

VETERANS COURT SERVICES

- On-going judicial supervision to monitor compliance with treatment recommendations
- Ready access to Veterans Administration services and resources
- Specialized substance abuse/mental health treatment services
- Social service support
- Employment and housing assistance
- Veteran peer mentoring



VETERANS COURT MISSION STATEMENT

Provide an interagency collaborative non-adversarial treatment strategy for veteran defendants in the criminal justice system within our circuit

LOCATION

M.C. Blanchard Judicial Building
190 Governmental Center
3rd floor
Pensacola, FL 32502

CONTACT INFORMATION

Carol Henry
Veterans Treatment Court
Coordinator
(850)595-4388
Carol.Henry@flcourts1.gov

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN BEING CONSIDERED FOR VETERANS TREATMENT COURT, PLEASE TELL YOUR ATTORNEY.

Escambia County Veterans Court

A second chance for those who served.



Gary L. Bergosh
Circuit Court Judge
(LtCol USMCR Ret.)
presiding

WHAT IS A VETERANS COURT?

- The Veterans Treatment Court is a court program designed specifically for military veterans, including Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve members, charged with a misdemeanor or felony offense who are struggling with addiction or mental health concerns.
- The program **diverts** eligible veteran participants from the traditional justice system and provides them support and rehabilitation through comprehensive substance abuse and/or mental health treatment, education, vocational programs, and community resource referrals for housing, childcare, and transportation; all while being judicially monitored. The veteran can enter Veterans Treatment Court one of two ways:
 - Deferred Prosecution
 - Condition of Probation

- The Veterans Treatment Court is generally a 12-18-month, voluntary program with an emphasis on outcome-based treatment.
- The program is a collaborative effort between the court system, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and community agencies working together to assist the veteran to move toward stability.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- Veteran verified by their DD 214 or current Active Duty status who is charged with a misdemeanor and/or some felony level offense
- As defined by Florida Statute: Veterans who were discharged or released under any condition, servicemembers, individuals who are current or former United States Department of Defense contractors, and individuals who are current or former military members of a foreign allied country.

PROGRAM OUTLINE

- Attend court hearings once a week to review progress in the program. Attendance requirements decrease over time.
- Attend substance abuse and/or mental health counseling sessions, as appropriate
- Submit to random drug screens
- Comply with individualized treatment plan as outlined by the Team
- Upon successful completion of the program, **in most cases the veteran's charges will be dismissed.**

PROGRAM GOALS

- A second chance for those who served
- Improve quality of life
- Improve family relationships and social support connections
- Improve access to VA benefits and services
- Facilitate participant recovery