

Veterans Court Partners

State of Michigan

- 15th Judicial District Court
- Department of Veterans Affairs
- State Court Administrative Office

Washtenaw County

- Board of Commissioners
- Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation
- Washtenaw County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- Public Defender's Office
- Washtenaw County Department of Veteran's Affairs

U.S. Government

- Department of Veterans Affairs
Ann Arbor VA Medical Center

City of Ann Arbor

- City Attorney's Office
- Police Department

Others

- Eisenhower Center
- Home of New Vision
- University of Michigan
Veteran's Law Clinic

Contact Information

Judge Karen Quinlan Valvo
15th Judicial District Court

Karen Finney
Veterans Court Coordinator
Phone: 734-794-6761 x47542
VetsCourt@a2gov.org

Washtenaw County Veterans Treatment Court

A court-supervised treatment program for defendants who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces



15th District Court

Washtenaw County Justice Center
301 E Huron St. Ann Arbor, MI 48107



What is Veterans Court?

Washtenaw County Veterans Treatment Court is a problem-solving court that serves veterans charged with a criminal offense, who are struggling with addiction, serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders. It is an 18-24 month coordinated program that promotes sobriety, recovery, and stability. The court relies on cooperation and collaboration with the traditional problem-solving court partners, with the addition of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Health Care, the Veterans Benefits Administration, County Veterans' Services, and volunteer veteran mentors. The program couples judicial reviews with intensive probation supervision including input from a multi-disciplinary team of professionals led by the judge.

Who is Eligible?

Eligibility is evaluated by the Veterans Court Team on a case-by-case basis. General requirements include:

- Service in the U.S. Armed Forces for a minimum of 180 days with a discharge status of anything other than dishonorable
- Charges in Michigan for a misdemeanor
- Residence in close proximity to the Court
- Having a diagnosable mental, behavioral, emotional, or substance use disorder



Entry & Referral Process

1. The case is referred to Veterans Court by the judge, prosecuting attorney, or defense attorney. The court is a universal consent court; all parties must agree to the referral.
2. The Court Coordinator and/or Probation Agent complete an assessment, which includes interviewing the defendant, signing appropriate information releases, and review of relevant information systems to determine if the defendant is receiving or has in the past received services from the Veteran's Administration and/or has a prior criminal record.
3. The Probation Agent and Court Coordinator then advise the judge and attorneys as to whether the defendant meets Veterans Court criteria. The multidisciplinary team reviews the case and makes a recommendation to the judge.
4. An accepted defendant is placed on probation by the judge under the supervision of the Veteran's Treatment Court. A peer mentor is also assigned.
5. The defendant then appears for periodic judicial reviews to monitor compliance. For cases not already adjudicated, there will be a disposition. The disposition of a case depends on the nature of the case and the performance of the defendant.

Veterans Court Goals

- Reduce criminal recidivism
- Facilitate participant sobriety
- Increase compliance with treatment and other court ordered conditions
- Improve access to VA benefits and services
- Improve family relationships and social support connections
- Treat and stabilize mental health conditions
- Improve life stability

Veterans Court Services

- One-on-one judicial reviews
- Ready access to County Veterans' Service Office and qualifying VA services
- Intensive probation supervision
- Substance abuse, mental health, family and other counseling
- Daily and random drug and alcohol testing
- Medication monitoring
- Employment and housing assistance
- Peer mentoring

Graduation

Upon completion of the Veterans Court program, participants are given a graduation coin and a certificate of completion. Depending on the sentencing option imposed by the court, some cases are either dismissed or reduced.

Location

Washtenaw County Veterans Court is held every other Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 3 of the Washtenaw County Justice Center.