

5th Judicial Circuit Court
Vermilion County
Veterans Court Handbook



It is the mission of the Vermilion County Veterans Court to enhance public safety and reduce recidivism. This is accomplished by diverting people with substance abuse and/or behavioral health disorders, who are also veterans eligible for health care, charged with a criminal offense from the Criminal Justice System to Veterans Court for appropriate treatment and enhanced access to support services. In so doing, the individual's quality of life will be greatly enhanced. Increased public safety will be afforded to the citizens of Vermilion County and a substantial cost savings will be realized as there will no longer be inappropriate involvement of persons with substance abuse and/or behavioral health disorders in the criminal justice system

Introduction

Welcome to the Vermilion County Veterans Court Program. This handbook is very important to your participation in the Veterans Court Program. *You must follow the rules and expectations in this manual as well as orders of the Judge in order to maintain compliance.* If you do not follow these rules, you may be subject to sanctions; including, but not limited to, dismissal from the program or incarceration in the Vermilion County Public Safety Building.

The purpose of this handbook is to provide you with general program related information and outline your expectations while in the Veterans Court program. If you have questions about this, or any other part of the Veterans Court program, please contact the Veterans Court Coordinator. The Coordinator will do his/her best to answer your questions and help to eliminate anything in the way of your success.

Veterans Court Program Description

The Veterans Court Program is only for Veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States as defined by federal law. The Veterans Court Program serves people who are suffering from serious, treatable mental health issues and/or substance abuse issues as defined below and who are currently involved in the criminal justice system of Vermilion County. The Veterans Court Program may involve the suspension of charges or a plea agreement involving Veterans Court as a condition of probation. You are required to participate in treatment, as well as judicial supervision. The program is divided into four (4) phases and those who successfully complete the program may have their probation period reduced. The Veterans Court Program is voluntary, and you can decide not to be involved at any time. However, if you choose to quit (or obtains a sanctioned dismissal), the traditional Court process will resume. If your case is still pre-trial, the case will proceed to trial or plea. If your case is post-sentence, the case may be referred for a petition to revoke probation.

While in the program, you are required to receive ongoing substance abuse treatment and/or mental health treatment along with regular supervision from the Court and Veterans Court team. The Veterans Court holds you accountable and assists you to achieve long-term stability, become law-abiding citizens, and become successful family/community members. Court Supervision will be conducted by way of in person and/or virtual office contacts, scheduled and/or unscheduled contacts to your residence, phone contacts, virtual contacts, communication with the treatment provider, workplace, etc. Supervision will be performed by the Probation Officer. While in the Veterans Court Program you must abide by all the conditions and rules of the Vermilion County Court. A private attorney or Public Defender will continue to represent you and your legal interests throughout participation in the Veterans Court program.

Eligibility Criteria, Exclusionary Criteria and Statement of Non-Discrimination

Eligibility Criteria

The Veterans Court target population is adult men and women who have a pending felony or misdemeanor case(s); or have been found guilty of; or have pled guilty to felony or misdemeanor cases. To be eligible for Veterans Court, you must be a Veteran eligible for health care benefits; your case must be probationable at the time of your application; you must be assessed by the Problem Solving Courts Probation Team and the Veterans Court Justice Outreach Coordinator; be determined to be moderate to high likelihood to commit new offenses or violate the terms of supervision; and have moderate to high substance abuse and/or mental health treatment needs using evidence-based screening and assessment tools (score sheets filled out by the Problem Solving Courts Probation Team after meeting with the you for the initial Veterans Court interview); reside in Vermilion County at the time of your application (and during the course of your participation in the Veterans Court Program); be willing to voluntarily sign the Consent to Participate in the Veterans Court program; and be willing to participate in and comply with the treatment and supervision requirements of Veterans Court.

Exclusionary Criteria

Individuals who have been convicted of the following crimes within the past 10 years are excluded from eligibility (automatically denied access to the program): first degree murder; second degree murder; predatory criminal sexual assault of a child; aggravated criminal sexual assault; criminal sexual assault; armed robbery; aggravated arson; arson; aggravated kidnapping; kidnapping; aggravated battery resulting in great bodily harm or permanent disability; stalking; aggravated stalking; and any offense involving the discharge of a firearm. If you are currently charged with those offenses or any offense that is non-probationable where the prosecutor is unwilling to amend to a probationable offense are also excluded from eligibility. At this point, the referral process would immediately stop.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

It is policy and practice of Veterans Court to conduct all aspects of the program without discrimination on the basis of gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, limited English proficiency, disability, socio-economic status, or sexual orientation. If English is not your primary language, interpreters will be made available.

Specific to this program, enhanced case management and treatment services have been designed to address your individual care needs. Program progress will be conveyed to the Veterans Court Team by the treatment providers in a timely manner to allow the Veterans Court Team to make modifications where necessary. All community-based providers collaborating on this project have demonstrated knowledge in cultural-specific issues and have familiarity with the needs of offender populations and gender-and age-relevant treatment and recovery supports.

Veterans Court Team Members

The Veterans Court Team consists of a dedicated Judge, the Problem-Solving Court Coordinator, a dedicated Prosecutor, a dedicated Public Defender, a dedicated Probation Officer, a clinical assessor, treatment providers, and at times private counsel. The Veterans Court Team will complete 10 hours of training per year, with 4 hours to be conducted in a Veterans Court Team environment. Team member descriptions and responsibilities are set forth as follows.

Judge

The Veterans Court Judge serves as the leader of the Veterans Court Team and presides at all Veterans Court Team staffings and sessions. The Veterans Court Judge is the member of the team responsible for setting the tone and environment for Veterans Court and must provide leadership, authority, and management skills to enable Veterans Court to operate effectively. The Veterans Court Judge is responsible for making the final eligibility decision. It is the Veterans Court Judge's responsibility to ensure that you understand the requirements of Veterans Court, including those set forth in the Consent to Participate prior to signing the Consent to Participate, and that you are competent and entering the program voluntarily. The Judge will have you sign the Consent to Participate in Veterans Court at your initial Veterans Court hearing. To carry out his/her duties, the Veterans Court Judge must participate in all team staffings and shall consider input from the other team members in evaluating a response to your compliance or non-compliance with supervision and treatment requirements. This participation is permissible pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 63. While the Veterans Court Judge must consider the input from all of the members of the team, it is his/her final responsibility to determine what response is appropriate for you. In Court, it is the Veterans Court Judge who presents you with the team's staffing decisions and allows you to address the response(s) with the Court. These response(s) are designed to encourage or reinforce your progress, or to discourage and deter your non-compliance. The Judge administers incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments per *Illinois Standards 8.3*. The Veterans Court Judge shall ensure that Veterans Court response(s) to your behavior are predictable, fair, consistent, unbiased, and that you are treated with respect and given the opportunity to be heard. The Judge has the ultimate final decision in the Veterans Court program.

