

# Opioids and the Courts

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## Florida

[Coronavirus: St. Johns County drug court presses on through pandemic](#)

Florida Times-Union

St. Johns County drug court has managed to keep going during the coronavirus threat despite not being considered a “critical” part of the court operations, drug court Judge Alexander Christine Jr. said.

For 10 people in May, that meant they were able to graduate from the program — via video conference — and move from the last phase of the program to the next phase of their lives.

The national program started an operation in St. Johns County in the early 2000s, St. Johns County Drug Court Coordinator Ralph Cumberbatch said.

Since then, 236 people have graduated, Christine said.

[Judge Christine] said positive reinforcement is the mainstay of drug court.

One way the program encourages people is by having new people in the program watch others graduate.

Among the recent graduates is Krystle Register, 39.

She entered the program in early 2019 and graduated in May.

She shared advice for others going through addiction.

“Once they get to rock bottom, don’t give up,” she said. “There’s always a way to get help. You’ve got to want it to get it. And it’s not an easy thing to do. I was just so done with that lifestyle that I was ready for it.”