

*Drug Treatment Courts*  
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for the Judicial Redistricting Commission  
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Background

At the September 2015 Judicial Redistricting Commission meeting, Rep. Nate McConnell requested information about the use of drug treatment courts in Montana, including the effectiveness of the courts and the impacts to judges' workloads. The attached materials provide general background on treatment courts in Montana, as well as research results on treatment courts' effectiveness. The topic of impacts to judges' workloads will be covered during the Feb. 2 commission meeting during a presentation on updated judicial workload data.

In addition, commissioners should be aware that at least two other entities are actively studying treatment courts and their operation in Montana. In November 2015, the Judicial Branch completed a strategic plan for drug courts in Montana and is continuing its work to implement the goals of that plan. Also, the 2015 Legislature created a Commission on Sentencing to study the state's criminal justice system, including the role that treatment courts play in the system. That commission learned more about drug treatment courts at a November meeting; the commission meets again in early March.

The drug treatment court materials in this meeting packet include:

- a list of operating treatment courts in Montana;
- a 2015 report from the Office of Court Administrator reviewing performance data dating back to 2008 for Montana treatment courts;
- the executive summary of a multi-year, multi-state evaluation of the effectiveness of treatment courts; and
- a 2010 update from the National Association of Drug Court Professionals summarizing research findings related to adult drug courts.

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