

MCDOWELL COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT CELEBRATES GRADUATE

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WELCH, W.Va. (WOAY) – One person graduated from the McDowell County Adult Drug Court in a ceremony on Friday, Feb. 23, in the courtroom of Eighth Judicial Circuit (McDowell County) Judge Booker T. Stephens.

Graduate Ricky Justice has been clean 339 days and has a good-paying job lined up when he completes probation. He agreed to have information about his accomplishment publicized.

Residents of every county in West Virginia have access to one of the state's 28 Adult Drug Courts. The goal of drug courts is to help participants overcome addictions that may have led them to commit crimes. Turning people who might have become repeat offenders into productive citizens also improves public safety. The programs can be more productive, cost-effective, and humane than incarceration for those who have committed non-violent crimes and are a low to moderate risk to be released into the community.

People who are registered as sex offenders or who have a prior conviction for a felony crime of violence are not eligible. Prosecutors and judges choose which offenders may participate.