



**Superior Court of California  
County of Orange**

**NEWS RELEASE**

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October 17, 2005

**DRUG COURT CELEBRATES  
10-YEARS OF SUCCESS &  
REACHING 1,000 GRADUATES**

The Orange County Superior Court and its collaborative justice partners will celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Orange County Drug Court Program and the accomplishments of the more than 1,000 graduates who have rebuilt their lives, reunited with their families and have abstained from their addiction. The ceremony will be held **Monday October 24, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.** at the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana. Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Drug Court Karen Freeman-Wilson will be the keynote speaker.

“Orange County is recognized as one of the premier Drug Court programs in the country,” said Judge Wendy Lindley. “The recidivism statistics for those who enter and complete the program are impressive. Sixty-two drug free babies have been born since the program began. As a judge, it is most gratifying to see a young woman who is pregnant and addicted to alcohol or drugs, reform her life and give birth to a drug free baby,” said Judge Lindley

The recidivism rate for the Orange County Drug Court Program during its 10-year history:

- A 70% retention rate, meaning that 7 out of 10 offenders accepted into drug court successfully complete treatment.
- 80% of the graduates have not been convicted of a new drug offense.
- 76% of the graduates have not been convicted of a new crime.

The program has grown significantly since its inception. There are nearly 400 participants currently enrolled in the countywide program. Drug Court is now available at every justice center which includes: Santa Ana, Fullerton, Westminster, Laguna Niguel and Newport Beach.

Drug Court is a voluntary program that uses a combination of individual and group counseling, 12-step meetings, drug testing, frequent court appearances and job training to help participants lead more productive lives and prevent them from re-entering the justice system. Only nonviolent criminal defendants with no record of drug trafficking or possession for sale are eligible. By completing the program, the graduates receive a diploma and the charges against them are dismissed.

The Orange County Drug Court Program is a collaboration of the Orange County Superior Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Probation Department, the Health Care Agency, the Sheriff's Department and the other law enforcement agencies.

**\*\*Editors Note\*\* (Media are invited to attend the Drug Court graduation ceremony that will be held in the Third Floor Jury Assembly Room at the Central Justice Center located at 700 Civic Center Drive West in Santa Ana, Ca. For more information, contact the Court's Public Information Office at (714) 834-7623.)**

**Court Release #11-05**

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