

Superior Court of California
County of Orange

News Release



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October 23, 2009

A Court Program to Handle Driving Under the Influence Expands to Westminster

Westminster – The DUI Court program to reduce recidivism and combat the problems associated with individuals who drive under the influence (DUI) expanded to a fourth site, at the West Justice Center of the Orange County Superior Court, on October 1, 2009. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The \$931,000 two-year grant will fund operation of the DUI Court program presently in place at three sites – the Harbor Justice Center in Newport Beach, the North Justice Center in Fullerton, and the Central Justice Center in Santa Ana – while also expanding it to the West Justice Center jurisdiction. The DUI Court program is modeled after the successful Drug Court program, which requires offenders to undergo substance abuse treatment in combination with judicial monitoring, formal probation, and frequent alcohol / drug testing. The program is designed for offenders who have received their second or third arrest for Driving Under the Influence of alcohol or drugs and are ready to admit their crime and addiction.

“The Office of Traffic Safety recognizes the excellent work being done in Orange County’s DUI courts,” said OTS Director Christopher Murphy. “This grant will ensure that good work not only continues, but expands, making roads safer for everyone.”

County of Orange departments working collaboratively with the Orange County Superior Court to administer the program include Probation, Health Care Agency Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, Office of the District Attorney, Office of the Public Defender, and the Sheriff’s Department. Other departments include the California Highway Patrol, the police departments of Westminster, Seal Beach, Los Alamitos, Cypress, Fountain

Court Release # 18-09

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Valley, Garden Grove and Huntington Beach, and the non-profit organization Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).

For more information about DUI Court, contact Orange County Superior Court, West Justice Center, Office of Collaborative Courts, at (714) 934-4609.