

16th Judicial Circuit
County of Kane
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF JUDGE ROBERT K. VILLA
KANE COUNTY JUDICIAL CENTER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Kane County Drug Rehabilitation Court to Celebrate 15 Graduates

April 23, 2026 — Kane County, IL — The Kane County Drug Rehabilitation Court (DRC) will hold a graduation ceremony for 15 program participants at 5:00 p.m. on April 29, 2026, at the Kane Branch Court, 540 S. Randall Road, St. Charles, IL. The public may attend in person or view the ceremony virtually at <https://www.youtube.com/@kanecountycourtroom2179>.

DRC is a voluntary, team-based program for high-risk individuals with substance-use disorders that aims to reduce drug use and recidivism. Now in its 26th year, 16th Judicial Circuit Judge Christine Downs, who oversees DRC (also called a treatment court), said, “I am so excited for the futures of these graduates. They have worked so hard to make real and lasting change in their lives, are contributing members of our community, and have the tools to live law-abiding lives in recovery.”

To be eligible for graduation, DRC participants must fulfill all requirements of the program, which typically takes 24 to 36 months to complete. The program combines judicial oversight and intensive supervision with evidence-based treatment, frequent drug testing, and regular court appearances. Requirements include maintaining employment or school enrollment, performing community service, completing substance abuse treatment, and paying restitution, fines, and fees.

Judge Downs, along with a team of treatment partners, probation officers, law enforcement, the Kane County State’s Attorney’s Office, and the Kane County Public Defender’s Office, closely supervise participants throughout each step of the program. Judge Downs said she is grateful for the community’s support and that “research shows drug courts produce better outcomes than incarceration or standard probation in reducing drug use and recidivism and in restoring justice-involved individuals to productive, law-abiding lives.”

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