

**STATE OF FLORIDA**  
**SEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
Flagler, Putnam, St. Johns & Volusia Counties  
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**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Aug. 3, 2010

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**Juvenile drug court to begin in St. Johns County**

**ST. AUGUSTINE** – Teens facing legal and substance abuse problems now have a chance for a fresh start with the debut of the St. Johns County Juvenile Drug Court.

Beginning in August, juveniles ages 13 to 17 who meet program criteria will be referred to drug court. An alternative to “traditional” court, the juvenile drug court program combines judicial intervention with substance abuse treatment. Youth may have their charges dismissed upon successful completion of the program.

“Like most other counties, St. Johns County is experiencing an increase in drug usage among juveniles,” said Circuit Judge Clyde E. Wolfe, who will be presiding over juvenile drug court. “The drugs of choice seem to be marijuana and alcohol, but usage of cocaine and over-the-counter drugs are on the rise. Abuse of prescription drugs is also a problem.”

Through a team approach, the juvenile drug court program will address substance abuse issues – as well as educational needs and/or other problems the youth may be experiencing. Additionally, the program requires that the juvenile’s parent/caregiver participate in the program as well.

Members of the juvenile drug court team include the judiciary, Court Administration, law enforcement, State Attorney’s Office, Public Defender’s Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, Clerk of Court and St. Johns County Health and Human Services. Treatment will be provided by EPIC Community Services, and funding has been made possible through the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners and Florida Department of Children and Families.

For more information about the St. Johns County Juvenile Drug Court, call (904) 827-5620.

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