

Fifth Judicial Circuit- Pilot Certification Program

The Fifth Judicial Circuit was selected to be one of only six pilot programs in the State of Florida for Problem-Solving Courts.

The Marion County Adult Pre-Plea Diversion Drug Court complied fully with all 226 standards and is now considered a fully Certified Program in the State.

The program is presided over by The Honorable Robert E. Landt.

“The diversion drug court program was created for non-violent offenders charged with a misdemeanor or felony and in which they have a substance use disorder.

Defendants in the program are required to participate in substance use treatment, peer support meetings, random and frequent drug screenings, be employed or in school, pay any restitution owed and frequently appear in court as required. Once the participant completes the program successfully, the court dismisses the related charges.”

-Robert E. Landt, Marion County Judge

The Marion County Adult Pre-Plea Diversion Drug Court has seen 385 participants successfully graduate since the program’s inception in 2014.

The problem-solving court coordinators, treatment providers, attorneys and the Judge all worked together to make sure this program was up to statewide leading standards and best practices. After over a year of hard work, revamping policies and providing the circuit’s evaluations, statistics, and handbook; the Fifth Circuit was selected for demonstrating its high standards in the program.

“This is a huge milestone for the treatment courts of the Fifth Circuit, and it makes it really clear what a strong program and what a great team we have to be able to accomplish this together. I am very proud of this program and all our problem-solving court programs, and all the team members who work so hard to make them successful”

-Alina Stoothoff, Senior Court Operations Consultant

The program is fully certified until 2028 and now sets a leading standard for all the other programs to follow.

This is exceptional, well done to all involved. Thank you Judge Landt, the Specialty Courts Committee, and all of the team involved in working on this pilot certification for the Marion County Adult Drug Court program. – Chief Judge Daniel B. Merritt, Jr. - Fifth Judicial Circuit

Congratulations on this achievement. The Certification Committee would like to thank you, the multidisciplinary team, and court staff for your participation in the Problem-Solving Court Certification Pilot Program. We are grateful for your dedication to improving the lives of individuals, families, and your community through the work of Florida's problem-solving courts.

Judge Melanie G. May, Fourth District DCA

To learn more about the program, visit: [Marion County Diversion Drug Courts - State of Florida Fifth Judicial Circuit](#)