Problem-Solving Courts Probation Team

The Problem-Solving Court Probation Team is responsible for overseeing the Veterans Court Program under the direct supervision of the Veterans Court Judge, but also at the direction of the Chief Judge. The Problem-Solving Court Probation Team advocates for incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments as per *Illinois Standards 8.3*. The Veterans Court Probation Team is required to attend all staffings and Veterans Court proceedings. The Problem-Solving Court Probation Team is divided into three parts, including:

Problem-Solving Courts Coordinator

The Problem-Solving Coordinator oversees the day-to-day operations of Veterans Court and Problem-Solving Courts administration responsibilities for Veterans Court. Those responsibilities include: monitoring the referral and intake processes to ensure the early identification and enrollment of Veterans Court candidates; supervision of the collection and reporting of Veterans Court data; community education and public relations; and coordinating continuing education opportunities for the Veterans Court team. The Problem-Solving Courts Coordinator acts as the central contact for any questions. The Problem-Solving Courts Coordinator is also responsible for tracking all statistical data. The Problem-Solving Courts Coordinator will receive the application for Veterans Court, refer your case to the appropriate treatment provider for a substance abuse evaluation and/or a mental health evaluation, and provide your application to the Problem-Solving Courts Assessor for preparation of a report to the Veterans Court Team.

The Problem-Solving Court Probation Team is responsible for collecting records and ensuring a copy of the records and reports are provided to all of the team members and participants of the staffing of the referred case with the Veterans Court team to determine eligibility, acceptance, and entry into the Veterans Court Program. The Problem-Solving Courts Coordinator advocates for incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments as per *Illinois Standards* 8.3. The Problem-Solving Courts Coordinator is required to attend all staffings and Veterans Court proceedings.

Problem-Solving Courts Probation Assessor

The Problem-Solving Courts Assessor will interview you the day of the referral if time allows or will schedule an appointment with you for the assessment interview or meet with you at the jail. At that time, a copy of the Veterans Court Handbook will be provided to you and the Problem-Solving Courts Probation Assessor will have you sign any necessary releases to obtain information needed for the preparation of a report for the Veterans Court team to review. The Problem-Solving Court Probation Assessor will conduct a criminal history report for the Veterans Court team and ensure all members received a copy of the report for staffing. The Problem-Solving Court Probation Assessor is responsible for collecting records, providing a copy to all of the team members, and staffing the referred case with the Veterans Court team to determine eligibility, acceptance, and entry into the Veterans Court Program.

Problem-Solving Courts Probation Officer

The Veterans Court Probation Officer is primarily responsible for overseeing your compliance with the requirements of Veterans Court supervision and treatment through frequent contact with you and treatment providers, participation in team staffings, and Court status hearings. The Vermilion County Probation Department is responsible for the community-based supervision of individuals in the criminal justice system who are on pre-trial conditions of bond or who has been sentenced to court supervision, conditional discharge, or Probation. The Veterans Court Probation Officer has a more integrated working relationship with treatment providers than that of the traditional Probation Officer and provides assistance to you and the team, as needed. The Veterans Court Probation Officer makes treatment referrals, explains the terms of Veterans Court Probation (including drug testing protocols), conducts home visits, and makes other referrals, as

needed. The Veterans Court Probation Officer is responsible for providing supervision and monitoring cases in accordance with court orders. The Veterans Court Probation Officer will conduct supervision by way of in person office contacts, phone contacts, curfew checks, virtual contacts, scheduled/unscheduled contacts to your residence, communication with the treatment provider, contact with an employer, visits to the workplace, etc. The Veterans Court Probation Officer will engage you in the process of prioritizing your needs and goals, and works with the Veterans Court Team to incorporate these recommendations into your treatment plan. The Probation Officer assigned to your case will complete a case plan and provide a copy to you and all of the team members. The case plan shall be amended upon your progress. The Veterans Court Probation Officer provides and reviews the Probation Order, Veterans Court Handbook, and calendar book with you. The Veterans Court Probation Officer will have you sign receipt of the Probation Order and receipt of the Veterans Court Handbook and will have you sign any releases necessary for the monitoring of progress on probation and in the Veterans Court Program. The Veterans Court Probation Officer meets regularly with you according to your Veterans Court Level (or as needed) and communicates with the Veterans Court Team about your progress and compliance with Veterans Court through written reports, email, and verbal updates at staffings and in Court. The Veterans Court Probation Officer advocates for incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments as per *Illinois Standards 8.3*. The Veterans Court Probation Officer is required to attend all staffings and Veterans Court proceedings.

Prosecutor

The role of the Prosecutor in Veterans Court is non-adversarial and collaborative by design, which is different from the traditional adversarial model in criminal Court. The State's Attorney's office can refer your case to the Veterans Court program with a referral application to the Veterans Court Coordinator. The Prosecutor represents the interests of the People of the State of Illinois and ensures that public safety interests and concerns are provided in team staffing discussions. The Prosecutor is required to attend all staffings and Veterans Court Proceedings. The Prosecutor also participates in the collaborative Veterans Court process in evaluating your engagement in and compliance with Veterans Court in team staffings and at Court sessions. As part of the collaborative team, the Prosecutor monitors your progress and makes recommendations regarding appropriate interventions to impact your behavior and compliance with Veterans Court requirements. Information the Prosecutor receives through the Veterans Court Program shall only be used for Veterans Court purposes and shall not be disclosed. The Prosecutor retains the responsibility to assure your compliance with Veterans Court requirements and may initiate adverse proceedings if you are not adhering to the terms of your Veterans Court Probation and Consent to Participate. The Prosecutor advocates for incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments while ensuring community safety as per *Illinois Standards 8.3*.

Defense Counsel

The role of Defense Counsel in Veterans Court is also very different from the traditional adversarial model in criminal Court. The Public Defender or Private Attorney can refer you to the Veterans Court program with a referral application to the Veterans Court Coordinator. In Veterans Court, the Public Defender represents you unless you have privately retained counsel.

