



Spokane County Court House

SUPERIOR COURT FOR SPOKANE COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 2025 declared Therapeutic Court Month

SPOKANE COUNTY, May 2025. The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) has declared May, 2025 “Therapeutic Court Month in Spokane County.” Representatives from Spokane Superior and Spokane Districts Courts were in attendance for the proclamation to celebrate the work done in all therapeutic courts. The Courthouse tower will be luminated with green lights the week of May 19, 2025 to honor Therapeutic Court Month in Spokane County.

Therapeutic courts are this nation’s most effective strategy to improve both public health and public safety. Spokane County Superior Court established the second drug court in Washington state almost three decades ago. The Washington State Department of Social and Health Services found that cost savings due to crime reductions created a return of \$4.00 for every tax dollar invested in a Washington state drug court. Spokane County therapeutic courts provide treatment, case management, peer support, judicial oversight, comprehensive resources, structure, expectations, and accountability that address root causes of criminal behavior. Participants commit to working hard for several years and fulfill significant program requirements.

Spokane County has been a leader in therapeutic court innovation operating specialty courts including Felony Therapeutic Drug Court, Co-occurring Disorders Court, Felony Mental Health Court, Spokane Regional Mental Health Court, Veteran’s Enhanced Regional Treatment Court, and DUI Therapeutic Court provide meaningful pathways out of the legal system and toward recovery. This proclamation coincides with National Drug Court Month coordinated by the

National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP). Treatment courts throughout the nation are advocating to ensure continued federal and state funding for these effective, evidence-based programs. There are more than 3,000 treatment courts in the United States annually serving 150,000 people. Since 1989, treatment courts have saved more than 1.5 million lives and billions of tax dollars.

Therapeutic courts offer participants a chance to regain their life, mend their relationships, and become positive contributing members of the community. This unique court approach is based on treating the whole person, by addressing their needs in all major life areas.

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