Veterans Court of Southern Indiana



Participant Handbook













Hon. Maria Granger Hon. Jason Mount Hon. Andrew Adams Welcome to the Veterans Court of Southern Indiana. This handbook is designed to answer your questions and will provide you with a description of what is expected of you as a VTC participant.

Participants are highly encouraged to share this handbook with family and friends.

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INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in learning more about the Veterans Court of Southern Indiana Program. This program helps people with behavioral health disorders, such as substance use and/or mental health, get the support they need to thrive. Veterans Treatment Court is a type of problem-solving court. Problem-solving courts help people by providing services and support. If you are accepted and complete the program, you may also avoid a sentence of incarceration.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS HANDBOOK?

You received this handbook because you might be eligible for this Veterans Treatment Court Program. This handbook explains the program rules and what would be expected of you. Please review it carefully.

If you have questions about how the program works, ask a Veterans Court team member.

HOW DOES THIS PROGRAM WORK?

The program provides you by providing:

- Behavioral health assessment
- Ongoing treatment, counseling and self-help support
- Regular interaction with the Judge and team on your progress
- Additional services and support such as help finding a job and a place to live
- Peer mentors to assist you through the program



WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THE PROGRAM?

If you are accepted into the program, a support team will work with you in many ways. They will help you plan your goals for the future:





Health goals in your treatment plan plan

Life goals in your case management

If you decide to join this program, you will have a chance to make many changes in your life. The team will help you get access to many types of services and support, including:

DUAL DIAGNOSIS	Substance use and/or mental health treatment
	Safe & stable housing
JOBS	Enrolling in school or finding a job
Goals	Achieving other goals

WHO CAN APPLY

To be considered, you must:

- Have served in the United States Armed Forces
- Have a criminal charge or violation of community supervision

You will also need to:

Sign a release that allows the Judge and the team to discuss your private information so they can learn more about you, to see if you are eligible for the program. The coordinator will review your information with the team and the team will decide if you are appropriate for Veterans Court.

If I want to apply, what is next?

If you want to apply to the program, you should let your attorney know. You can contact Nicole (program coordinator) or Kennedy (reentry coordinator) to schedule an assessment by calling 812-948-5410.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT IF I AM ACCEPTED?

If you are accepted into the program:

- 1. The coordinator will meet with you to discuss what treatment is recommended and the details of it. It will include substance use disorder, mental health or any other treatment you may need.
- 2. A team member will reach out to your attorney to let him/her know that you have been determined eligible to join Veterans Court.
- 3. The attorney and the prosecutor will discuss your case and if both parties agree, a plea will be presented to you.
- 4. If you agree to the plan, you must voluntarily enter a plea of guilty in court.
- 5. At that time, you will sign the participation agreements. By signing this paperwork, you formally agree to all the rules of the program
- 6. It is very important that you understand all the rules and what you are agreeing to before you join the program.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Federal regulations require that your identity and privacy be confidential during your participation in the Veterans Court. In the following federal regulations, the Veterans Court team have developed policies and procedures to safeguard your privacy. The Veterans Court team will ask that you sign a consent of release to disclose confidential information, so they may communicate with your treatment providers about your eligibility and progress in the program. This disclosure of information is for the sole purpose of hearings and reports concerning your specific Veterans Court case.

Any suspected violations of the federal confidentiality law (42 CFR Part 2) may be reported to the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana at (317) 226-6333 or the main office at 10 W. Market St. Suite 2100, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

The treatment team emphasizes transparency and confidentiality for participants. You should not share information about other participants or the information that they disclose. While not protected by law, personal information disclosed in groups should remain private. In other words, what is said in a group stays in group.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Veterans Court of Southern Indiana ("Veterans Court") is a problem-solving court program designed to provide you with treatment and resources to improve your health in the community and avoid incarceration. The program includes supervision and frequent court dates, where you have contact with a team. The team includes the Judges, prosecutor, defense council, probation officers, veteran justice outreach (VJO) social worker, law enforcement officer, program coordinator, reentry coordinator, and peer mentors. Each member plays an important role on the team. Team roles are explained on page 9 in the handbook.

The program has five (5) phases. Each phase has different goals, outlined on pages 11-13 of this handbook. During each phase, you focus on developing skills and behaviors to help you achieve the outlined goals to move to the next phase. Typically, the program takes between 11 months and 24 months to complete.

During the program you will regularly report to a probation officer and take random drug/alcohol tests. You will be connected with a clinical therapist who will develop a treatment plan with you. You must actively participate in your treatment which can include residential, partial hospitalization (PHP), intensive out-patient (IOP), individual/group therapy, or sober halfway living. The team will support you while monitoring your progress. Rigorous honesty with yourself and the team about your thoughts and actions is vital to your success.

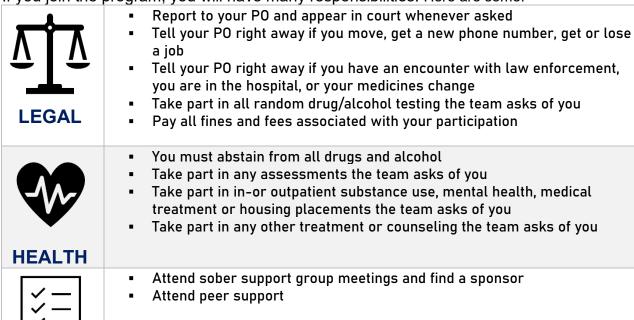
You must follow the instructions given to you by the Judge and the team. Your progress will be reviewed by the team and discussed with you during court, which you attend with the other people in the program. This allows you to learn from the other participants as you advance through the program. While you are in Veterans Court, you will be paired with a peer mentor. This is a veteran who volunteers their time to support you through the program.

Honesty with yourself, the Judge and the team is key to success in the program.



WHAT ARE MY RESPONSIBILITIES?

If you join the program, you will have many responsibilities. Here are some:



Important: You must appear in court for all court dates. If you do not appear on any scheduled court dates (court status hearings), the court may issue a warrant for your arrest. If you do have an issue that comes up, contact your case manager right away.