Then, it is joint counsel for you. Before entry into Veterans Court, it is Defense Counsel's responsibility to meet with you to explain Veterans Court rules, expectations, your legal rights, and how those rights are affected by participation in Veterans Court. Defense Counsel must also explain the provisions of the Veterans Court Consent to Participate to you, prior to the signing of the Consent to Participate. Defense Counsel must assist you in signing all Court-related documents and ensure that you understand all of the provisions of such documents. Upon official enrollment in the Veterans Court, privately retained Defense Counsel must elect whether to continue as counsel for you. If not, the Veterans Court Judge appoints the Public Defender to represent you in Veterans Court. Whether you are represented by privately retained Defense Counsel or the Public Defender, the responsibility of your attorney is to represent you at team staffings, attend all Veterans Court staffings and Court status hearings, provide input and recommendations to the Veterans Court Team, ensure that your due process rights are protected, and represent you in any adverse proceedings. The Public Defender/Private Attorney advocates for incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments while ensuring the participants legal rights are protected as per Illinois Standards 8.3.

Upon official enrollment in the Veterans Court, privately retained Defense Counsel must elect whether to continue as Counsel. If not, the Veterans Court Judge appoints the Public Defender to represent participants in Veterans Court. The Public Defender/Private Attorney attends all case staffings and status hearings.

Treatment Providers

Veterans Court utilizes a full continuum of treatment services; including outpatient, intensive outpatient, inpatient, long-term inpatient substance abuse treatment, and co-occurring treatment. All treatment services are trauma-informed and culturally sensitive. The treatment providers are responsible for providing initial substance abuse assessments. They also provide substance abuse treatment; including, but not limited to: individual, group and family counseling, inpatient and outpatient services, drug testing, and report on progress regarding treatment. The treatment provider will provide detailed information to the team and are required to attend all staffings and Veterans Court proceedings. Treatment providers will complete a clinical treatment plan and shall provide a copy to you and the team members. This treatment plan shall be amended upon your progress. Treatment providers can and will drug test you. Drug testing is random and at your own expense. A participant's inability to pay will not prohibit program entry, phase advancement, or graduation. The treatment provider advocates for incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments as per *Illinois Standards* 8.3.

Veteran's Justice Outreach Specialist

The Veteran's Justice Outreach Specialist (VJO) role is to identify Veterans that may be involved with the criminal justice system and provide access to Veterans Administration services. They will provide direct outreach, assessment, case management, act as your liaison with treatment, and provide updates to the team on your progress. The VJO will complete a clinical treatment plan and shall provide a copy to you and all team members. This treatment plan shall be amended upon your progress. The VJO does mental health and substance abuse screening and assessments and helps support you in the Court environment. The VJO helps link you with

the Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (SARP) for full substance abuse evaluations and treatment recommendations. They also help with linking you to mental health programs, if needed. The VJO can help connect you with treatment services, homeless prevention programs, and community programs, as needed. The VJO is required to attend all staffings and Veterans Court proceedings. The Veteran's Justice Outreach Specialist advocates for incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments as per *Illinois Standards* 8.3.

Veterans Administration Illiana Health Care System

Veterans Court utilizes the full range of treatment services; including outpatient, intensive outpatient, inpatient, long-term inpatient substance abuse, residential programs, and co- occurring treatment. All treatment services are trauma-informed, recovery-oriented, and culturally sensitive.

Rosecrance of Illinois

The licensed Certified Substance Abuse Counselor(s) is a member of the Veterans Court Team. Rosecrance of Illinois is an alternative therapeutic substance abuse treatment provider for you in the Veterans Court Program. They advocate for effective incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments; while ensuring your needs, as they apply to your individual ongoing substance abuse treatment. The treatment providers are responsible for providing initial mental health and substance abuse assessments. They also provide mental health and substance abuse treatment; including but not limited to: individual, group and family counseling, inpatient and outpatient services, drug testing, and reports on progress regarding treatment. Treatment providers can and will drug test you. Drug testing is random and at your expense.

Referral, Assessment and Enrollment

Referral

Individuals may be referred to Veterans Court by any person; including Judges, Attorneys, treatment professionals, or at your own request. A Problem-Solving Courts Referral Form must be completed and forwarded to the Problem-Solving Courts Coordinator to begin the assessment process. Upon receipt of the completed referral form, the Problem-Solving Court Coordinator immediately pre-screens you for eligibility by reviewing your criminal history, current charge(s), and any other records available to determine if any exclusionary criteria may apply.

Assessment

The Veterans Court Probation Team will interview you upon receipt of the application and/or the day of referral if time allows, will schedule an appointment with you for the assessment interview, or meet with you at the jail. At that time, a review of the Veterans Court Handbook will be provided to you. The Veterans Court Probation Team will have you sign a receipt of the Handbook and any necessary releases to obtain information needed for the preparation of a report for the Veterans Court team to review; including the Consent for Release/Disclosure of Confidential Information. The Veterans Court Probation Team will conduct a criminal history report for the Veterans Court team and will perform an ARA assessment tool to determine the level of risk/needs for your

individualized plan to determine eligibility for the Veterans Court Program. The Veterans Court team will then refer your case to the Veteran Justice Outreach Coordinator for an assessment to the appropriate treatment provider for a substance abuse evaluation and/or a mental health evaluation and collect the report for his/her records. The Veterans Court Probation Team is responsible for collecting records, providing a copy to all of the team members, and staffing the referred case with the Veterans Court team to determine eligibility, acceptance, and entry into the Veterans Court Program.

The Veterans Administrative Hospital will conduct the following assessments on you prior to entering our program:

HOMES (this is a VA specific document for assessment/tracking of homeless Veterans)

AUDIT: The Alcohol Use Disorders Identification Test is a ten-item screening tool developed by the World Health Organization to assess alcohol consumption, drinking behaviors, and alcohol-related problems. Both a clinician-administered version and a self-report version of the AUDIT can be provided to you upon request.

PHQ-9: The PHQ-9 is a multipurpose instrument for screening, diagnosing, monitoring, and measuring the severity of depression. It incorporates the DSM-IV depression diagnostic criteria with other leading major depressive symptoms into a brief self-reporting tool. This tool rates the frequency of symptoms which factor into the scoring severity index. It scores for the presence and duration of suicide ideation, and determines the weight to the degree to which depressive problems have affected your level of function.

PCL-5: This assessment tool asks about problems you may have had after a very stressful experience; involving actual or threatened death, serious injury, or sexual violence. It could be something that happened to you, directly; something you witnessed; or something you learned happened to a close family member or close friend. Examples could include a serious accident; fire; disaster such as hurricane, tornado or earthquake; physical or sexual attack or abuse; war; homicide; or suicide.

