

Macomb County Veterans' Treatment Court

Participant Handbook



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Introduction to Veterans' Treatment Court



Welcome to the Macomb County Veterans' Treatment Court!

The handbook has been designed as a resource for participants in our Veterans' Treatment Court program. It will provide you with basic information about the program and the requirements to progress successfully through it. We hope this will answer many of your questions, but if you need clarification or can't find an answer to your question, please ask any of the team members. We are here to assist you throughout the process.

"Determine that the thing can and shall be done, and then we shall find the way."

-Abraham Lincoln

This program is designed to be very structured and will not be easy, but it is meant to help you make life changes and those never come easy. Please remember as you progress through the program that you didn't end up in the situation you're in over night, and you won't be able to correct it that fast either. It takes time, commitment, hard work and patience to reach your goals. And this program is here to assist you every step of the way. Both the treatment court team and your mentor will help you in any way possible. Just always keep in mind however, that no one else should be doing more work for your benefit than you.

"When everything seems like an uphill struggle, just think of the view from the top"

-Unknown

Treatment Court Team and Contact Information

The Macomb County Veterans' Treatment Court meets on Mondays at 1:00pm in Judge Michael Servitto's court room, located on the 4th floor.

16th Circuit Court Team

Michael Servitto	Judge		
Brett Karwowicz	Coordinator	(586) 463-8746	brett.karwowicz@macombgov.org
Emily Vasilovski	Probation Agent	(513) 503-6254	VasilovskiE@michigan.gov
Kumar Palepu	Asst Prosecuting Attorney	(586) 469-5350	kumar.palepu@macombgov.org
Jon Biernat	Defense Counsel	(586)493-5377	biernatlawgroup@gmail.com
Daniel Cuschieri	Veterans' Justice Outreach	(313) 848-8324	daniel.cuschieri@va.gov
Darryle Johnson	Macomb County Veterans Services	(586) 469-5315	darryle.johnson@macombgov.org
Lt. Kevin Gillespie	Macomb Co Sheriff Office	(313) 469-5151	
Catherine Castle	Counselor	(586) 281-0150	catherine@classatraining.com
Christina Wohlfield	Court Services Director	(586) 469-5229	christina.wohlfield@macombgov.org





PROGRAM RULES

You are placed on probation for up to two years for a misdemeanor and three years for a felony. In addition to your Case Manager, you will be assigned a probation agent as well as a veteran mentor. As a participant in the program, you are required to know and follow the rules of the program:

Things to Do

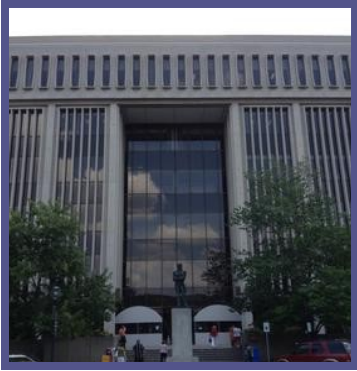
- ◆ Report to your probation agent as directed
- ◆ Attend counseling as directed
- ◆ Submit to alcohol / drug testing as ordered
- ◆ Complete ALL required paperwork
- ◆ Maintain confidentiality of all Veterans' Treatment Court participants
- ◆ Report any and all law enforcement contact
- ◆ While in Court, remain seated and quiet at all times
- ◆ Understand the requirements of the Program can and will change from time to time and that all participants are treated individually

Things NOT to Do

- ◇ Do not commit any criminal offenses
 - ◇ Do not leave the State without prior permission
 - ◇ Do not possess or consume alcohol or illegal drugs
 - ◇ Do not go to casinos, other gambling establishments or places that primarily serve alcohol
 - ◇ Threats toward other participants or staff or violent behavior will not be tolerated
- Sanctions will be imposed for failing to follow the rules
 - Failure to follow these rules could result in termination from the program

Honesty is always the best policy!