GOALS

COURT APPEARANCES

While in Veterans Court, you will be required to appear in court on a regular basis, alongside other Veteran Court participants assigned to your team. Your team assignment will be determined by your risk/need assessment on the Indiana Risk Assessment (IRAS). Court status hearings will occur on Tuesdays as indicated by the Veterans Court calendar. Court sessions will be held at Liberty Place located at 2633 Grant Line Road in New Albany. How often you attend will be determined by which phase of the program you are currently in. You must stay for the entire court session unless excused early by the Judge. You should be quiet and attentive in the courtroom, so that you may benefit from the interaction between each participant and the Judge and applaud their successes. Turn cell phones and other electronic devices off during status hearings. If an emergency arises and you are unable to attend court, immediately notify your cm. Failure to appear in court will result in a sanction being imposed. If you have questions about your court appearance, you may contact the program coordinator.

Team Alpha	8:15a.m.
Team Bravo	9:30a.m.
Team Charlie	10:45a.m.

URINE SCREENS

It is also important to recognize that some substances may cause a positive or dilute UA result. Some examples are CBD products, energy drinks/supplements, poppy seeds, mouthwash, cold medicine, Tylenol P.M., and other substances. If you receive a positive screen, you will receive a sanction, and your phase level could be affected. Use of substances such as these are not an acceptable excuse or explanation. You are responsible for what goes into your body. It is also important to limit fluid consumption to 32 ounces for 2 hours prior to providing a urine sample. A diluted screen is a positive screen.



You must be on time and prepared to submit a specimen under direct observation for random drug screening. Upon entering Veterans Court, the coordinator will add your information to Averhealth, and you will be given a pin number. It is your responsibility to call the drug testing line daily. The number is (317) 559-1120. You must report to testing between 4p.m. and 6:45p.m. at Liberty Place located at 2633 Grant Line Road in New Albany. Failure to do so is a positive screen.

MANDATORY PEER SUPPORT GROUP

Veteran peer support groups are the linchpins holding the vast network of peer support together. These groups provide a structured environment where veterans can share their experiences, insights, and coping strategies. They learn from each other, find validation for their feelings, and gain different perspectives on managing their challenges. Peer support group is held at Liberty Place on Wednesday nights at 6:30p.m. Peer support is mandatory and will count as one of your required pro-recovery activities.

Who is on my team and how will they support me?

In this program the Judge monitors program participants much more than they would in traditional court. Why? This increases your chance of successfully completing the treatment plans and program.



You must appear in court for all court status hearings during your time in the program. The team will discuss your overall progress in private team meetings with the Judge. It is important that the Judge is fully informed and ready to talk with you when you are called in court. They will share what they talk about with you, and you will have a chance to speak in court. The team will do everything possible to help you through each phase of the program.

TEAM MEMBERS AND THEIR ROLES

Judge

The Judge is the team leader, considers input from the team and:

- Oversees team meetings, court sessions and makes final decisions
- Motivates you to follow the case management and clinical treatment plans

Program Coordinator

The problem-solving court coordinator help the Judge, the team and:

- Make sure the program runs smoothly
- Make sure the program is meeting its goals

Probation Officer/Case Manager

The CM oversees drug/alcohol testing, how you are following the rules, your activities and:

- Works with you to make a case management plan, helps you identify goals and find resources
- Keeps the team updated about your progress and recommends when you move to the next phase

Reentry Coordinator

The reentry Coordinator is the first point of contact for potential participants and:

- Conducts interviews and evidence-based assessments and screening of veterans entering the criminal justice system
- Presents eligibility qualifications of prospects, and provides weekly updates

Prosecutor

The prosecutor is the lawyer for the County and:

- Balances the community and County's needs with what they can offer you
- Works with the team to recommend rewards, consequences or in some cases possibly arrest

Defense Counsel

The defense counsel (sometimes called public defender if assigned to you) advocates for you and:

- Ensures your rights are being protected
- Represents you should you violate the terms of Veterans Court

Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO)

The VJO social worker or clinical case manager coordinates a clinical assessment and:

- Coordinates substance use disorder, mental health treatments and connects you with programs
- Connects veterans with additional VA services and benefits

Treatment Provider

The treatment provider is responsible for your health services and:

- Provides substance use disorder, mental health, behavioral, or medical treatment, counseling and other services
- Reports on your progress and recommends treatment options

Peer Mentor

A peer mentor is a veteran who is trained to work with the Veterans Treatment Court and:

• Volunteers to assist you through the program and support you at court

TEAM CONTACT INFORMATION

Hon. Maria Granger	Supervising Judge and Presiding Judge Team Alpha	mgranger@floydcount.in.gov	812-948-5257
Hon. Jason Mount	Presiding Judge Team Bravo	jason.mount@scottcounty.in.gov	812-752-8430
Hon. Andrew Adams	Presiding Judge Team Charlie	aadams@clarkcounty.in.gov	812-285-6294
Magistrate Jeffrey Branstetter	Magistrate Clark County	jbranstetter@co.clark.in.us	812-285-6294
Nicole Poehlein	Program Coordinator	npoehlein@floydcounty.in.gov	812-948-5410
Kennedy Smith	Reentry Coordinator	ksmith@floydcounty.in.gov	812-948-5410
Jackie Estephan	Alpha Case Manager	jestephan@floydcounty.in.gov	502-649-9490
Erin Schneider	Bravo Case Manager	erin.schneider@scottcounty.in.gov	502-509-7721
Jamie Miller	Charlie Case Manager	jmiller@clarkcounty.in.gov	502-612-2956
Scott Huisman	Veteran Justice Outreach	Scott.huisman@va.gov	502-956-7274
Calvin Blank	Prosecutor	cblank@clarkcounty.in.gov	812-285-6264
Dustin White	Alpha Defense Attorney	dwhite@floydcounty.in.gov	
Mickey Weber	Charlie Defense Attorney	mweber@clarkcounty.in.gov	
Ed Davis	INNG Family Assistance Specialist/Veteran	Edward.w.davis60@army.mil	
Nick Mobley	Law Enforcement	NMobley@clarkcosheriff.com	