TCU (Texas Christian University) drug screen: The TCU Drug Screen is scored to produce a single total score which can range from 9 to 18. Score values of 6 or greater indicate relatively severe drug-related problems and correspond approximately to DSM drug dependence diagnosis. Responses to item 10 indicate which drug (or drugs) the respondent feels is primarily responsible for your drug-related problems.

Rosecrance of Illinois will conduct the following assessments with you if you are referred to their agency at any time during your participation in the Veterans Court Program:

Substance abuse assessments are conducted by a Master's Degree Clinician (Master's is required) with either a certification (such as Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor) or a license (such as Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Social Worker, Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, or Licensed Clinical Social Worker). There is a structured interview, and the clinician collects all relevant information for a diagnostic impression. The information is evaluated to

determine a substance use disorder and the severity of the disorder. The standards used to conduct clinical assessments and to evaluate treatment levels of care are based on two standardized tools. The first is the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual-Fifth Edition (DSM-5), which is used to obtain a diagnostic impression for any substance use disorder. The second tool is the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Criteria multidimensional assessment (MDA). Information is obtained through a structured interview in 6 areas, including mental health history. The MDA dimensions include: Dimension 1: Acute intoxication and/or withdrawal potential; Dimension 2: Biomedical conditions and complications; Dimension 3: Emotional/Behavioral or Cognitive conditions/complications; Dimension 4: Readiness to change; Dimension 5: Relapse/Continued use or continued problem potential; and Dimension 6: Recovery/Living Environment. There is an evaluation score in each dimension, which is used to identify treatment levels of care (ex. Outpatient, Intensive Outpatient, Inpatient). Treatment Services are provided using client-centered approaches and evidence-based practices; including Brief Intervention (Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration- SAMHSA- Tip 34), which integrates the use of other proven therapies; Trauma Informed Care; Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT); Art Therapy; and Motivational Enhancement Therapy (MET).

Enrollment

The Veterans Court Team reviews and discusses the assessment and referral packet of each person referred to Veterans Court; utilizing the objective Veterans Court eligibility and exclusionary criteria at the next staffing after the assessment is completed by the Veterans Court Probation Team. The Court Program will be at maximum capacity at 10 people. If found to be eligible, an Order Concerning Specialty Court Application indicating your acceptance is placed in the Court file for the sentencing Judge to review. Prior to you, Counsel, and the Judge signing a Consent to Participate, the Judge shall explain the Consent to Participate to you on the record; including the program requirements of the Problem-Solving Court and the range or responses that may be imposed by the Judge on you as a result of conduct of you while a participant is in the Problem-Solving Court. After the Judge has explained the Consent to Participate to you, you shall have the opportunity to confer with Counsel, have your questions answered by the Judge, and elect to voluntarily execute the Consent to Participate. The Judge is the final decision maker regarding acceptance in Veterans Court. At the time of sentencing or pre-trial, you can be placed on Probation with a referral to Veterans Court program. You will then be placed on the next available Veterans Court call. If you are found to be ineligible for Veterans Court, if you do not wish to participate in the Veterans Court program, or if you decline to sign the Consent to Participate, the referral is closed, and a report is placed in the Court file. Your case will be sent back to the original felony call for further proceedings.

CONFIDENTIALITY

A waiver of confidentiality, signatures of authorization for releases of information, and consent for participation is required to be a part of the Veterans Court Program. You can NOT change your mind about the waiver of confidentiality once it is given and remain in the program. Information regarding your health and treatment status is highly confidential as set forth in

Section 7.4 of the *Illinois Standards* and this confidentiality is protected by federal and state law regulations. The Veterans Court Team and treatment providers strictly observe the requirements of all applicable laws and regulations. To protect confidentiality, Veterans Court utilizes the Consent for Releases/Disclosure of Confidential Information to facilitate the assessment and discussion of your eligibility to participate. The Consent to Participate that you sign acknowledges the possible dissemination of protected information through your participation in Veterans Court and requires that you sign any release of information forms that are needed by Probation, treatment providers, and collateral sources, in order to facilitate the sharing of confidential information about you, in a lawful manner. All communication among the Veterans Court Team about you is required to be done in a manner to keep your identity confidential. Information obtained by the Veterans Court Team, pursuant to a release or consent, shall not be disclosed outside of Veterans Court. Information obtained is for Veterans Court purposes only. When you are referred to a Problem-Solving Court, and found to be ineligible to enroll in a Problem-Solving Court by the Problem-Solving Court team or if you are discharged from the Problem-Solving Court, the Problem-Solving Court Prosecutor shall delete or destroy your confidential information that was disseminated in conjunction with your referral to or participation in the Problem-Solving Court. The Judge may, at the request of the you or your Counsel, issue a protective order pertaining to all confidential information.

Veteran's Responsibilities and Handbook

You must conform to the requirements of the Consent to Participate, Probation Order, and Veterans Court Handbook. Those responsibilities include, but are not limited to: attending Court regularly; meeting with Probation as directed; complying with drug testing as directed; attending all screenings, assessments, and treatment services for substance abuse and mental health as directed; participating appropriately in treatment groups; engaging in pro-social activities, including employment and educational pursuits; following all directives of the court; and remaining drug and alcohol free. Transportation to all appointments, Court proceedings, etc. is your responsibility.

Veteran's Handbook and Calendar Book

You will receive a copy of the Veterans Court Handbook and calendar book at the initial Probation office visit once sentenced to the Veterans Court Program, and sign a receipt acknowledging that you received the Veterans Court Handbook and calendar book and it has been explained to you.

Veteran's Court Process and Schedule

Veterans Court Process

Veterans Court utilizes weekly team staffings with all Veterans Court members present and participating in weekly Court status hearings to monitor your performance and progress in Veterans Court. Currently, the Veterans Court team meets on Tuesdays at 2:30pm for staffing with Court directly to follow at 3:00 pm, or as directed. This can be changed at any time in the future due to Court rotations and schedule availability. Written reports are given to each Veterans Court member by the Probation Officer and treatment providers prior to staffing

discussions . You will be addressed with the Veterans Court Team's response(s) to the progress, or lack of progress, that you have made or issues that have arisen between Court dates by the Veterans Court Judge and you will be given the opportunity to address the Court. Optimally, the Veterans Court Judge will interact with you for a minimum of three (3) minutes. When the status hearing is concluded, you will be given your next Court date. Additional information about the Veterans Court process is included in other sections of this Veterans Court Policies and Procedures Manual and the Veterans Court Handbook and is incorporated herein.