**** Honesty will always be considered when sanctions are used ****



Courtroom Etiquette

You will be appearing in the courtroom frequently for review hearings as part of the treatment court. You are expected to be present for the entire treatment court session each time you appear. Please observe the following rules for all of your courtroom appearances:



Do arrive to review hearings 5-10 minutes early

Do turn off all cell phones or other electronic devices

Do use the restroom before arriving in the courtroom to avoid disruptions

Do bring your 12 step meeting attendance sheets and any other requested paperwork



Do NOT talk while the Judge is speaking

Do NOT swear or use profane language in the courtroom

Do NOT bring food or beverages into the courtroom

Do NOT sleep in the courtroom

Do NOT wear clothing with obscene or inappropriate language, pictures or references

Do NOT wear tank tops, flip flops or other disrespectful clothing

Do NOT wear hats, bandanas or sunglasses in the courtroom

- Sanctions may be imposed for failing to follow the rules

MENTORING PROGRAM

The mentoring program is a unique and vital component of the Macomb County Veterans' Treatment Court. The Mentor Program ensures that every participating Veteran receives the services they require by helping them navigate the system and acting as an advocate, and ally. The Mentors volunteer to work directly with those in the program and serve as an extension of the treatment court team. Mentors have served in Vietnam, Korea, Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom, as well as various other duties during their military service.



Mentors serve a variety of roles, including coach, facilitator, advisor, sponsor, and supporter. Once you become part of the program, a Mentor will be assigned to you. Mentors are assigned to a participant with like service, age, and experience. They listen to your concerns and problems and assist you in finding solutions. They also help you to set and achieve goals, not only as part of the program but to succeed in your personal lives. Mentors provide feedback highlighting your successes and encouraging you to become better. The bond between you and your Mentor is critical to success in the program.



Veterans' Treatment Court Phases

The Veterans' Treatment Court is designed to be approximately 18 to 24 months from start to finish. It is divided into four phases to guide and assist you through the program in a productive and orderly way. There is an estimated time for each phase, but it could take longer depending on the length of time needed to meet requirements.

Phase 1—Stabilization

Estimated time—2 months



What to expect during this phase:

- Weekly Court Reviews on Thursdays at 1:00pm
- Weekly case management with the VTC Coordinator
- Bi-monthly Probation office visits
- Engage with VJO, if VA Eligible
- Random drug/alcohol testing
- Veterans Support/Alumni group attendance
- Home Visits (Probation)
- Complete Journal topics
- Support group attendance as recommended
- Assignment and introduction to your Mentor
- Assessment and treatment commencement
- A medical evaluation, if necessary
- 12 step attendance

Requirements to advance from this phase:

- A minimum of 14 days sober (no positive, missed or dilute tests)
- Attendance at treatment programs as recommended
- Support Group attendance as recommended
- Compliance with program terms
- Engaged with VJO (if applicable) and Mentor
- Prepare written speech for phase advancement



Phase 2—Early Engagement

Estimated time—4 months



What to expect during this phase:

- Bi-weekly Court Reviews on Thursdays at 1:00pm
- Bi-weekly case management with the VTC Coordinator
- Bi-monthly Probation office visits
- Continued engagement with VJO, if eligible
- Random drug/alcohol testing
- Home visits
- Weekly contact with your Mentor
- Attendance at treatment and support groups, as recommended
- Create a development plan (goal plan) with the VTC Coordinator
- Attend Veterans Support/Alumni Group

Requirements to advance from this phase:

- A minimum of 30 days sober (no positive, missed or dilute tests)
 - Attendance at treatment as recommended
 - Support group meetings as recommended
 - Development Plan completed
 - Engaged with VJO (if applicable) and mentor
 - Compliance with program terms



Phase 3—Commitment/Maintenance

Estimated time—6 months

What to expect during this phase:

- Monthly Court Reviews on Thursdays at 1:00pm
- Monthly case management with the VTC Coordinator
- Bi-monthly Probation office visits
- Continued engagement with VJO , if applicable
- Weekly contact with mentor
- Random drug/alcohol testing
- Home visits
- Support group attendance as recommended
- Address ancillary services
- Attendance at treatment as recommended
- Maintain/Obtain employment and/or education
- Attend Veterans Support/Alumni group

Requirements to advance from this phase:

- A minimum of 90 days sober (no positive, missed or dilute tests)
- Attendance at treatment as recommended
- Prepare written speech for phase advancement
- Engaged with VJO and mentor
- Attendance at support group meetings as recommended
- Engaged with VJO, if applicable, and mentor
- Payment plan established with Court



Phase 4—Reintegration

Estimated time—6 months

What to expect during this phase:

- Monthly Court Reviews on Thursdays at 1:00pm
- Monthly Case Management
- Bi-Monthly Probation office visits
- Continued engagement with VJO, if applicable
- Random drug/alcohol testing
- Home visits
- Support group attendance as recommended
- Weekly contact with your Mentor
- Attendance at treatment and support groups as recommended
- 40 Community service give back hours
- Regular payments on Court fees
- Continue education and/or employment with verification
- Attend Veterans/Alumni group