ALPHA 5 PHASE OVERVIEW

	T	T	T	
1	2	3	4	5
Acute Stabilization (60 days)	Clinical Stabilization (120 days)	Adaptive Habilitation (90-120 days)	Pro Social Habilitation (90-120 days)	Continuing Care (90-120 days)
Attend court bi-weekly	Attend court bi-weekly	Attend court monthly	Attend court monthly	Attend court monthly
Attend case management weekly with 3 home/employment visits Develop an individualized	Attend case management biweekly with 3 home/employment visits	Attend case management biweekly with 2	Attend case management monthly with 1 home/employment visit	Attend case management in person twice
case plan with your case manager (target areas and personal goals)	goals)	plan (target areas and personal goals)	plan (target areas and personal goals)	Update individualized case plan (target areas and personal goals)
Complete Carey Guides (Problem solving, overcoming family challenges, and involving families)	(Engaging prosocial others and substance abuse)	social thinking)	(Your guide to success and interpersonal goals)	
Engage with VJO/CMHP/VSO benefits and healthcare services	VJO/CMH/VSO as determined by treatment provider	determined by treatment provider	determined by treatment provider	Continue engagement with VJO/CMH/VSO as determined by treatment provider
Develop plan of MH/SA treatment and start attending		Continue plan of MH/SA treatment as determined by treatment provider	treatment as determined by treatment provider	Continue plan of MH/SA treatment as determined by treatment provider
Weekly drug screens (2 min.)		Weekly drug screens (2 min.)	Weekly drug screens (2 min.)	Weekly drug screens (2 min.)
your mentor/peer specialist – begin relapse prevention plan	mentor/peer specialist – complete relapse prevention plan	Continue regular contact with mentor/peer specialist – begin recovery plan	mentor/peer specialist – complete recovery plan	Continue regular contact with mentor/peer specialist – complete recovery plan
Engage in 5 weekly pro- recovery activities including mandatory peer support	recovery activities including mandatory peer support	group	recovery activities and serve as a team leader in mandatory peer support	Engage in 3 weekly pro-recovery activities
Prepare for step work (Obtain a sponsor, home group, read "Big Book"	group	Continue 12 step work with sponsor at home group or study group	Continue 12 step work with sponsor at home group or study group	Continue 12 step work with sponsor at home group or study group
Obtain stable and sober housing	Maintain stable and sober housing	Maintain stable and sober housing		Maintain stable and sober housing
Engage in vocational assessment	Obtain suitable employment or vocational training	Maintain suitable employment	Maintain suitable employment	Maintain suitable employment
Complete Military Family Relief Application Review driver's license status	Assessment			Review financial obligations are paid current
Obtain DD214 Form and record in the Recorder's Office		Complete the mid survey		Complete exit survey, essay, and interview
Submit treatment plan and all homework	Submit updated treatment plan and all homework	Submit an updated treatment plan and all homework	Submit an updated treatment plan and all homework	Submit an updated treatment plan and all homework
Complete 14 hours of community service work	Complete 12 hours of community service work	Complete 10 hours of community service	Complete 8 hours of community service	Complete 6 hours of community service
In order to advance: compliance with all phase requirements; Minimum of 30 days consecutive days with negative screens	compliance with all phase requirements; Minimum of 60 consecutive days of	compliance with all phase requirements; minimum 60 consecutive days of	compliance with all phase requirements; minimum 60 consecutive days of negative screens	In order to advance; compliance with all phase requirements (Minimum of 15 months) 60 consecutive days of negative screens. Graduation from Veterans Court requires compliance with case and treatment plan goals and all legal expectations

BRAVO 5 PHASE OVERVIEW

1	2	3	4	5
Acute Stabilization (60 days)	Clinical Stabilization (90-120 days)	Adaptive Habilitation (90 days)	Pro Social Habilitation (90 days)	Continuing Care (60-90 days)
Attend court bi-weekly	Attend court bi-weekly	Attend court monthly	Attend court monthly	Attend court monthly
weekly with 3	home/employment visits	home/employment visits	monthly with 1 home/employment visit	Attend case management in person twice Update individualized case plan
plan with your case manager (target areas and personal goals)	plan (target areas and personal goals)	plan (target areas and personal goals)	plan (target areas and personal goals)	(target areas and personal goals)
(Problem solving, overcoming family challenges, and involving families)	•	social thinking)	(Your guide to success and interpersonal goals)	
services	VJO/CMH/VSO as determined by treatment provider	determined by treatment provider	VJO/CMH/VSO as determined by treatment provider	Continue engagement with VJO/CMH/VSO as determined by treatment provider
treatment and start attending	treatment provider	treatment provider	treatment as determined by treatment provider	Continue plan of MH/SA treatment as determined by treatment provider
	Weekly drug screens (2 min.)	Weekly drug screens (2 min.)	Weekly drug screens (2 min.)	Weekly drug screens (2 min.)
	Continue regular contact with mentor/peer specialist – complete relapse prevention plan			Continue regular contact with mentor/peer specialist – complete recovery plan
recovery activities including mandatory peer support		recovery activities including mandatory peer support group	recovery activities and serve as a team leader in mandatory peer support	
(Obtain a sponsor, home group, read "Big Book"		study group	study group	Continue 12 step work with sponsor at home group or study group
housing	Maintain stable and sober housing	housing	housing	Maintain stable and sober housing
	Obtain suitable employment or vocational training	employment	employment	Maintain suitable employment
Complete Military Family Relief Application Review driver's license status	Address finances (Budget Assessment	Review financial obligations are paid current Update IRAS	Review financial obligations are paid current	Review financial obligations are paid current
Obtain DD214 Form and record in the Recorder's Office				Complete exit survey, essay, and interview
homework	Submit updated treatment plan and all homework	plan and all ĥomework	plan and all homework	Submit an updated treatment plan and all homework
Complete 12 hours of community service work	Complete 10 hours of community service work	Complete 8 hours of community service	Complete 6 hours of community service	
requirements; Minimum of 30 days consecutive	requirements; Minimum of 60 consecutive days of	requirements; minimum 60 consecutive days of	compliance with all phase requirements; minimum 60 consecutive days of negative screens	In order to advance; compliance with all phase requirements (Minimum of 13 months) 60 consecutive days of negative screens. Graduation from Veterans Court requires compliance with case and treatment plan goals and all legal expectations