Veterans Court Schedule

You must appear in Court as scheduled or as directed by the Veterans Court team. Veterans Court currently meets on Tuesdays at 2:30 pm for staffing with Court directly to follow at 3:00 pm, or as directed. This can be changed at any time in the future due to Court rotations and schedule availability. It is your responsibility to receive your next Court date and report on time.

Program Rules

- You must appear in Court as scheduled or as directed by the Veterans Court team. Veterans Court currently meets on Tuesdays at 2:30pm for staffing, with Court to follow at 3:00 pm, or as directed. This can be changed at any time in the future due to Court rotations and availability. It is your responsibility to receive your next Court date and report on time.
- You must attend all appointments with the Veterans Court team. If you are unable to attend a scheduled appointment for any reason, you must CALL and SPEAK to a member of the Veterans Court team ahead of the scheduled appointment time. Calling in to any member of the Veterans Court team will not guarantee an absence will be excused and could result in a disciplinary action or sanction
- You must follow the treatment plan and actively participate in required treatment. The treatment plan may include some or all of the following:
 - Psychiatric services
 - Participation in substance abuse and/or mental health treatment services, such as group or individual counseling, residential treatment programs, psycho-social rehabilitation services, self-help/support groups, Substance abuse treatment, Case Management Services, and Educational and employment programs
- It is important to keep in mind that successful completion of the Veterans Court Program is dependent upon compliance with treatment
- You will be issued a calendar to track appointments and must keep all Veterans Court related appointments in this calendar. You must bring calendars with you to all Veterans Court related appointments and provide it upon request.
- You cannot use any illegal substance or drink any alcohol
- You cannot take medication not prescribed by a doctor, including friend's and family members' medications
- You cannot abuse any over the counter medications
- You must take prescribed medicines as directed

- You will submit to drug and/or alcohol screens when requested by any Veterans Court team member and/or treatment provider. A refusal is considered a positive drug test
- **Tampering with a Urine Screen (Drug Test) is a violation of the Veterans Court Program and can result in the imposition of a Veterans Court sanction, up to discharge from the Veterans Court Program**
- You must obey all local ordinances, state laws, and federal laws
- You must contact the Veterans Court team immediately following any law enforcement contact, relapse, crisis assessment, or hospitalization
- You will follow all rules of the Vermilion County Probation Department. Violations of these rules may result in sanctions and or termination from the Veterans Court program
- You will treat everyone with respect and demonstrate appropriate behavior at all times and in all places
- You will dress appropriately at all times for Court appearances, Probation visits, mental health provider appointments, substance abuse provider appointments, etc. This includes but is not limited to not wearing clothing or hats with drug or alcohol themed messages; short shorts (shorts that are shorter than your fingertips when your arms are at your side); see through shirts, clothing with obscenities, clothing with gang insignia or any other articles of clothing deemed inappropriate
- You will cooperate with all home contacts, treatment contacts, or employment contacts. These may be unscheduled or unannounced. These contacts may include in person contacts, virtual contacts, and/or by phone.
- You cannot be in possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon of any type
- You will call the Veterans Court team of any changes of address, contact information, or employment status immediately
- You must be and remain a Vermilion County resident to participate in this program
- Permission to leave Vermilion County and the State of Illinois must be obtained prior to leaving.

At all times you are to get permission from the Veterans Court Team before staying overnight anywhere other than your residence.

TRANSPORTATION IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

PROGRAM LENGTH

Veterans Court Levels

The approximate length of the Veterans Court Program is from 12-24 months. It is possible for you to be involved in the program for longer than 24 months as determined by the Veterans Court team. The length of the program differs for each participant and is directly related to your individual progress toward treatment goals and compliance with Veterans Court rules and recommendations. The Veterans Court Program is divided into four (4) phases. Each phase within the Veterans Court Program has its own treatment requirements and the treatment plan is specific to your individual needs. The Veterans Court Program cannot be completed without progressing through each of the required phases. Based on information provided by you, the

Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator, mental health treatment provider, substance abuse provider, Probation Officer, the Judge, and Veterans Court Team determine when requirements are met for phase advancement. You must complete all four (4) phases to successfully complete the program.

Phase One (3 months):

Phase One begins after you have been accepted into the Veterans Court Program and presented to Court for the first time. You will have completed a mental health and/or substance abuse assessment by the time Phase One begins, with recommendations of appropriate treatment.

While in Phase One, you will receive the most intensive and community-based supervision. The focus of Phase One is mental health and/or substance abuse treatment and compliance with short-term goals. Phase One is designed to help you access and begin mental health and/or substance treatment as well as become acquainted with the Veterans Court Team and expectations.

- Minimum of 1 (one) Face to Face contact with the Veterans Court Probation Officer per week
- Complete all assessments and sign all releases as requested by the Veterans Justice Outreach caseworker and Probation Officer
- Minimum of 1 Court Appearance per week
- Obtain or maintain a psychiatrist and take prescribed medicine, as directed
- Begin the recommended Veterans Court treatment program
- Establish a therapist and participate in therapy appointments
- Submit to urinalysis screens as directed by the Veterans Court team.
- Remain drug and alcohol free.
- Curfew of 8:00pm-7:00am
- Register for housing (If Necessary)
- Apply for public benefits (If Necessary)
- Show up for all scheduled appointments
- Be honest about your drug use (past and current)
- Be honest about your mental health issues (past and current)

Advancement:

Once the team agrees that you are eligible to move up a phase, the team will meet to determine in staffing before you are presented with a certificate in Court.

- 80% Attendance in Treatment
- Be Honest
- Complete office contacts with Probation
- **Minimum** of 30 consecutive days drug and alcohol free

- Schedule an appointment with a Vocational or Employment Program
- No Sanction within a **minimum** of 30 days
- Complete a paper and present it to the Veterans Court Team explaining eligibility for phasing

Phase Two (3 months): Phase Two is designed to engage you in ongoing mental health and/or substance abuse treatment and work toward positive change by continuing life skill building. Below are the requirements for Phase Two:

- Minimum of 1 (one) Face to Face contact with the Veterans Court Probation Officer per week
- Complete all assessments and sign all releases as requested by the Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator and Probation Officer
- Minimum of 1 (one) Court appearance per week
- Maintain psychiatrist and take prescribed medicine, as directed
- Actively participate in therapy programs
- Continue participation in the recommended mental health and/or substance abuse treatment program
- Submit to urinalysis screens as directed by the Veterans Court team.
- Remain drug and alcohol free
- Curfew of 9:00pm-7:00am
- Obtain and maintain stable housing (if necessary)
- Show up for all scheduled appointments
- Be honest about your drug use (past and current)
- Be honest about your mental health issues (past and current)

Advancement:

Once the team agrees that you are eligible to move up a phase, the team will meet to determine in staffing before you are presented with a certificate in Court.

