

# Opioids and the Courts

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In the News: May 1, 2020



## New Jersey

[NJ drug courts offering virtual sessions](#)

Press of Atlantic City

“We are rightly focused on a pandemic that has changed our lives, but it is important to remember at the same time that the opioid crisis continues,” Chief Justice Stuart Rabner said in the release. “Individuals who deal with addiction issues are particularly vulnerable to relapsing in stressful times like these, when routines have been disrupted and many find themselves out of work. Virtual drug court provides continued structure and accountability at a time when it is needed most.”

## New York

[COVID-19 crisis challenges drug courts, incarceration alternatives: Rockland DA](#)

LoHud.com

Drug court best practices and research clearly identify the correlation between the participant-judge relationship and outcomes. We currently are not having drug court sessions due to coronavirus-mandated court limitations. We have already seen the impact of this as some participants have stopped meeting all requirements of our programs. In severe situations we would normally have a jail sanction for serious noncompliance.

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For those with a substance use disorder, anxiety and isolation can be [triggers] and lead to relapse. As we continue to have an opioid epidemic, a relapse can easily result in overdose and possible death. For those with a serious mental illness, symptoms can escalate including suicidal thinking.