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Relief Application Assessment paid current paid current paid current	assessment	or vocational training			Maintain suitable employment
IKEVIEW OFFICE STORMS I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I I	Relief Application		paid current		
Ā	Obtain DD214 Form and record in the Recorder's		Update IKAS		Complete exit survey, essay, and interview
all homework plan and all homework plan and all homework plan and all homework	all homework	plan and all homework	plan and all ĥomework	plan and all ĥomework	Submit an updated treatment plan and all homework
Complete 10 hours of community service work Complete 8 hours of community service work Complete 6 hours of community Service Complete 4 hours of community service Service					
phase requirements; Minimum of 30 days consecutive days with negative screens phase requirements; Minimum of 60 consecutive days of negative screens phase requirements; Minimum of 60 consecutive days of negative screens phase requirements; minimum 60 requirements; minimum 60 requirements (Minimum of oconsecutive days of negative screens graduation from Vete Court requires compliments (Minimum of oconsecutive days of negative screens) phase requirements; minimum 60 requirements; minimum 60 requirements (Minimum of oconsecutive days of negative screens) phase requirements; minimum 60 requirements; minimum 60 requirements (Minimum of oconsecutive days of negative screens) phase requirements; minimum 60 requirements (Minimum of oconsecutive days of negative screens) phase requirements; minimum 60 requirements; minimum 60 requirements (Minimum of oconsecutive days of negative screens)	compliance with all phase requirements; Minimum of 30 days consecutive days with	compliance with all phase requirements; Minimum of 60 consecutive days of	compliance with all phase requirements; minimum 60 consecutive days of negative	compliance with all phase requirements; minimum 60 consecutive days of negative screens	compliance with all phase requirements (Minimum of 11 months) 60 consecutive days of negative screens. Graduation from Veterans Court requires compliance with case and treatment plan goals and all legal

What are pro-social activities?

A prosocial activity is any behavior intended to benefit yourself or another and which is positive, helpful and promotes social acceptance and understanding.



Cooking a new recipe for peers or family	Attend a self-improvement/empowerment class
Organize a game night	Meet with your peer support, self-help, or step-study group
Learn a new language of skill	Help move furniture for a vet or an elderly person
Journal	Go for a walk for 30 minutes with other vets
Clean or beautification of the community	Mow the grass for a neighbor
Complete a social skill-building program	Read a book from the library about how to be a good friend
Tell your story at a self-help meeting	Learn yoga, tai chi or other wellness activity
Interview for a job	Grow a garden for others (Liberty Place, HOPE SI, etc.)
Go to a sporting event	Go to a sober event (dance, cookout, camping trip)
Go to a festival	Enjoy a social activity with your child/children
Join your child's PTA	Donate to a charitable cause
Organize alumni activities	Medical/dental appointments
Obtain a driver's license	Go to a sober family function
Repair your credit	Organize a movie night with your peers
Go back to school	Engaging in creative arts, music, or theater

CASE PLAN GOAL VS TREATMENT PLAN

This program is about getting you healthy mentally and physically. A case management and clinical treatment plan break down the way this is done.

What is a Case Management Plan?

Your CM will interview you to assess your strengths and needs. You will also talk about your goals and identify what you want to accomplish. Some examples of individual goals may include, but are not limited to:

- Obtain Employment
- Maintain Court Approved Housing
- Improve Finances and Develop Budgeting Skills
- Develop Better Time Management Skills

Your answers will help the CM make a case plan. The plan is like a road map to guide you while you are in the program. Your case plans may change as you move along in the program.

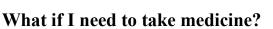
What are Clinical Treatment Plans and what does it usually look like?

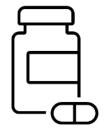
Treatment plans are developed by a therapist/clinician, with the assistance of the participant, after the participant completes an assessment with the behavioral health provider. Assessments help the therapist/clinician to determine the appropriate level of care for the participant. You could be referred to a community inpatient treatment program, recovery home, halfway house, sober living facility or other treatment-based housing facility. Some participants may need to complete an outpatient substance use disorder treatment program. It is different for everyone, but one thing is the same, no one is allowed to take drugs or use alcohol in this program. We will also collaborate with the therapist/clinician, discussing progress (such as attendance) with the participant, and helping to work through any barriers that may affect the participant and their participation/progress with treatment.

TRAVEL PASSES

While we want you to take an active role in your recovery and we also want you to engage in prosocial activities with your family and positive supports, you are required to stay within FLOYD, CLARK, and SCOTT counties in Indiana and JEFFERSON County in Kentucky. However, we understand that some events may take place outside of these restraints. Talk with your case manager. If you have a plan to attend a work, recovery, or family event within a 90 mile radius of your home, you can obtain approval from your case manager so long as you will not miss any aspect of the Veterans Court programming. If you will miss any part of the programming (screens, PSG, etc.) then you must use a travel pass in those instances. Your case manager also has the right to seek advice from the team prior to giving you a response.

MEDICATIONS





You are only allowed to take medicine that is prescribed to you by your doctor. You cannot take someone else's prescribed medication.

You also must:

- Tell your doctor about the program
- Tell your CM about any over-the-counter medicine you take (Medicine you buy at the store without a prescription)
- Tell your CM right away if your doctor prescribes you any new medicine
- Bring proof of any prescriptions to the next meeting with your CM
- You should ask for non-narcotic medication, whenever possible.

Once the prescription has expired or the time all pills should have been used by, none of the pills should remain in your possession. If you have a positive drug test after that time because you are taking left over medication, you will be in violation of the program rules.