- Be Honest
- Complete office contacts with Probation
- 90% Attendance in Treatment
- **Minimum** of 60 consecutive days drug and alcohol free
- No Sanction within a **minimum** of 60 days
- Complete a paper and present it to the Veterans Court Team explaining eligibility for phasing

Phase Three (3 months): You will gain more independence during this phase, but will be expected to begin planning for achievement of long-term goals. Phase Three is designed to incorporate stable housing, education, employment, and/or volunteering into the service plan. Below are the requirements of Phase Three:

- Minimum of 1 (one) Face to Face contact with the Veterans Court Probation Officer every two weeks
- Complete all assessments and sign all releases as requested by the Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator and Probation Officer
- Minimum of 2 (two) Court appearances per month
- Maintain psychiatrist and take prescribe medicine as directed
- Continue participation in the recommended mental health services and/or substance abuse treatment services
- Obtain and maintain stable housing (if necessary)
- Provide proof of employment, continuing education, or regular pro-social positive activities
- Submit to urinalysis screens as directed by the Veterans Court team.
- Remain drug and alcohol free
- Curfew of 11:00pm-7:00am
- Show up for all scheduled appointments
- Be honest about your drug use (past and current)
- Be honest about your mental health issues (past and current)

Advancement:

Once the team agrees that you are eligible to move up a phase, the team will meet to determine in staffing before you are presented with a certificate in Court.

- 100% Attendance in Treatment
- Be Honest
- Complete office contacts with Probation
- **Minimum** of 90 consecutive days drug and alcohol free
- No Sanction within a **minimum** of 90 days
- Schedule started to complete Community Service Hours
- Complete a paper and present it to the Veterans Court Team explaining eligibility for phasing

Phase Four (3 months): Throughout Phase Four it is expected that you maintain a healthy lifestyle and make personal advancements with little supervision from the Veterans Court team. Below are the requirements of Phase Four:

- Minimum of 1 (one) Face to Face contact with the Veterans Court Probation Officer per month
- Complete all assessment and sign all releases as requested by the Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator and Probation Officer
- Minimum of 1 (one) Court appearance per month
- Maintain psychiatrist and take prescribed medications, as directed
- Continue participation in the recommended mental health services and/or substance abuse treatment services
- Obtain or maintain stable housing
- Provide proof of employment, continuing education, or regular pro social activities
- Submit to urinalysis screens as directed by the Veterans Court team.
- Remain drug and alcohol free
- Complete budget planning
- Show up for all scheduled appointments
- Be honest about your drug use (past and current)
- Be honest about your mental health issues (past and current)

Advancement:

Once the team agrees that you are eligible to move up a phase, the team will meet to determine in staffing before you are presented with a certificate in Court.

- 100% Attendance in Treatment
- Be Honest
- Complete office visits with Probation
- **Minimum** of 90 consecutive days drug and alcohol free
- No Sanction within a **minimum** of 90 days
- Schedule appointments to complete Community Service Hours
- Complete a paper and present it to the Veterans Court Team explaining eligibility for graduating program

FAILURE TO COMPLETE/TERMINATION

If you do not successfully complete the Veterans Court program, the traditional Court process will resume. If your case is still pre-trial, the case will proceed to trial or plea for the offense(s) that were originally charged. If your case is post-sentencing, the case may be referred for a petition to revoke Probation. At this time, you would be eligible for all sentencing

options that are applicable to the original charge(s), and a sentence could include jail time or commitment to the Illinois Department of Corrections. Reasons for termination can include: continued failure to follow program rules and expectations, lack of treatment compliance, and/or a new offense while part of the Veterans Court Program.

Graduation

In order to graduate from the Veterans Court program, you must complete all program phases, complete your treatment plan, and be in continued compliance with your Court Order. When you have successfully completed all of the requirements of the Veterans Court program, there will be a graduation ceremony in your honor. Your inability to pay will not prohibit program entry, phase advancement, or graduation. At that time, you will have officially completed the Veterans Court program and your involvement with the program will no longer be mandatory. Upon completion of the Veterans Court program, legal agreements made pending your completion of the Veterans Court program will be reviewed and acted upon accordingly. Upon completion of the Veterans Court Program, you may possibly still be on Probation. At this time, you will be responsible for any and all requirements remaining included in your Probation order. Your Probation Officer will go over this Probation order again upon your graduation from Veterans Court. A discharge plan will be determined between you and your Probation Officer as to what your needs will be for the remainder of your Probation term and any needs that may need to be addressed upon your discharge from Probation. You will be given a copy of this discharge plan. This can include, but not be limited to:

Veterans Administration Illiana Health Care Systems

The Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Program (SARP)

Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program (HCHV)

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Psychosocial Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Program (PRRTP)

Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program

Veterans Benefit Services (i.e service-connection, pension, education benefits)

Crosspoint Human Services for mental health treatment

Rosecrance of Illinois for after care, relapse prevention and any new treatment services

as needed

Narcotics Anonymous (NA) and Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) support meetings including

days, times and locations

Unemployment Office for help with job searches

Danville Public Library for access to the computers for job searches

Crosspoint at the Y for housing issues (women)

The Men's shelter for housing issues (men)

Incentives, Sanctions, and Therapeutic Adjustments

All responses to your behavior will be in accordance with Section 8 of the *Illinois Standards* and shall be predictable, fair, consistent, and without regard to a person's gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, limited English proficiency, disability, socio-economic status, or sexual orientation. In Veterans Court, incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments shall be administered to motivate you to comply with Veterans Court requirements and to put into action the changes in thinking and behaviors for you that are necessary to assist you to successfully achieve recovery and to comply with and successfully complete the program. You will be advised by the Veterans Court Judge that the program incorporates incentives, sanctions, and therapeutic adjustments in response to your progress, or non-compliance, with Veterans Court goals and requirements. Whether to administer an incentive or sanction, is discussed and determined at team staffing(s) and you are advised by the Veterans Court Judge of the team's staffing decision in open Court. If it is determined at staffing that there should be a sanction, you must be given an opportunity to address the Veterans Court Team in open Court before the sanction is imposed. The Veterans Court Judge must consider this input and decide whether to impose the sanction. The final decision as to whether to impose a sanction and what sanction is appropriate, rests within the sole discretion of the Veterans Court Judge and may only be imposed in accordance with procedural fairness and neutrality after you are given an opportunity to be heard.

