Sports, Jobs ...](#)

Altoona Mirror

The state Senate on Tuesday unanimously approved legislation aimed at helping courts provide treatment options to defendants addicted to opioids.

SB 922, sponsored by Sen. Wayne Langerholc Jr., R-Cambria, said the proposed legislation is a measure that the General Assembly is moving forward quickly in order to address the growing opioid epidemic.

The bill creates a court assessment for the non-narcotic medication substance use disorder treatment program, which encourages the use of FDA-approved non-narcotic medication paired with comprehensive substance use disorder treatment programs.

Washington

[Lawsuit: Washington jail must provide addiction treatment](#)

Associated Press

In a novel case that could have national implications, the Washington state chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union sued a county sheriff's office to force it to provide opiate-withdrawal medication to prisoners, rather than requiring them to go cold turkey.

The lawsuit, filed Thursday in U.S. District Court in Seattle, says the Whatcom County Jail's refusal to provide the medicine violates the Americans with Disability Act, because opioid addiction qualifies as a disability under the law. Prisoners suffering from opioid addiction are as entitled to medication as those with any other condition requiring medical treatment, the lawsuit says.

The lawsuit also says the jail's policy is counterproductive because inmates who go cold turkey risk severe relapse upon release — increasing the likelihood they'll commit new crimes to satisfy their cravings and that they'll overdose.