WHAT IF I NEED MEDICINE FOR MY SUBASTANCE USE DISORDER?

Some people with an opioid use disorder may need certain medicines to treat their opioid use disorders. Some examples of these are Suboxone and Naltrexone. These medicines for opioid use disorders are sometimes referred to as Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT). They are allowed in Veterans Treatment Court only when:

- Prescribed by doctors with training in substance use disorders
- An approved part of your treatment plan

PROGRAM COSTS

Program participants may be assessed fees for services, including mental health services, health services, and monitoring services. Fees for these services are payable to the entity providing the service. Each participant is required to pay an initial program user fee in the amount of \$25.00. All participants are required to pay a monthly program user fee of \$25.00 while in the Veterans Court program. While there is a monthly fee requirement, there are no additional cost for drug testing. Participants must pay the user fee in full prior to successful discharge from the program. The Floyd County Clerk collects the problem-solving court user fees for Team Alpha. The Scott County Clerk collects the problem-solving court user fees for Team Bravo. The Clark County Clerk collects the problem-solving court user fees for Team Charlie. Receipts are issued to participants when payments are made. Incentives for good behaviors can be earned to reduce the program costs.

INCENTIVES

The team wants to encourage your success. Rewards in the program are called incentives. When rules are broken, there are consequences called sanctions. If you relapse or need additional treatment, you will be given a therapeutic adjustment. You will hear these terms a lot throughout the program. The team regularly discusses your progress, and the Judge makes the final decisions. The Judge will talk with you in court about your progress and about any issues or concerns. You can also respond and ask questions. Before any incentive, sanction or therapeutic adjustment are given, the court will explain what is happening and will be fair and transparent.



WHAT ARE SOME EXAMPLES OF INCENTIVES?

ŊŸŊ	Verbal Praise from Judge and the team
	Small tangible rewards (Candy, hygiene products, etc.)
000	Court Cash to spend in the court store
	Travel Pass
+	Phase up

THERAPUETIC ADJUSTMENTS

Therapeutic adjustments, which are neither incentives nor sanctions, are changes to participants' current treatment plan, complementary services, or recovery management activities. Some examples include:

- Recovery related writing or journal assignments
- Increased level of outpatient treatment
- Increased attendance at support groups
- Individualized treatment plan adjustments
 - Trauma-based services
 - o Anger management

These treatment related responses are designed to address issues the present barriers to a participant's recovery process and enhance their overall treatment experience.

WHAT IS AGAINST THE RULES?

The program has many rules you will need to follow to be successful. Here are some examples of actions that break the rules of the program.

	 Getting arrested or getting a new criminal charge. Acting violently or threatening violence toward anyone associated with the program Traveling outside jurisdiction without permission
LEGAL	 Missing a court status hearing or case management meeting Not following directions from the team Not telling your case manager about an address change or job change
HEALTH	 Having a positive drug/alcohol test Not providing a urine or saliva sample Changing or altering a urine sample Missing a treatment session Taking medicine not prescribed to you Noncompliance with your treatment plan
GOALS	 Not attending sober support group meetings or finding a sponsor Failure to maintain stable and sober housing Failure to keep a job

What are examples of sanctions (or consequences)?

When a Judge gives a sanction, they aim to be fair. They will consider the current behavior or violation. They will review how you handled any past sanction(s). They want you to be successful. If you are given a sanction, use this time as a chance to reflect. Here are common examples of what might happen:

Essay
Community Service
Roundtable
Increased Supervision
Short Jail Sanction/Electronic Monitoring

VETERANS COURT RULES

- 1. You must attend all Veterans Court sessions. Failure to appear in at a court hearing may result in the court issuing a body attachment for your arrest.
- 2. You must abstain from all drugs and alcohol. You may not enter any bars, taverns, liquor stores, or establishments whose primary function is the selling or promotion of alcohol. If you are unsure if you may enter an establishment, check with a Veterans Court team member.
- 3. You must be on time and prepared to submit a specimen under direct observation for random drug screening.
- 4. If you are prescribed pain or mood-altering medication becomes necessary, you should obtain the prescription in coordination with your prescribing doctor. Refer to the Medication section of this handbook for detailed instructions.
- 5. You will complete an Indiana Risk Assessment (IRAS) when you start Veterans Court and every 6 months thereafter. You will complete any other substance and mental health assessments and screening tools. You will follow through with all treatment recommendations and you will actively participate in and comply with your individualized treatment plan.
- 6. You will keep and attend all scheduled appointments. You will sign any necessary releases for the sharing of information among agency partners in Veterans Court.
- 7. You will not associate with people who use, possess, or sell drugs and/or alcohol.
- 8. You will not reside with or borrow money from any other Veterans Court participant.
- 9. You will obey the law and not commit a criminal offense.
- 10. You will not purchase, own, or have in your possession a firearm or any other weapon while in the Veterans Court program. You will disclose the presence of any weapon possessed by anyone in your household.
- 11. You will keep the Veterans Court team members, treatment provider, and other supports informed of your current home, employment address and phone numbers at all times. You agree to allow the Veteran Court team members in your home and to verify your employment status.
- 12. You shall maintain consistent contact with your case manager, returning phone calls and attending scheduled case management meetings.
- 13. You will speak with your case manager to obtain permission prior to making travel arrangements outside of the service area (Clark, Floyd, Scott Counties in Indiana and Jefferson County in Kentucky).
- 14. You will maintain safe, stable housing and comply with the rules of that housing.
- 15. You must find employment that will work around the court schedule.
- 16. You must dress appropriately for court and all other Veterans Court-related activities.
- 17. You are expected to pay all fees unless otherwise determined by the Judge.

PEER MENTORING

While in the program, you will receive direct support from mentors who, like you, are veterans or individuals in recovery. Mentors provide valuable support by providing guidance, coaching, wisdom, and sharing personal experiences. Our mentors come from a variety of backgrounds, military and civilian service experience. They all share one thing in common – they have



all demonstrated a commitment to helping our veterans. Your mentor will interact with you as a peer rather than an authority figure. Your mentor is not a treatment provider or a sponsor. Mentors do not supervise you. The goal is to support you by listening to your concerns, sharing feedback and providing nonjudgmental support. What you share with your mentor is confidential. With mentor support, your chance of success greatly increases.

