

The Program

The Veterans Court is a voluntary 6 – 24 month program. The program includes regular status hearings/reviews before the Veterans Court Judge, intensive supervision and random drug testing.

- Phase 1 – 30-90 day intervals for first 3 months
- Phase 2 – 30-90 day intervals for months 4-7
- Phase 3 - 90 day intervals for months 8-12

Veterans Court Services:

- One-on-one judicial supervision
- Ready access to Coatesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center and qualifying VA services
- Intensive probation supervision
- Substance abuse, mental health, family and other counseling
- Random drug and alcohol testing
- Medication monitoring and social services
- Employment and housing assistance
- Peer mentoring

Graduation

Upon completion of the Veterans Court program, participants are given a certificate of completion. Depending on the sentencing option used by the court, some cases are either dismissed or reduced. Probationers are placed on administrative probation and subject to minimal requirements.



The Chester County Veterans Court is a collaborative effort of:

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- Court of Common Pleas
- District Attorney's Office
- Public Defender's Office
- Chester County Prison
- Department of Drug and Alcohol Services
- Department of Mental Health
- Bail and Pretrial Services Agency
- Department of Adult Probation and Parole

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CHESTER COUNTY VETERANS COURT



**A judicially supervised
treatment program for
defendants who served in the
United States Armed Forces**

What is Veterans Court?

The Mission of Chester County Veterans Court is to provide treatment, compassion and hope to veterans struggling in the Criminal Justice system through a problem solving approach that includes collaborative treatment strategies for veterans who suffer from Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), psychological and/or substance abuse problems as result of having served in a combat theater.

By identifying and healing the unseen wounds of war that pain soldiers and their families long after they leave the combat field, our goal is restore veterans to their military values and increase community safety.

Veterans 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

Who is eligible?

General requirements include:

- Service in the U.S. Armed Forces in a combat theater or during wartime period (provide copy of DD214)
- Charged with a misdemeanor and/or felony offense in Chester County
- Diagnosis of Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Military Sexual Trauma (MST), psychological and/or substance abuse problems with nexus between military service and criminal charges
- Honorable or other than honorable discharge
- Victim consent to case proceeding

Who is ineligible?

- Mandatory cases unless waived by DA (exception Driving Under the Influence)
- Homicide
- Sexual Offenses
- Robbery with violence or weapon
- Some felony assaults and burglary offenses

Referral Process

Referrals are made to Veterans Court through Karl Milkowski at the Bail and Pretrial Services Agency 610-344-6886 (Eligibility Questionnaire Form)

- Defense and Prosecution are notified
- Eligibility for VA Services is verified by Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator (VJO)
- The VJO schedules eligible veterans for an assessment to determine appropriate needs and levels of care, and directs them to benefits to which they may be entitled. The assessment determines the veteran's suitability for an array of VA programs, including any required treatment (alcohol, drug, mental health, medical) as well as, housing and job training.
- The assessment is provided to the Veterans Court team for review. The case will be staffed by a multi-disciplinary team for entry into Veterans Court, including the Veterans Court Judge, Prosecuting and Defense Attorneys, Adult Probation & Parole representatives, Veterans Court Coordinator, Coatesville Department of Veteran Affairs Representative (VJO), Domestic Violence Victim Advocate and appropriate Treatment Providers.
- If accepted, the defendant signs a Veterans Court contract which includes the treatment plan and is scheduled to enter Veterans Court.