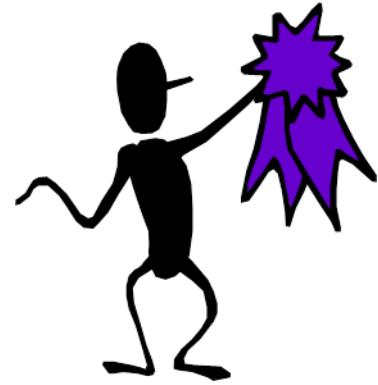
Required To Graduate:

- A minimum of 120 days sober (no positive, missed or dilute tests)
 - Compliance with program terms
 - Engaged with VJO, if applicable, and mentor
 - Support Group attendance
 - 40 hours community service give back hours
 - Court payments in full

Incentives & Sanctions

Incentives reward good behavior and may include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Books, gift drawing or gift certificates
- ◆ Drug testing voucher
- ◆ Excused Court review session
- ◆ Praise from the judge
- ◆ Phase advancement
- ◆ Applause



Sanctions are used to change unwanted behavior and may include but are not limited to:

- ◆ Community service, work program
- ◆ Curfew, tethering, jail
- ◆ Increased drug/alcohol testing
- ◆ Verbal warning, phase extension or demotion
- ◆ Additional Court review session
- ◆ Writing assignments



Testing Information



- Call your testing agency **every day** to see if you need to test. DO NOT stop calling even if you feel you have tested enough times for the week/month. Extra tests are called to keep the system random and if you miss, it will be a sanction.
- You must go to your assigned agency for your testing. An agency will be assigned to you and a list of locations and hours will be provided to you.
- If you fail to test, it will be treated as a positive and you will be sanctioned accordingly.
- You must be in at the testing agency at least 10 minutes before these times to be tested.

Do NOT drink more than normal before testing. Consuming too much water (or any other fluid), “flushing”, will result in an adulterated test and may be considered a positive.

If you have any questions regarding testing, please contact your Probation Agent or your VTC Coordinator.





Medications

Prescription and Over-the-counter Information you
NEED to know

As a person in recovery and/or a person actively drug testing as part of this treatment court, it is very important that you not take certain medications, as they could be detrimental to your recovery as well as cause positives in your drug screening. Please use this guide to help you determine what is safe to use and what isn't.

When in doubt, error on the side of caution and don't take it! Contact the Veterans' Treatment Court Coordinator with any questions immediately.

**** Always inform any treating doctor that you are in recovery ****

**Please use the Medical/Dental Medication Verification Form when
visiting your physician.**

The Medical/Dental Medication Verification Form is located on the Macomb County Veterans' Treatment Court website or can be obtained from the Veterans' Treatment Court Coordinator.

Community Resources



Access Center (treatment referral)	586-948-0222
Alcoholics Anonymous	586-756-1209
Area Agency on Aging	586-226-0309
Care House	586-463-0123
Child Support info line	866-540-0008
Community Housing Network	866-282-3119
Crime Victims Rights Unit	586-469-5675
CRISIS CENTER	586-307-9100
DHS-Mt Clemens	586-469-7700
Dial-A-Ride – Mt Clemens	586-469-7433
Friend of the Court (Macomb)	586-469-5160
Greenpath Debt Solutions	800-547-5005
Health Dept-Mt Clemens	586-469-5235
Legal Aid	877-964-4700
Macomb Care Connect	586-783-9355
Macomb Food Program	586-469-6004
Macomb Homeless Coalition	586-285-0400
MCCMH (mental health) Access center	586-948-0222
MCCMH – Emergency Psychiatric	586-466-9895
Macomb County Office of Substance Abuse	586-469-5278
MCREST (rotating church shelter)	586-468-0775
Medicaid Information	800-642-3195
Michigan Rehab Services – Clinton Twp	586-412-1510
Michigan Works! – Mt Clemens	586-469-7702
Mobile Clinic	586-493-3640
Prescription Resource Network	586-263-2110
Salvation Army	586-469-6712
Salvation Army Soup Kitchens	586-754-7400
Shelter Services	800-274-3583
SMART bus	313-962-5515
St. Vincent de Paul	586-758-4444
Turning Point	586-469-5471
VA Services- Macomb County	586-412-0107
VA—John Dingell	313-576-1000
VA—Macomb County Vet Center	586-412-0107