What is Veterans Court?

Veterans Court is a collaboration of numerous agencies: the Court, the VA, the Public Defender's Office, the Prosecutor's office, the Probation Department, Community Corrections, and many other community partners. Through collaboration, the various agencies have established a program in which a Veteran's needs are better met through treatment intervention rather than incarceration.

Assisting the court is a team of volunteer veteran, active duty, and guard/reserve mentors. The mentor is critical to the success of this program and fosters a "can do" attitude in the veteran, and establishes that the veteran is not alone.

Mission Statement

The mission of Vigo County Veterans Treatment Court is to provide an inter-agency, collaborative, non-adversarial program for Veterans facing criminal charges and suffering from PTSD or other psychological and/or substance abuse problems.

Admission Criteria

Veteran defendants facing non-violent misdemeanor and felony charges who need substance abuse and/or mental health treatment can apply.

Goals of the Veterans Court

* Reduce inappropriate behavior and recidivism through the prompt placement into the court
* Promote public safety and Veterans' due process rights
* Promote acceptance of personal responsibility and accountability
* Provide substance abuse, alcohol and mental health treatment.
* Residential, Outpatient, and Inpatient treatment
* Academic and vocational skills improvement
* Job placement and retention
* VA Care
* Other treatment as needed

How Often is Veterans Court

The Veterans Treatment Court will be convened the second and fourth Fridays of the month at 1:15 p.m. in the Vigo Superior Court Division 1 Courtroom.

What are the 10 Key Components to Veterans Court?

1. Veterans Court integrates treatment services for issues, such as mental, alcohol and other drug treatment services, with justice system case processing.

2. Using a non-adversarial approach promoting public safety, while protecting he participant's due process rights.

3. Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the Veterans Court program.

4. Veterans Court provides access to a continuum mental, alcohol, and drug treatment and rehabilitation services.

5. Abstinence from alcohol and other drugs is monitored by frequent testing.

6. A coordinated strategy governs Veterans Court responses to participants' compliance.

7. Ongoing judicial interaction with each Veterans Court participant is essential.

8. Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.

9. Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Veterans Court planning, implementation and operations.

10. Forging partnerships among Veterans Court, public agencies and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances Veterans Court effectiveness.

Vigo County Veterans Treatment Court

Established 2016

Certified Indiana Problem-Solving Court

Hon. John T. Roach
Presiding Judge