

OVERVIEW

The Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is a diversion program for Justice-Involved Veterans' (JIVs) who are currently facing prosecution for one or more criminal cases. The program offers offenders a treatment option that is judicially supervised. It is designed to divert JIVs out of the traditional criminal justice process and into appropriate rehabilitative alternatives. Once the JIV has been screened, assessed, and approved for participation in the program, he/she will promptly begin a treatment regimen that is specific to his/her needs.

MISSION

Our Mission is to successfully habilitate JIVs, by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and providing them with the tools they need to lead a productive and law-abiding lifestyle while improving mental health recovery and successful re-entry into the community.

GOALS

Our program's goals are to find JIVs, assess their needs, offer assistance, manage their care, and provide them with successful treatment options ultimately leading to community reintegration, and resolution of their criminal case(s).

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

- Veteran or current member of the United States armed forces, including a member of the reserves, National Guard, or state guard
- Clinical diagnosis of a brain injury, mental illness, or mental disorder, including post-traumatic stress disorder and military sexual trauma, that resulted from the JIVs military service; and materially affected the JIVs criminal conduct at issue in the case
- Can benefit from rehabilitation to ensure public safety
- Eligible criminal offense

ACCESS TO THE PROGRAM

District Attorney Approval – All cases are reviewed by the Tarrant County Criminal District Attorney's (CDA) office for final approval.

Referrals – Accepted from a variety of sources, including law enforcement, jail staff, judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, mental health professionals, family and friends.

Intake Process –

- Referrals are submitted the CDA's office to insure the minimum criteria are met.
- Following CDA review, the JIVs are given a date and time to complete screening forms.
- The JIVs are scheduled for Orientation with the VTC staff.
- A formal comprehensive assessment is completed and submitted to the CDA's office for final approval/denial.
- The defendant's attorney and court of origin are notified of status after completion of the screening process and at final disposition.

Guilty Plea- Defendants may be required to enter a Guilty Plea prior to admission into the VTC.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The VTC is an 8-to-24 month program. The period directly relates to a participant's need and/or compliance. Upon successful completion of the program, eligible participants will have their case(s) dismissed and expunged. In the event the participant is terminated, the participant may be sentenced immediately by the presiding judge.

Participants will develop an individualized treatment plan with the Program Manager.

All participants are required to attend monthly compliance hearings. During the hearings, the progress of each participant is reviewed in open court. Both incentives and sanctions are used as methods of motivation.

A phase system is utilized to measure participant progress.

Participants will be referred to outside agencies for education, counseling, and other services.

All participants must submit to random and frequent drug and alcohol monitoring.

Participants are referred to these agencies throughout the program as needed.

Case Managers will monitor each participant in the program. The case managers will work closely with the VTC team and service providers.

PROGRAM COST

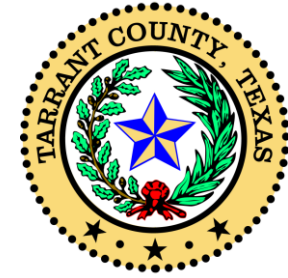
Subject to Program Fee up to \$500. JIVs may be responsible for costs of treatment services including but not limited to Drug Testing, Evaluations, Inpatient/Outpatient Treatment, Counseling, etc.

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**Texas Office of the Governor-
Criminal Justice Division**



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Veterans Treatment Court

Honorable Ruben Gonzalez

Honorable Charles L. Vanover

Presiding Judges



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