

PROCESS

Applications for admission must be submitted to the Veterans Court Administrator by the defense attorney representing the veteran.

Once a referral is received, the Veteran's Court Manager will screen the applicant for eligibility, schedule the veteran for assessment and staff the case with the County Attorney's Office.

If the veteran meets the program criteria and is accepted into the program, their case is transferred to the Veterans Court docket in CC#4.

A Strategic Action Plan (SAP) will be developed by the program manager and the veteran will be provided with referrals for services needed to begin implementation of the SAP.

The veteran will be scheduled for a series of court appearances to monitor and reinforce their progress toward meeting the objectives of their SAP. Once the objectives have been successfully met, the case will be dismissed.



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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Veterans' Assistance*



Travis County Veterans Court Program

*Honorable Michael Denton,
Presiding Judge*



**Supporting Those Who
Have Served Us**

OVERVIEW

The Travis County Veterans Court Program is a diversion program for veterans who are charged with offenses that may be related to Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) or other mental health issues related to their military service. Participants in this program will be assessed for a number of factors, such as chemical dependency, mental health and other issues that can be addressed through treatment and supportive services. The Veterans Court Program may also assist participating veterans with obtaining employment, education, health and housing services. Additionally, the program offers veterans an opportunity to avoid prosecution and a criminal conviction.

MISSION

The mission of the Travis County Veterans Court is to enhance public safety by meeting the treatment needs of Veterans who are experiencing military-related mental health issues in a judicially supervised environment.

VETERANS COURT APPROACH

The Veterans Court Program utilizes a non-adversarial approach in which a team that includes the judge, the defense attorney, the prosecutor, the Program Administrator, Caseworker and a Veteran's Justice Outreach Specialist (VJOS) work together with the veteran to guide him/her toward successfully attaining goals. This approach has proven to be significantly more effective in meeting needs and reducing recidivism than those taken by more traditional courts.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

1. Veteran or current member of the United States Armed Forces, including a member of the Reserves, National Guard, State Guard or Coast Guard.
2. A clinical diagnosis* of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, or a mental health condition, such as anxiety, depression, etc., that resulted from military service in a combat zone or other similar hazardous duty area and materially affected the veteran's criminal conduct for which they are being charged.

* Referrals for assessment will be made upon receiving the application.