



**Superior Court of California
County of Orange**

NEWS RELEASE

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**A New Court to Handle Driving Under Influence (DUI)
Cases Opens in Orange County**

Newport Beach - A new program aimed to reduce recidivism and combat the problems associated with individuals who drive under the influence (DUI) has opened at the Orange County Superior Court Harbor Justice Center. The DUI program is a two-year pilot program that has been funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety.

“The mission of the Orange County DUI Court is to reduce DUI recidivism, enhance community safety, and foster a healthier and safer life for the participants and their families by increasing treatment, supervision and accountability of the high-risk impaired driver,” said Orange County Superior Court Judge Carlton P. Biggs, who oversees the DUI Court. He added, “It is important that participants in the program acknowledge that they have a substance abuse problem and realize how it has negatively affected their life and the lives of the people around them.”

DUI Court is modeled after the successful Drug Court program which requires offenders to undergo substance abuse treatment in combination with education, judicial monitoring, formal supervision and frequent alcohol / drug testing. The program is designed for offenders who have suffered their second or third arrest for Driving under the Influence of alcohol or drugs and are ready to admit their crime and addiction.

To be admitted to the program, defendants must enter a guilty plea to their case that has been filed at the Harbor Justice Center, live in Orange County, not have any convictions for violence or weapons violations, and have the ability to travel to Newport Beach for court and Santa Ana for treatment and probation supervision. Upon enrollment into the DUI Court Program, a jail sentence is stayed pending successful completion of the program. Participants are expected to perform mandatory jail sentences. (Electronic confinement may be allowed.)

Agencies who are working collaboratively with the Orange County Superior Court to administer the program include Orange County Probation, Orange County Health Care Agency's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, Office of the District Attorney, Office of the Public Defender, Orange County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, the police departments for the cities of Costa Mesa, Newport Beach, Laguna Beach and Irvine, and the non-profit organization Mothers' Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

For more information about DUI Court contact any of the following agencies:

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| Orange County Superior Court | (949) 476-4638 |
| Orange County Probation | (714) 569-2200 |
| Health Care Agency | (714) 480-6650 |
| Public Defender's Office | (949) 476-4888 |

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Attached: Commonly Asked Questions and Answers

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