PEER MENTOR CONTACT LIST

Ed Davis	US Army ING Family Assistance	Edward.w.davis60.civ@army.mil	(317) 517-1836
Steve Mennemeyer	US Army Liberty Place and PSG	steven.mennemeyer@att.net	(502) 551-7924
Doc Gahafer	Honorary and PSG	Doc669@att.net	(502) 689-6398
Ted Parero	US Air Force VA Furniture Donation Service	tedparero@gmail.com	(812) 987-6393
Tim Naville	US Navy, Retired attorney	timnaville@gmail.com	(502) 645-9681
Bob Johnson	US Army	Bobbyj928@gmail.com	(502) 648-9037
John Cardwell	US Navy VCSI Graduate	Cj5578517@gmail.com	(502) 888-6832
Troy Stumler	US Navy VCSI Graduate	Troy814@yahoo.com	(502) 888-6832
Aaron Hill	US Navy Floyd Veteran Service Office	Chillaaron21@gmail.com	(850) 291-8209
Tommy Burrell	US Army VCSI Graduate	Tb108412@gmail.com	(502) 302-2300
Matthew Quire	USCM VCSI Graduate		(502)619-8901

Termination

Individuals determined to be non-compliant with the program expectations may be set for a termination hearing. Hon. Bradley Jacobs, Clark Circuit 2 serves as the Judge pro tem assigned to preside over termination hearings as necessary. He does not participate in team meetings or status hearings but maintains a neutral, unbiased role and schedules termination hearings at the earliest opportunity. The hearing occurs in the presence of participants for that court session. The participant will have legal representation. The court will follow the rules of evidence and due process appropriate for probation revocation hearings for all participants. If terminated, the participant is immediately tried on stipulated evidence and sentenced. Any Veterans Court fees paid prior to withdrawal or termination are forfeited and will not be credited towards any legal financial obligations imposed by the conviction.

Participants terminated from the program during the community transition program period will be returned to the Department of Correction following a hearing. Participants terminated from the program while on probation will be referred to the sentencing court for final disposition if the case originated outside of Floyd, Clark or Scott Counties.

Any violation of Veterans Court rules may result in the imposition of any of the penalties described in the sanction schedule or in termination from the program. If the participant is formally charged with committing a crime while participating in Veterans Court, (s)he may be immediately terminated from the program. Participants with a non-suspendible sentence terminated from the program shall serve the non-suspendible portion of their sentence.

Participants terminated from the program while on Community Corrections will be subject to revocation of their remaining sentences, as determined by the Court or as set forth in the plea or admission agreement. Participants terminated from the program while sentenced to suspended time without probation after a misdemeanor conviction will be sentenced by the Court per hearing or as set forth in the plea agreement.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Participants are eligible for successful discharge from the program when they have completed all of the expectations established by the participation agreement, case management plan and other court-ordered activities. In order to graduate, the Veterans Court team must authorize the participants' graduation, and the participant must have met each of the following criteria:

- 1. Participant will have been in the program for a minimum of 11 months up to a maximum of 24 months.
- 2. Participant must have successfully completed Phase 5.
- 3. Participant must have completed all treatment.
- 4. Participant must have community service hours completed.
- 5. Participant must have completed all sanctions involving affirmative conduct from previous violations.
- 6. Participant must complete a detailed written plan of his or her strategies to remain healthy, and sober following the outline that is provided to them.
- 7. Participant must be employed and have all Veterans Court fees, and restitution paid in full.

Once you have completed all the requirements of the 5 phases of Veterans Court, you will have successfully completed the program. The Judge, after review and consideration of the team, will decide if you are ready to graduate. Not later than one month prior to graduation, each graduate is responsible to prepare an exit essay and graduation speech that is reviewed by the team. Each graduate will also need to complete an exit survey which will be turned into the program coordinator. Your graduation from Veterans Court is a time to celebrate your transition to a healthy lifestyle and recognize your hard work and accomplishments. Your recovery and sobriety are lifelong commitments. You will be encouraged to maintain relationships with other participants, the team, and the recovery network you have built for yourself. You will be encouraged to maintain positive relationships, your relapse prevention plan, and socialize in a sober and healthy environment. Graduations are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm. Graduations are held at Liberty Place located at 2633 Grant Line Road in New Albany.



TRIGGERS AND RISKS

Relapse may be triggered by:

- Hanging around people using/drinking
- Money in your pocket
- Complacency
- Arguments with loved ones
- Bad luck, disappointments
- Good luck, celebration events, holidays
- Medicine, even prescriptions

The Veterans Court's goal is to help you positively change behaviors in order to lead a productive, law-abiding civilian life free from substance abuse and dependence. Veterans Court expects you to abstain from using addictive substances: alcohol, cannabinoids, opioids, fentanyl, stimulants, club drugs, dissociative drugs, hallucinogens, designer drugs, synthetic drugs, and inhalants. Veterans Court recognizes that your provider may prescribe mind-altering, mood changing, or habit-forming substances for mental health purposes such as anxiety, depression, and insomnia. However, it is often difficult to determine whether someone is using a substance for treatment of a diagnosed issue or as a means of getting high. It is important that you examine your motives when taking/using any substance and discuss this regularly with your substance abuse counselor and your prescribing doctor.

It is also important to keep in mind that the use of many substances can make it more difficult for you and your brain to recover and can also trigger relapses. Some of these include non-alcoholic beverages (i.e. O'Doul's, Sharps), caffeine, nicotine, energy drinks/supplements, workout supplements (e.g. herbal, pre workout, protein, creatinine, etc.), diet pills, cough syrups, antihistamines, decongestants, and excessive candy/sugar. Hygiene products could result in a positive test and some examples include mouthwash, breath strips, and excessive use of hand sanitizer, aftershaves, colognes, hairspray, astringents, and bug sprays. Many solvents, lacquers, and surface preparation products used at home, in construction, and certain industries contain ethyl alcohol. If you are unable to avoid contact with these products at work, you should discuss this with your case manager. There are numerous products that could result in a positive screen. Some of these include

fermented products (e.g. Kombucha), flavoring extracts (e.g. vanilla or almond), and liquid herbal extracts (e.g. Gingko Biloba). Veterans Court does not ban or monitor these substances. The team may ask you about your use of these substances and your motives for using these substances. Your treatment team may encourage you to discontinue use.

