

VETERANS TREATMENT 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
- ◆ Random drug/alcohol testing
- ◆ Social service support
- ◆ Employment and housing assistance
- ◆ Veteran peer mentoring

CONTACT INFORMATION

Shonta Covington
Veterans Treatment Court
Coordinator

Bay County Courthouse
300 E. 4th Street
Panama City, Florida 32401

Phone: 850-767-3567

Email:
covingtons@jud14.flcourts.org

VETERANS COURT MISSION STATEMENT

*Meeting Justice-
Involved Veterans and
Service Members*



Fourteenth Circuit Veterans Treatment Court



Fourteenth Judicial Circuit

*The Honorable Elijah Smiley, Presiding
Bay County Courthouse
300 E. 4th Street
Panama City, Florida 32401*

WHAT IS A VETERANS TREATMENT COURT?

The Veterans Treatment Court is a court program designed specifically for US military veterans including Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve charged with misdemeanor or felony offenses struggling with addiction, serious mental illness and /or co-occurring disorders that may be a result of their military/combat service.

The program provides a means to divert eligible veteran participants from the traditional justice system and provide them support and rehabilitation through comprehensive substance abuse; mental health treatment; education; vocational programs; and community resource referrals for housing, childcare, and transportation, all while being judicial monitored.

The Veteran can be entered into Veterans Court one of two ways:

- ◆ Condition of Probation
- ◆ Deferred Prosecution

The program is a collaborative effort between the court system, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and community agencies to assist the veteran to move toward stability.

The Veterans Treatment Court is a voluntary 12-18 month program with an emphasis on out-come based treatment.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- ◆ Veteran verified by their DD Form 214 or current Active Duty status charged with a misdemeanor and/or some felony level offense
- ◆ A veteran experiencing a substance use problem, mental health issue including TBI, PTSD and MST
- ◆ A veteran who has the consent of the prosecuting attorney for referral to Veterans Court and has the Judge's approval to participate
- ◆ A veteran who is willing to participate in treatment for the duration of their involvement in the program

PROGRAM OUTLINE

- ◆ Attend court hearings once or twice a month to review progress in the program
- ◆ Attend substance abuse and/or mental health counseling sessions as appropriate
- ◆ Submit to random urine 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. Non-compliance with program requirements could result in termination in the program.

COURT GOALS

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



FOURTEENTH
JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT