



NEWS RELEASE

**New York State
Unified Court System**

**Hon. Edwina G. Richardson
Deputy Chief Administrative Judge
Office for Justice Initiatives**

**Contact: Laura Stoddard,
Resource Coordinator
(518) 453-5941**

lstoddar@nycourts.gov

publicinformation@nycourts.gov

Date: November 10, 2025

Troy City Court Launches Specialized Part to Address Individuals with Mental Illness

TROY, NEW YORK—Aligning with the vision of Chief Judge Rowan Wilson and Chief Administrative Judge Joseph Zayas to prioritize and advance problem-solving justice approaches statewide, the Troy City Court is proud to announce the official launch of its Alternative Treatment Court, a newly designated Mental Health Part focused on addressing the needs of individuals with mental illness through treatment and support rather than incarceration.

In further support of this model, New York lawmakers have introduced a bipartisan bill to allow the transfer of cases from counties without a mental health court to a neighboring jurisdiction that offers these services. Authorized to accept misdemeanor cases from Rensselaer City Court and all Town and Village Courts throughout Rensselaer County, the Troy City Alternative Treatment Court has already welcomed its first participants.

At the direction of Statewide Coordinating Judge for Problem Solving Courts Debra J. Young, Troy City Court Judge Christopher T. Maier has led the development of this initiative in collaboration with a wide range of government and community partners.

“Mental Health Courts work to address the root causes of criminal behavior, diverting eligible defendants into structured programs that promote recovery and rehabilitation, helping bring stability to these individuals, their families, and the community at large,” said Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives Edwina G. Richardson, whose office oversees the Unified Court System’s problem-solving justice initiatives. “I am grateful to Judges Young and Maier for their leadership in making this vision a reality.”

“Mental Health Courts employ a humane, evidence-based approach to justice, helping individuals access the treatment they need while also protecting public safety,” said Judge Young. “I commend Judge Maier and the Troy City Court team for their commitment to this important work.”

“By helping participants manage their mental health conditions through proper treatment, this court will enable individuals with mental illness to lead more stable, productive lives, ensuring accountability and enhancing public safety,” said Judge Maier.

The Troy City Alternative Treatment Court works with a network of partners including the Rensselaer County District Attorney’s Office, the Rensselaer County Public and Conflict Defender’s Offices, the Rensselaer County Mental Health Department, the Rensselaer County Probation, Samaritan Hospital, Unity House, Joseph’s House, and the Mental Health Empowerment Project, among others. Together, these government offices and other organizations provide the comprehensive support required to address the complex needs of participants and promote long-term success.

More information about the court system’s Mental Health Parts and other problem-solving courts is available at https://ww2.nycourts.gov/COURTS/problem_solving/index.shtml.

#