

Opioids and the Courts

In the News: April 3, 2020



Georgia

[Judge: Accountability courts continue during coronavirus](#)

Douglas County Sentinel

[Superior Court Judge William H. “Beau” McClain] noted, “The opioid crisis remains even though we are all focused on the pandemic. We have to keep doing our job of keeping our folks safe and healthy so they can look after their families, too.”

New York

[Fatal opioid overdoses fall in Suffolk for second year in a row, stats show](#)

Newsday

Prosecutors, meanwhile, offer people who abuse opioids access to treatment even after they have been arrested, [Suffolk District Attorney Timothy Sini] said. The charges against defendants arrested on low-level offenses can be dismissed if they go to treatment before arraignment, he said. Low-level offenders can also be diverted to drug court and avoid incarceration if they complete their treatment programs.

Ohio

[Pandemic forces new methods in county drug court](#)

Medina Gazette

The steps [Judge Joyce Kimbler] is taking fall in line with recommendations handed down by the Ohio Supreme Court on how the state’s legal system, including drug courts, should function as much of the state grinds to a halt.

To many, the courts remain central to those in the criminal justice system rehabilitating their lives due to the opioid and methamphetamine crises, Ohio Supreme Court Chief Justice Maureen O’Connor said.

“(Courts need to) find ways to provide remote, and yet meaningful, treatment options for those with substance abuse disorder,” O’Connor said.