

SUMMARY INFORMATION

The Dallas County Veterans Treatment Court ("VTC") is a specialty court diversion program that provides an alternative to traditional criminal prosecution for veterans who meet specific criteria. The purpose of the program is to provide treatment for mental health and/or substance abuse issues that caused or affected the actions of the veteran in the criminal offense charged.

VTC serves Veterans that are arrested in Dallas County, who have served our Country in the U.S. Military Services, including the Army, Marine Corp., Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or their corresponding Reserve or Guard branches, providing treatment, mentoring, and other services to our community's veterans who are facing qualifying criminal charges. Successful completion of VTC will result in dismissal of the pending charge(s). In most cases the charge(s) will also be expunged.

BENEFITS

- Access to U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and community provider services for treatment of mental health and substance abuse issues.
- Continual court monitoring of treatment progress.
- Periodic appearances in court with the judge.
- Mentoring by qualified veteran's court mentors.
- Successful completion results in dismissal of the charges and, where eligible, expunction from the veteran's record.
- Participation, treatment, services and devices are all offered to VTC participants at no cost to the veteran.



COURT LOCATION

Criminal District Court No. 4
Frank Crowley Courts Building, 6th Floor
133 N. Riverfront Blvd.
Dallas, Texas 75207

CONTACT

For questions regarding VTC, contact:

VTC Coordinator
(214) 653-5935



VETERANS TREATMENT COURT ... DALLAS COUNTY ...





ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Charged with an offense which could or would typically receive a community supervision recommendation from the prosecutor.
- 2 Combat service is no longer a requirement for participation, and veterans with other than Honorable discharges will be evaluated on a case by case basis.
- 3 Most types of cases will be considered, including both misdemeanor and felony DWIs, Aggravated Assault and Family Violence cases.
- 4 Prior criminal history does not automatically exclude a veteran from participation, but extensive criminal history may result in an application denial by the State.
- 5 No cases involving a death, MAN/DEL of CS, or sexual assault cases will be considered.
- 6 The statute requires that the clinical evaluator must be able to establish that a mental health and/or substance abuse issue related to military service contributed, in whole or in part, to the commission of the charged offense.
- 7 Veteran must sign a sworn affidavit that he/she has not received an expunction from previous participation in a Veterans Court in order to be eligible for an expunction from VTC. This does not automatically disqualify veteran from participation in VTC. If accepted, a veteran may still be eligible for a dismissal, but not expunction.

PROCESS & INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 VTC has a statutory minimum duration of 12 months. Duration depends on each veterans' individualized treatment plan and rate of progress. Average duration of VTC is 12-18 months.
- 2 Consult with your attorney about applying to the Veterans Court. Attorneys may contact VTC Coordinator at (214) 653-5935, or VTC Defense Counsel at (972) 336-3694, for questions regarding VTC.
- 3 Fill out and submit VTC application located outside the probation office in CDC4 on the 6th floor. ATTACH A COPY OF VETERAN'S DD-214 (discharge paperwork) to application. If veteran does not have a copy of his/her DD-214, follow instructions laid out in application packet on how to obtain a copy. If veteran applicant is in jail, please notate on application.
- 4 Application is reviewed by the District Attorney's Office to determine veteran's eligibility to apply to VTC based on the charge and criminal history.
- 5 If deemed eligible to apply, an appointment is set for VTC ATRS evaluation. Attorneys are encouraged to instruct clients to return calls made by ATRS evaluator to schedule evaluation.
- 6 VTC team will staff veteran's application for admissibility upon completion of ATRS evaluation.
- 7 VTC coordinator will inform veteran applicant's attorney of acceptance or denial from the program via email. If accepted, VTC coordinator will include instructions to attorney on how to proceed. If denied, no information procured during the VTC application process will be used against the veteran in the future prosecution of his/her case(s).

- 8 Veterans accepted into the program are supervised by VTC Defense Counsel through the treatment program, and are not considered on parole. Veterans will expunge their criminal records if they complete the program. If a veteran is arrested during the program, he or she reverts back to the original criminal information. If a veteran is arrested during the program, he or she reverts back to the original criminal information.
- 9 On the first day of treatment, each participant receives individualized treatment and supervision. Treatment will be reviewed with attorney, and a parole officer will be assigned to monitor progress throughout treatment.
- 10 Participants come to court every Thursday at 10:30 am (every other Thursday in phase 2), meet with supervision officer once per week, and attend prescribed treatment.
- 11 Judge monitors progress throughout treatment.
- 12 Once treatment is complete, the veteran begins a 90 day maintenance period after which the case is dismissed and, where eligible, expunged.



SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PHOENIX

The bird within the "V" symbolizes freedom, and man's ability to free one's self from the restraints of trauma and addiction. The star is combined with the bird as a symbol of hope and guidance on the path to freedom.

The three stripes contained in the "V" are colored red, orange and yellow to represent the phoenix. The phoenix is a mythological bird that dies in a self-created fire, and is reborn from the ashes. Here the phoenix symbolizes a veteran participant's path from crime, trauma and addiction to hope, healing, and new life through treatment and transformation.