Incentives

As you progress through Veterans Court and begin to make positive choices, you will receive incentives from the Veterans Court Team. Incentives may be received for a variety of behaviors and achievements; such as Veterans Court attendance, treatment attendance, progress in treatment, negative drug screens, medication compliance, gaining employment, or sustaining employment. The Veterans Court team may choose from incentives such as but not limited to:

- Applause
- Decreased frequency in court appearance
- Decreased supervision contact
- Curfew adjustment
- Travel permits
- Waiver of fees
- Early Phase Promotion

Sanctions

Just as positive behaviors are rewarded, negative behaviors will also be addressed. Poor attendance, lack of participation in treatment or tasks identified in the treatment plan, and positive drug screens are some of the reasons sanctions will be administered. Sanctions can consist of but not be limited to the following:

- Verbal reprimand
- Essay assignment
- Increased court appearance
- Increased meetings with Probation Officer
- Increased drug testing
- Increased public service work hours
- Earlier curfew restrictions
- Incarceration

Therapeutic adjustments

Therapeutic adjustments are treatment-oriented responses for substance and mental health issues in the Veterans Court program. Modifications in treatment services are based on the recommendations of treatment providers. Some of these therapeutic adjustments can be, but are not limited to the following:

- Attendance in self-help groups
- Family Counseling
- Parenting Groups
- Increase of Treatment to a Higher Level of Care (such as Intensive Outpatient or Residential Care)
- Change in Frequency of Treatment (Such as One-on-One Appointments and/or groups)

VETERANS COURT RANDOM TESTING

You are required to be drug tested every Monday.

You will be randomly selected Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays to drug test. Random drug test selection is done by a computer-generated wheel application and is spun on the Veterans Court Probation Officer's computer. Each morning, the wheel is spun by 9:00 am and if your name is selected, you will be called by the Probation Officer no later than 9:30 am. If

your name is called, you must drug test by 2:00 pm the day you are selected. As drug tests are random, be prepared to be drug tested daily.

DRUG TEST PROCEEDURE

Probation Department Observed Urine Specimen Collection Procedures:

Drug test procedures will be performed, but not limited to, the following:

The Probation Officer or treatment provider will collect urine samples in a locked bathroom.

You will remove jackets, hoodies, coats, items with large pockets, or any other items the Probation Officer or treatment provider requests be removed.

You will not have purses or handbags in the drug testing collection area. If you do have a purse or handbag, this will remain in the Probation Officer's office and the Probation Officer's office will have the door shut and locked to prevent access to your personal items

You will rinse your hands with water and thoroughly dry them. Soap is not to be used.

You will show the Probation Officer your waistlines to detect any tampering devices.

The Probation Officer or treatment provider will collect a urine specimen from only one donor at a time.

Only the Probation Officer and the donor will be in the bathroom/collection area at all times

The Probation Officer or treatment provider will directly observe you providing a urine sample. Collectors observing the urine sample process will be the same gender as you when providing the specimen. No exceptions.

The Probation Officer or treatment provider will complete a chain of custody label or a collection form before you provide a urine sample. The chain of custody label shall be peeled and placed upon the securely closed sample bottle.

Urine Samples will be sent to a lab, stored in a refrigerator, and tested for results. Drug testing results can also be provided with an instant result on a drug testing panel test. The Probation Department has a lab for use of Probation Officers only. Some urine samples can be sent to an off-site lab if needed for further testing at the discretion of the Probation Department and the Court. Sealing and chain of custody protocols will also be followed.

You will NOT flush the toilets or urinals until the collection is completed. The Probation Officer or treatment provider will flush the toilet or urinal.

The Probation Officer or treatment provider will observe and document any indication of specimen dilution, alteration, or unusual collection events or discrepancies.

The Probation Officer or treatment provider will screw the top on the collection bottle, or make sure you tightly screw the top on the bottle, and make sure the top is secure and the specimen is not leaking.

The Probation Officer or treatment provider will review the temperature of the specimen to make sure if it is near body temperature, if applicable.

The Probation Officer or treatment provider will use a tamper resistant screening system across the top of the sample cup and down the sides of the bottle. This label will have your name, the collectors name or initials, your identification number, and the time and date collected clearly displayed.

The Probation Officer will store the urine sample in the drug testing lab's refrigerator to be tested at a later date. The treatment provider will also mail their sample to an off-site laboratory to be tested at a later date.

Drug testing can be obtained via specimen cups that are sealed or instant stick tests.

A Probation Officer may also issue a breathalyzer test at the discretion of any Probation Officer, the Court, and the Veterans Court team, and will be administered by the Probation Officer. The donor will observe the Probation Officer open a new breathalyzer tube, observe the tube being placed on the breathalyzer portable handheld device, and observe the Probation Officer turn on the portable breathalyzer device. The donor will blow air from the mouth into the breathalyzer tube, at the direction of the Probation Officer, and at a steady rate until the device beeps or the Probation Officer says stop. The donor will be shown the breathalyzer results listed on the device.

VA Illiana Health Care Drug Testing Procedure:

It is the responsibility of the Mental Health Nurse Manager, Therapeutic and Supportive Employment Services (TSES), and Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Programs (MHR RTP) Program Managers to supervise the overall administration of breathalyzer examinations and the collection of urine for drug screen purposes. Orders are to be entered by a licensed provider, i.e. Registered Nurse (RN), Physician's Assistant (PA), or Doctor (MD). Paperwork is to be completed by the program assistant or nursing staff as required by the Laboratory and Pathology Medicine Service. **The standard of care is for Male staff to observe Male Veterans and Female staff to observe Female Veterans.** The Nurse Manager, TSES, and MHR RTP Program Managers are responsible for ensuring the overall chain of custody by training and supervising as to the proper collection, storage, and delivery of the sealed specimen to the laboratory. All staff will maintain strict confidentiality at all times.

PROCEDURES:

A. The collection, labeling, preservation, and transportation of all specimens will be conducted strictly in accordance with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Chain of Custody (COC) Procedures and the Laboratory and Pathology Medicine Service policies. Monitoring procedures will include observed sample collection in space specifically designed for this purpose or with other methods to assure that samples are not adulterated (e.g. temperature

strips) and promote rapid preliminary feedback with laboratory confirmation available for disputed results. TSES and MHRRTTP staff are to be trained upon orientation and annually thereafter regarding breath and urine testing procedures.

