



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Standards and Best Practice Manuals Published for Problem-Solving Courts

LANSING, MI, March 24, 2017 – The Michigan Supreme Court announced today that it has published standards and best practices manuals for problem-solving courts, including [Adult Drug Court](#), [Adult Mental Health Court](#), and [Veterans Treatment Court](#). The Court also released a [Certification FAQ](#) to help trial courts understand the certification process and a [2017 Problem-Solving Training Calendar](#). The standards are binding and are required for every court. Best practices are not binding; however, they have been shown by empirical research to produce better outcomes. State grants are tied to the implementation of both.

“Michigan’s problem-solving courts have a successful track record. We are implementing these standards and best practices, and providing training and certification, to ensure that our courts have the resources and guidance they need to continue this important work,” said Justice Joan L. Larsen, liaison to problem-solving courts.

Problem-solving courts are designed to address an offender's underlying problem and divert them into special programs that provide the treatment and supervision needed to return to work and family. Expert analysts from State Court Administrative Office (SCAO) provide support to these successful programs through training, education, planning, evaluation, monitoring, funding opportunities, technical assistance, and establishing operational standards and guidelines.

Statewide, there are 185 problem-solving courts accessible to 97 percent of Michigan’s population. Based on extensive data collected by SCAO, we know these innovative courts have been very successful in reducing recidivism. For example, graduates of drug and mental health courts are two times less likely to reoffend. In addition, unemployment among treatment court graduates was reduced by 74 percent.

The standards and best practices manuals are the results of the combined efforts of SCAO analysts, the Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals, and judicial colleagues and their treatment court teams, who provided their input. The extensive training agenda includes 17 opportunities this year for courts to learn about the certification process, understand how to properly collect and use data to measure program performance, review fundamentals of each program type, network and share ideas, among other important topics.

Manuals with standards, best practices and promising practices as well as the supporting authority or research are intended for communities considering creation of problem-solving courts, additional resources for programs already in place, or teams needing refresher instruction. For more information about problem-solving courts, visit www.courts.mi.gov/psc.

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