



Opioids and the Courts News: August 31, 2018

National

[This ER Treats Opioid Addiction on Demand. That's Very Rare.](#)

New York Times

[Highland](#), a clattering big-city hospital where security wands constantly beep as new patients get scanned for weapons, is among a small group of institutions that have started initiating opioid addiction treatment in the E.R. Their aim is to plug a gaping hole in a medical system that consistently fails to provide treatment on demand, or any evidence-based treatment at all, even as more than two million Americans suffer from opioid addiction. According to the latest estimates, [overdoses involving opioids](#) killed nearly 50,000 people last year.

By providing buprenorphine around the clock to people in crisis — people who may never otherwise seek medical care — these E.R.s are doing their best to ensure a rare opportunity isn't lost.

National/Pennsylvania

[Mom charged after drugs in breast milk killed baby, prosecutors say](#)

CNN

In Bucks County, Pennsylvania, prosecutors are arguing that 30-year-old Samantha Jones killed her 11-week-old son, R.J., by breastfeeding while using drugs.

According to the criminal complaint, R.J. died from ingesting a "combination of fatal drugs through breast milk" and is being charged with criminal homicide. Jones' attorney, Louis Busico, said that Jones "absolutely, unequivocally loved that child" and never intended to harm him.

National/Rhode Island

[How the Smallest State is Defeating America's Biggest Addiction Crisis](#)

POLITICO Magazine

Trump's opioid [initiative](#), announced in March, pledges to screen all federal inmates for opioid addiction when they enter prison and facilitate Vivitrol treatment if they're released to residential community centers. It also called for increased federal support for state and local drug courts to provide evidence-based treatment to addicted offenders.



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Florida

[Florida's new opioid law: What you need to know](#)

Orlando Sentinel

- Before prescribing Schedule II to V controlled substance to patients 16 and older, providers have to check the state's prescription drug monitoring program.
- For patients who have acute pain and need an opioid medication, providers are limited to a three-day prescription. If doctors can justify an exemption, they can extend the prescription to seven days.
- The opioid prescription limit does not apply to the treatment of non-acute (chronic) pain. It also exempts patients who have pain because of cancer, terminal diseases, palliative care or severe traumatic injuries.

New York

[Monroe County gets \\$2.46 million for opioid addiction, mental health ...](#)

Rochester Democrat and Chronicle

In an effort to combat the opioid crisis, Ontario County will be getting nearly \$2 million to expand the work of its drug treatment court.

The federal, multi-year grant was recently awarded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA). The county Board of Supervisors approved a resolution accepting the grant at its meeting Thursday.

County Administrator Mary Krause said the public defender's office and district attorney's office collaborated to secure the grant, in response to the opioid epidemic plaguing the county. SAMSHA will fund up to \$1.89 million over a five-year period to support the county's proposed strategy to increase case management and peer support for drug treatment court participants.

New York

[New grants secure more resources to help fight opioid addiction](#)

13WHAM-TV

[A series of grants](#) is helping to put new initiatives in place when it comes to the fight against the opioid epidemic in Monroe County.

Monroe County Executive Cheryl Dinolfo, along with other local leaders, announced the grants that will expand Rochester drug court along with creating a mental health drop-off center.



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Ginny Nancy says the resources available to fight addiction were much different three years ago.

"His first overdose in the hospital, had there been some follow up maybe 10 days later, wouldn't have been the final one," she said when talking about her son.

Her son, Patrick, was 32 years old when he passed away.

"Anyone suffering from addiction has to have more access [to help]," she said.

Nancy believes increasing access to help will save lives. It's an idea backed by a new \$1.8 million federal grant outlining an action plan for drug court.

"The epidemic is expanding, so the demand for services are outpacing the resources we have," said Judge John DeMarco, Supervising Judge of all Treatment Courts in the 7th Judicial District.

New York

[Ontario gets \\$1.89M drug court grant](#)

Finger Lakes Times

Rochester Drug Court: \$1.8 million over five years to serve an additional 50 people each year. The money allows for expanded case management, a new streamlined system for referrals to treatment and detox, and enhanced access to and quality of treatment for low-risk, non-violent defendants who are diverted to drug court. Drug court currently serves approximately 450 people per year. The money comes from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

South Carolina

[Judge appointed to manage South Carolina's opioid lawsuits](#)

ABC NEWS 4

South Carolina's high court has appointed a single judge to handle any lawsuits related to opioids in the state system.

On Thursday, the state Supreme Court [assigned](#) Circuit Court Judge Perry Gravely to the task. Gravely, based in Pickens, has been on the circuit bench since 2015.

Lawsuits have been piling up as counties across the state have moved to sue drug manufacturers, distributors, pharmacies and doctors amid the opioid epidemic. In a myriad of cases, counties across the state have said they spend millions of dollars each year for diagnosis and treatment, first responders, and family services related to opioid painkillers like OxyContin and Percocet.



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Tennessee

[TDH Epidemiologist Leads Groundbreaking Research on Impact of NAS](#)

Tennessee Department of Health

The Tennessee Department of Health is leading the nation in surveillance and reporting of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, a condition in which a baby has withdrawal symptoms after being exposed in utero to substances such as medications or illicit drugs. Now, a TDH epidemiologist is leading groundbreaking research on the potential long-term impact of NAS on children.