Appendix A:

Advice from Veteran Graduates

My biggest and most mentionable accomplishment would be my sobriety date, June 19th, 2018. I've worked the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. I've had the same job for over a year now. I've learned to stand on my own two feet again and I am actually proud of who I am today. My best advice would be to trust. Trust that they want the best for you. Trust that they really care about you and trust that they want you to succeed.

Justin 2020 Graduate

My advice to the active participants is to open your heart to the Veterans Court team and allow them to give you the tools to successfully accomplish goals, as well as a sober lifestyle. Vet Court has returned me to my glory and made me a productive member of society.

De'Von 2021 Graduate

To the Veterans in the early phases of the program: forget trying to outsmart the team, forget trying to beat the system, forget any shades or degrees of lying. There's very little this team hasn't seen before, and you can't make progress and benefit from this program if you aren't honest. Be sincere, be open, and be truthful. Accept that your recovery and this program come first. If you're smarter than I am, you won't want to wait months to let that sink in. Your experience through this program will be a lot smoother and you'll get a lot more out of it, if you're not wasting time and energy working on sanctions.

Brian 2021 Graduate

Stay the course everyone. Trust in God and trust the program. Today I am a new man. Actually, I feel whole again. My family doesn't have to worry which dad or husband I'm going to be when they come through the door. Graduation seems like an ending, but for me the journey has only begun.

Gary 2021 Graduate

My advice to those starting out in Veterans Court would be to assume that everyone involved has your best interest at heart, even though it may not seem possible at times. There is some tough love applied as needed. As hard as it may be, don't take it personal. Take it as a sign that you need to make some adjustments and do what is expected of you. If/when you do, you'll learn that it doesn't have to be a struggle. It's up to you. I had a rough start, but it got much easier when I recognized I did have a problem with addiction and the court team really did want me to succeed. I now have an established support group to lean on, realistic goals to achieve, and the tools I need to maintain sobriety.

J. Brian 2021 Graduate

One piece of advice I got from my mentor was, "Your mind is like a parachute. It works better when it's open." That really stuck with me. Veterans Court is a leap of faith. As long as you stay open-minded to what everyone is saying, you'll land safely.

Andrew 2021 Graduate

Appendix B:

Additional Contacts

Chief of Mental Health Robley Rex VAMC Louisville, KY 502-287-4000 800-376-8387	Hope Southern Indiana Brown-Starks Neighborhood Place 1200 Bono Road New Albany, IN 47150 812-948-9248		
New Albany VA Clinic 4347 Security Parkway New Albany, IN 47150 502-287-4100	Liberty Place 2633 Grant Line Road New Albany, IN 47150 812-948-6868		
Lifespring Mental Health Services 1036 Sharon Drive Jeffersonville, IN 47130 1-800-456-2117	Serenity House 200 Homestead Ave. Clarksville, IN 47130 (812) 283-9407		
Lifespring Mental Health Floyd County Office 2820 Grant Line Road #10 812-981-2594	Elevated Recovery 1049 Main Street Jeffersonville, IN 47130 (502) 295-1659		
Centerstone 1092 West Community Way Scottsburg, IN 47170 812-414-1520	The Breakaway 1514 E Spring St New Albany, IN 47150cm (812) 941-4177		
Wellstone Regional Hospital 2700 Vissing Park Drive Jeffersonville, IN 47130 812-284-8000 or 877. 999.WELL	House of New Beginnings 545 Floyd Street Corydon, IN 47112 (812) 738-3179		
Truhealing 202 East Maple Street Jeffersonville, IN 47130 (855) 653-1459	Genesis House 500 N Capitol Avenue Corydon, IN 47112 (812) 705-3519		
Hickory Treatment Center 315 Country Club Road Corydon, IN 47112 (812) 720-3787	Sunrise Recovery 1610 Blackiston View Drive Clarksville, IN 47129 (877) 978-6747		
Avenues Recovery Center 4601 Medical Plaza Way Clarksville, IN 47129 (930) 203-1000	New Albany Township Trustee David Brewer 2608 Charlestown Road New Albany, IN 47150 (502) 305-6290		
Norton Clark Behavioral Health 1220 Missouri Ave. Jeffersonville, IN 47130 812-283-2718			
Alcoholics Anonymous, Central Office 502-582-1849	Narcotics Anonymous 24 Hour Helpline, 502-499-4423		

Appendix C:

VETERANS COURT OF SOUTHERN INDIANA

Travel Request

Name:
Phone Number(s):
Dates of Travel: to
Where do you plan to travel?
Reason for travel?
Who do you plan to travel with?
How will this impact your participation in Veterans Court)?
What steps have you taken, and will you take while out of town, to make sure that you are in compliance with all court rules?
I submit the following action plan to address any occurrences or triggers that could jeopardize my sobriety: These are examples: 1. Call my sponsor
Signature of participant Date

STATE COLUMN TO THE STATE OF TH

Appendix D:

PHASE RESPONSIBILITY CONTRACT- PHASE 1

Minimum 60 days: Acute Stabilization

In order to advance to Phase 2, I understand and acknowledge that I must comply with all requirements of my current phase during a minimum of 60 days and have 30 consecutive days of negative screens.

