



MICHIGAN COURTS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Justice Clement Applauds Action by Governor, Legislature to Authorize Juvenile Mental Health Courts

LANSING, MI, December 29, 2018 – Michigan Supreme Court Justice Elizabeth T. Clement today applauded recent action by the State Legislature and Governor to approve new statutory language that authorizes the creation of juvenile mental health courts. In her role as the Supreme Court liaison to [problem-solving courts](#), Justice Clement praised State Representative Julie Calley for sponsoring the legislation and for her leadership. The bills, [HB 5806 – HB 5808](#), were signed today by Governor Rick Snyder.

“Thank you, Representative Calley, for taking the lead in sponsoring these bills that will help change the future for so many young people,” said Justice Clement. “Rehabilitation and treatment are the paths to success for our youth who find themselves in the juvenile justice system and these bills greatly expand access to essential services.”

“I am also grateful to judges statewide who are stepping up to lead these courts and make a difference in the lives of people who need the strict supervision and guidance provided by problem-solving courts,” Justice Clement added.

Justice Clement noted that Michigan has 185 problem-solving courts that focus on providing treatment and intense supervision to offenders as an alternative to incarceration. These include drug, mental health, sobriety, veterans and other nontraditional courts that are accessible to 97 percent of Michigan’s population. The Michigan Supreme Court assists trial court judges in the management of these courts by providing training, education, guidance on state certification, operational standards, monitoring, and funding. Recent [highlights](#) include:

- MSC has awarded \$5.2 million to fund the operation of 31 mental health courts in Fiscal Year 2019.
- Graduates of Michigan mental health courts were nearly two times less likely to commit another crime two years after completing a program.
- Unemployment among adult mental health court graduates was cut by more than half.
- Nearly 100 percent of mental health court graduates improved their education level upon completing a program.
- Nearly 100 percent of graduates reported improved mental health upon completing a program.
- Nearly 100 percent of graduates reported an improved overall quality of life upon completing a program.