

What is Veterans Court?

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Veterans Court is also known as Veterans Treatment Court or Vets Court. It is a structured program that helps participants connect to services, so they stay out of the criminal justice system. For example, helping a veteran find stable housing or assisting with getting a veteran into an alcohol treatment program. The staff members are specialized in working with veterans.



Who can participate in Veterans Court?

Each court is different. Some courts will only take those who have VA medical benefits. Others will take anyone who has served. Some veterans courts will only allow those accused or convicted of certain crimes to participate. To find out the specifics of the Veterans' Court near you, contact the coordinator.

Why would I want to participate in Veterans Court?

Legally, successful participation may reduce your sentence and fines. Also, Veterans Court may also help you find a job, find housing, connect with mentors, and draw on community resources to help you succeed.

How do I enter Veterans Court?

When you first meet your attorney or judge in your matter, let them know that you are interested in Veterans Court and that you would like to be screened for it.



Do all courthouses have a Veterans Court?

No. To find a Veterans Court visit, <https://lawforveterans.org/veterans-courts>

What are the drawbacks of participating in Veterans Court?

You need to put in the work to successfully graduate from the program. If you are given a treatment plan, you need to do it. For example, if the Veterans Court team directs you to participate in substance abuse counseling based on issues you have had in the past, you will need to complete the counseling.

Wait, the court is forcing me to go to counseling? Do I get a say in this treatment plan?

Veterans Court generally has two pieces:

- (1) the behind-the-scenes "staffing" and
- (2) the court hearing.

At the staffing, the staffing team receives progress reports from your counselors and others running your treatment programs. The staffing team may include the judge, VA social workers, pretrial or probation officers, a prosecutor, and a defense attorney. They discuss solutions for any issues you may have and rewards for any

successes you have had recently.

At the court hearing, you add your piece to the story and you and the judge discuss what will happen next in your case. At this point, you are generally welcome to discuss your ideas about how counseling been going and what you would like to do next in your program.

