



# Press Release

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## **Celebrating 26 Years of Treatment Courts in Alaska & National Treatment Court Month!**

**Kenai, Alaska, May 15, 2025:** The Alaska Court System is proud to celebrate 26 years of therapeutic courts in Alaska, and together with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe we celebrate 8 years of collaboration in operating the Henu Community Wellness Court in Kenai. Henu, meaning "hard work" in Dena'ina, offers a path to healing for adults facing legal trouble due to substance abuse.

In recognition of the Henu Court program and National Treatment Court Month this May, the **Henu Community Wellness Court** will host a celebration on Tuesday, **May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 4:00 at the Kenai Municipal Park**. The celebration will honor the dedicated judges, treatment providers, court staff, and community partners who make this program possible, as well as the individuals who have worked hard to graduate from the Henu Wellness Court – two of whom will be recognized for graduating this May! The media is invited.

*The therapeutic court model is an alternative justice model in which a collaborative team oversees and closely monitors participants who choose the treatment program in lieu of incarceration. Therapeutic court participants work hard over a lengthy multi-month process to address the underlying problems that led to their involvement with the criminal justice system.*

[Therapeutic courts](#) have demonstrably improved lives and communities. Successful completion of these programs leads to reduced recidivism rates, lower crime rates, stronger families and communities, and cost savings across the justice system.

*"My life's been completely turned around: marriage, being able to raise children... if you want to learn, or you want to get better, this is the way to go. Originally, it was about getting out of the jail time, but it turned into learning how to live life happily." –  
May '25 graduate*

Since the inception of the Henu Community Wellness Court in 2016, over 30-participants have benefited from these programs.

Alaska's therapeutic courts include [Drug and DUI Courts](#) in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, and Palmer; [Family Courts](#) in Anchorage and Palmer; [Mental Health Courts](#) in Anchorage, Juneau and Palmer; [Veterans Courts](#) in Anchorage and Fairbanks; and [State/Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts](#) in Kenai and Sitka.

**About the Alaska Court System:** The mission of the [Alaska Court System](#) is to provide an accessible and impartial forum for the just resolution of all cases that come before it, and to decide such cases in accordance with the law, expeditiously and with integrity.