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THERAPEUTIC JUSTICE: THE EFFICACY OF THE DRUG COURT MOVEMENT IN GEORGIA

Drug Abuse has been a cancer on our society from some time. No state is immune from this national problem, including Georgia. The cost to society and the personal toll on individuals and families is immeasurable. The legislative branches of federal and state government have dealt with this public crisis as a criminal justice issue and imposed harsher sentences and minimum mandatory sentences on abusers. But has this approach worked? Has it deterred future criminality? Has it been cost-effective? The answer is no.

For a little more than a decade, some judicial systems have experimented with drug courts as part of a larger therapeutic jurisprudence movement. Georgia has (on a limited basis) instituted this approach which attempts to address the root cause of addiction through long term drug education and treatment; while improving the education and employability of the drug offender.

Based upon a state-wide survey of judges, court administrators, and

drug court professionals, this paper identifies existing drug courts in Georgia, provides a description of them, and determines the efficacy of Georgia's drug court movement. This research also reveals obstacles to implementation of additional drug courts in Georgia. One hindrance is the lack of legislation authorizing the formation of drug courts and establishing drug courts as a remedy for drug and drug related crime.

This research concludes that drug courts are effective and efficient. However, without legislative authorization, drug courts will never be institutionalized in Georgia and will not benefit a large majority of its citizens.

This [research paper](#) is available in its entirety in portable document format. To access, you must first obtain and install the Adobe Acrobat Reader



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