I will attend status hearings biweekly.
I will attend case management meetings biweekly and home/employment visits.
I will develop my individualized case plan with target areas, personal goals and attainable timelines.
I will complete Carey Bits or Guides as indicated in my handbook.
I will engage with benefits and healthcare service (VJO, VSO, CMHP).
I will develop a plan of mental health and/or substance abuse treatment with my provider and start attending.
I will submit random drug testing twice weekly at a minimum.
I will establish regular contact with our mentors and peer support specialist.
I will engage in $3/4/5$ (please circle one) weekly prosocial activities, including mandatory peer support group.
I will prepare for step work (i.e.), obtain a sponsor, home or study group and read the Big Book.
I will obtain stable and sober housing.
I will engage in a vocational assessment.
I will complete the Military Family Relief application.
I will review driver's license status.
I will obtain my DD Form 214 and record it in the county recorder's office.
I will submit my treatment plan and all homework timely.
I will complete hours of service work.
Participant signature Date acknowledged Date completed



PHASE RESPONSIBILITY CONTRACT -- PHASE 2

Minimum 60- 120 days: Clinical Stabilization

In order to advance to Phase 3, I understand and acknowledge that I must comply with all requirements of my current phase during a minimum of 90-120 days and have 60 consecutive days of negative screens.

I will attend status hearings biweekly.
I will attend case management meetings biweekly and home/employment visits.
I will update my individualized case plan with target areas, personal goals and attainable timelines.
I will complete Carey Bits or Guides as indicated in my handbook.
I will continue engagement with benefits and healthcare service (VJO, VSO, CMHP).
I will continue with my plan of mental health and/or substance abuse treatment as determined by my provider.
I will submit random drug testing twice weekly at a minimum.
I will continue regular contact with our mentors and peer support specialist.
I will engage in $3/4/5$ (please circle) weekly prosocial activities, including mandatory peer support group.
I will begin 12-step work with sponsor and home-group or study group.
I will maintain stable and sober housing.
I will obtain suitable employment.
I will submit my updated treatment plan and all homework timely.
I will address my financial obligations and complete a budget assessment.
I will complete hours of service work.
Participant signature Date acknowledged Date completed



I will attend status hearings biweekly

PHASE RESPONSIBILITY CONTRACT-PHASE 3

Minimum 90-120 days: Adaptive Habilitation

monthly. (Circle which applies.)

In order to advance to Phase 4, I understand and acknowledge that I must comply with all requirements of my current phase during a minimum of 90-120 days and have 60 consecutive days of negative screens.

	pant signature Date acknowledged Date completed
	will complete riours of service work. will complete and update Indiana Risk Assessment (IRAS).
	will complete hours of service work.
L	will review all financial obligations are paid current.
L	will submit my updated treatment plan and all homework timely.
L	will maintain suitable employment.
I	will maintain stable and sober housing.
L	will continue 12-step work with sponsor and home-group or study group.
Lv	will engage in 2/3/4 weekly prosocial activities, including mandatory peer support group.
L	will continue regular contact with our mentors and peer support specialist.
L	will submit random drug testing twice weekly at a minimum.
	will continue with my plan of mental health and/or substance abuse treatment as determined by provider.
	will continue engagement with benefits and healthcare service (VJO, VSO, CMHP).
	will complete Carey Bits or Guides as indicated in my handbook.
١١	will update my individualized case plan with target areas, personal goals and attainable timelines
	ome/employment visits.
	will attend case management meetings biweekly monthly, (circle which applies), and



I will attend status hearings biweekly

PHASE RESPONSIBILITY CONTRACT - PHASE 4

Minimum 60-120 days: Pro-Social Habilitation

In order to advance to Phase 5, I understand and acknowledge that I must comply with all requirements of my current phase during a minimum of 60-90 days and have 60 consecutive days of negative screens.

monthly. (Circle which applies.)

I will attend case management meetings	in person	by phone,	biweekly	monthly, (circle	
which applies), and home/employme	ent visits.				
I will update my individualized case plan with target areas, personal goals and attainable timelines.					
I will complete Carey Bits or Guides as indicated in my handbook.					
I will continue engagement with benefits and healthcare service (VJO, VSO, CMHP).					
I will continue with my plan of mental he my provider.	alth and/or	substance ab	use treatmer	nt as determined by	
I will submit random drug testing twice w	veekly at a r	ninimum.			
I will continue regular contact with our m	nentors and	peer support	specialist.		
I will engage in 2/3/4 (please circle) w mandatory peer support group.	eekly proso	cial activities,	including se	rving as team lead in	
I will continue 12-step work with a spons	or and hom	egroup or stu	dy group.		
I will maintain stable and sober housing.					
I will maintain suitable employment.					
I will submit my updated treatment plan and all homework timely.					
I will review all financial obligations are paid current.					
I will complete hours of service wor	·k.				
Participant signature	Date ack	nowledged	Date comp	leted	



PHASE RESPONSIBILITY CONTRACT - PHASE 5

Minimum 60-120 days: Continuing Care

In order to advance to graduation, I understand and acknowledge that I must comply with all

 ticipant signature — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
I will complete my exit survey, essay and interview.
I will review all financial obligations are paid current.
I will submit my updated treatment plan and all homework timely.
I will maintain suitable employment.
I will maintain stable and sober housing.
I will continue 12-step work with a sponsor and home-group or study group.
I will engage in 1 / 2 / 3 (please circle one) weekly prosocial activities.
I will continue regular contact with our mentors and peer support specialist.
I will submit random drug testing twice weekly at a minimum.
I will continue with my plan of mental health and/or substance abuse treatment as determined by my provider.
I will continue engagement with benefits and healthcare service (VJO, VSO, CMHP).
I will update my individualized case plan with target areas, personal goals and attainable timelines.
month.
I will attend case management meetings in person by phone, (circle which applies), twice per
I will attend status hearings once or twice (please circle which applies) per month.
requirements of my current phase during a minimum of 60-90 days, have 60 consecutive days of negative screens, and the presiding Judge must approve.

My signature below indicates that I have received a cop Southern Indiana Handbook. The Veterans Court of So or Probation officer has reviewed its contents with me. provided in this handbook and I have had an opportunit program. I agree to comply with the Veterans Court of requirements.	outhern Indiana Coordinator I understand the information ty to ask questions about the
Signature of Participant	Date
Printed Name of Participant	Date