

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October 28, 2015**

**Court of Common Pleas DUI Treatment Court  
to graduate its first class.**

The Court of Common Pleas DUI Treatment Court in New Castle County is scheduled to graduate its first class on Nov. 6, 2015 at 2:15 p.m. in Courtroom 4B at the New Castle County Courthouse.

The media are invited to attend the graduation. Audio recording and limited still photography will be permitted. However, photographing participants requires permission. Please contact Brenda Wise at the email or phone number listed below if you plan to attend.

It is a program designed to enhance community safety, reduce costs and recidivism by providing evidence-based treatment.

The Nov. 6 graduation involves six individuals, three of which began the program in December 2014 and three who began in January 2015.

In total 47 people are currently enrolled in the DUI Treatment Court.

Delaware's DUI Treatment Court is modeled after a similar program in Athens, Georgia and is open to first-time offenders with a high BAC level and second offenders who were not involved in an accident that involved serious injury or death.

The program lasts 9 to 12 months and is divided into four phases that begin with a restrictive curfew, random alcohol/drug screenings and close monitoring that includes weekly contact with the court, probation and the treatment provider.

After a month, if the individual is meeting their goals, they move on to the second phase where restrictions are eased with a less restrictive curfew and bi-weekly court appearances. Individuals also participate in a motivational program designed to get them to change their behavior.

The third phase involves additional reductions in restrictions and the final phase involves the creation of a unique after-care program designed in part with the participant and the treatment provider.

"Our program is unique because it focuses on the individual's ability to change their lives and to be a more positive influence in our community. We ensure that they are provided with the resources they need while instilling a sense of accountability for their actions. It is understood that incarceration is not the solution to every problem," said Brenda Wise, the DUI Court Coordinator.

If the program proves successful in New Castle County the Court hopes to expand the program throughout the state.

**For more information, please contact  
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