



Caddo DA program selected as national model

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The pretrial diversion program established by Caddo Parish District Attorney James E. Stewart Sr. has been selected as a national model by one of the nation's major monitoring companies.

"The Caddo Parish District Attorney's Pretrial Diversion Program was recently featured in a case study published by SCRAM Systems, the makers of the alcohol monitoring technology used in the program," Shelby Cage said. "SCRAM Systems selects and highlights programs that are using innovative solutions to make a difference in the public safety and well-being of their communities."



The full case study is [available online](#).

The Caddo Parish District Attorney's Pretrial Diversion Program offers lower-risk defendants to take part in comprehensive rehabilitation. Launched by DA Stewart and Chief Deputy District Attorney Wilbert Pryor, it offers defendants a second chance while holding them accountable for their offense.

"When people get charged with a first offense DWIs and other alcohol-related offenses, instead of putting them in the system, giving them a record, and maybe ruining their lives, this is a way we allow them to try to help themselves," James Stewart Sr., Caddo Parish District Attorney said.

The diversion program, which averages nearly 500 participants each a year, helps defendants understand the impact of their actions and choose a better path. Participants must pay court fees and restitution, make progress toward education goals, attend MADD victim impact panels, attend counseling and behavior classes and report to the program monthly. Nearly 90 percent of participants complete the program.

"It's important for the program to be rigorous enough so that they think 'I don't want to go through it again,'" Chief Deputy DA Pryor says. "And at the same time, when they successfully complete the program, they can also say they've done something good for their lives."

Participants with alcohol abuse issues also undergo monitoring through Shreveport-based Innovative Monitoring Network, which is associated with SCRAM Systems. The company works closely with the Caddo Parish District Attorney's Office and has monitored 210 of the program's participants since January 2017. Participants pay for their monitoring, which allows them to remain in the community while ensuring they aren't drinking and endangering the public.

Denver-based SCRAM Systems, which selected the program as part of a continuing series of case studies, is the world's leading provider of alcohol testing technologies for the criminal justice industry. SCRAM's flagship Continuous Alcohol Monitoring (CAM) technology, launched in 2003, revolutionized the way courts, agencies and treatment providers monitor and manage alcohol-involved offenders. The company's full suite of electronic monitoring technologies includes SCRAMRemote Breath®, SCRAM GPS® and SCRAM House Arrest®. Colorado-based SCRAM Systems employs 250 people worldwide and serves communities throughout the United States and in five other countries.

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