1. Urine Drug Screen (UDS) Orders will be placed by a licensed provider in the Veterans CPRS chart under Orders.
2. Necessary supplies for collection will be obtained from the Mental Health or PRRTTP medical supply room, i.e. sterile specimen container; sealable plastic bags; vinyl exam gloves.
3. Nursing, TSES, or MH PRRTTP staff will complete the Medical Worksheet for Urine Drug Screens to accompany urine sample to the Lab. Veterans name, Social Security Number, and CPRS order number will be on the worksheet. Staff will also complete a sticky label containing the same information to be placed on the sterile container.

B. Steps to collect UDS:

1. Veteran will be given a sealed plain envelope with their name on the front of the envelope and a template message inside stating s/he has 2 hours advance notice noting time and place of UDS (See Attachment A). The program assistant or nursing assistant delivering the note should initial the envelope at the time of delivery to the Veteran. The time of delivery is to be noted. The Veteran is to initial receipt.
2. Upon reporting for UDS, the Veteran will verify his/her name and Social Security Number on the Medical Work sheet and sterile container showing two forms of ID. Specimen will be labeled in presence of the Veteran.
3. Veteran will be observed in TSES or MHRRTTP bathroom providing urine sample by a same sex case staff member.
4. Veteran will remove and replace the lid on the specimen container and place container with sample into plastic sealable bag.
5. TSES or MHRRTTP staff (wearing vinyl exam gloves) will seal the bag and place in ice container. Color and temperature of the sample will be observed. Container with samples will be kept locked in TSES or PRRTTP office until delivered to the Lab for analysis. The Chain of Custody (COC) of the specimen from receipt until disposal must be continuous.

C. Documentation of Test Results: Results will be ready within 24 hours or less and are to be read by the TSES or MHRRTTP staff. Results are documented in CPRS lab results. Test results are to be confidential.

D. Positive Urine Drug Screens/Breathalyzer: TSES and MHRRTTP Veterans with positive urine or breath screens will be engaged in a harm reduction recovery plan of their preference. Refusal to submit to a urine or breath test is considered a positive screen. Repeated use of drugs and

alcohol without response to treatment goals is grounds for termination from TSES or MHRRTTP programming. Continuing services would be arranged in appropriate alternate levels of care.

Drug testing procedures for Rosecrance of Illinois:

Rosecrance of Illinois drug testing is done by insta-tests. You will be asked to leave your personal items and valuables in the counselor's office. Your pockets will be emptied of items and bulky shirts, or coats will be removed. You will wash your hands. Female donors will be observed by a female counselor and male donors will be observed by a male counselor. NO EXCEPTIONS. You and the counselor will go into the bathroom/designated sample site and the stall door will be left open. Your drug test will be observed by the Rosecrance counselor or clinician. Once the specimen is collected, the lid will be placed on the sample cup. The results to this drug test are instant and results will be given to you immediately and will be discussed with you immediately.

Program Outcomes

In accordance with Section 9 of *Illinois Standards*, you may be discharged from Veterans Court in one of four ways: successful discharge, neutral discharge, unsuccessful discharge, and voluntary withdrawal.

Successful Discharge

You are eligible for successful discharge from the Veterans Court Program when you complete all of the program requirements.

Neutral Discharge

You may encounter difficulties after entering the program that makes it difficult or impossible for you to comply with the requirements of Veterans Court. For example, you may develop a serious medical condition that makes it difficult to attend groups and/or to drop as frequently as Veterans Court requires. The Veterans Court Team can staff and provide an alternative supervision plan for you such as standard Probation or conditional discharge and the Veterans Court Judge can enter an order permitting a neutral discharge from the Veterans Court Program.

Unsuccessful Discharge

If you are in violation of Veterans Court Program requirements, you may be unsuccessfully discharged from the Veterans Court Program. The Veterans Court Team is committed to offering the full continuum of treatment services to you with the goal of helping you achieve and maintain stability in your life, but on occasion you are not able to do so. There are also instances where you may re-offend or commit other serious violations of Veterans Court Program requirements, and the Veterans Court Team may consider unsuccessfully discharging you from the program. The Judge has the ultimate final decision in the Veterans Court program. Prior to an unsuccessful discharge from Veterans Court, you shall be served with a Petition to Remove you from Veterans Court. The Petition shall set forth the alleged violations of Veterans Court Program and/or Probation requirements and the relief sought. The Veterans Court Judge must ensure that you

become subject to proceedings that could result in unsuccessful discharge from the Veterans Court and that you are advised of and accorded the rights set forth in Supreme Court Rule 402A. Those rights include being advised of the specific allegations in the Petition, the right to a hearing with Defense Counsel present and the right to appointed counsel, the right to confront and cross-examine any adverse witness, the right to present witnesses and evidence on your behalf, the right to require the State prove a violation by a preponderance of the evidence, and the right to be advised of the sentencing range. Once the petition for discharge is filed, the participant must be admonished pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 402(d),(e), and (f), before the Judge can continue to staff the participant's case with the rest of the team. Unsuccessful discharge can occur as part of a plea agreement or as a sentencing outcome after a hearing on the petition.

Voluntary Withdrawal

You will have the right to withdraw from Veterans Court since it is a voluntary program, but withdrawal may be subject to consequences as a result of doing so. If you request to withdraw, the Veterans Court Judge shall ensure that you have the right to consult with Defense Counsel, and that the withdrawal is made voluntarily and knowingly in open Court. The Veterans Court Judge shall ensure that you are admonished as to the consequences, actual or potential, which may result from the withdrawal. The consequences that could be imposed must be consistent with your status and terms of Probation, are to be discussed by the Veterans Court Team at a staffing on the issue of voluntary withdrawal, determined by the Veterans Court Judge who thereafter explains the consequences to you in open Court prior to the Veterans Court Judge allowing you to withdraw.

Vermilion County Veterans Court

Important Phone Numbers

States Attorney 217-554-7750

Public Defender 217-554-7870

Probation Office 217-554-7900

VA Illiana Health Care 217-554-3000

Veteran's Justice Outreach 217-554-5675

The Veterans Court Business Hours

8:30am - 4:30pm

Monday - Friday (Excluding Holidays)

You must leave a message with your name and a phone number to be reached

In Case of Emergency call 911

Veterans Court Handbook - Signature Page

I have read and understand the contents of the Veterans Court Handbook including rules, incentives, and sanctions. I have been given a copy of the Participant Handbook and calendar book. I understand that in order to be successful in the Veterans Court Program, **I must follow the rules of the program as well as all treatment recommendations.**

Participant's Signature

Date

Veterans Court Representative

Date