



# STATE OF COLORADO

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
JEFFERSON & GILPIN COUNTIES

## VETERANS TREATMENT COURT



## Participant Handbook

*“...to care for him who shall have borne the  
battle...”*

*Abraham Lincoln March 4, 1865*



## First Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court

**The First Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is a hybrid adult drug and mental health court that serves veterans who are struggling with trauma-related issues including, but not limited to, PTSD, TBI, substance use, and other mental health issues with a focus on those issues that are directly related to military service. The VTC diverts these individuals from the traditional criminal justice system response into a specialized veteran's problem solving court. The VTC promotes public safety, ensures participant accountability, supports recovery, and improves quality of life for participants and their families.**

**As a participant in the VTC, you are expected to follow the instructions given to you in Court by the Judge and the VTC team. You will also be responsible for complying with the recovery and treatment plan that you will help develop. This handbook will explain what is expected of you and provide general program information. Feel free to bring it to Court with you.**

**We encourage you to share this handbook with your family, friends, and significant others so they will know about the work that you are doing to improve your quality of life. Support from those around you (including the VTC team and participants) will be extremely important throughout your participation in the program.**

### **Orientation**

Orientation takes place in the Courtroom the first Tuesday morning you appear in VTC. It is important to be to Court on time. Orientation will consist of a meeting with some of the VTC team members where the entire program will be explained. The orientation itself will cover the details of each phase and places a special emphasis on treatment, health, family, recovery, education, and employment.

At the time of the orientation, you will be able to ask questions or get clarification about any issue related to the VTC Program. You can always ask questions about your case and get legal questions answered from the attorney who initially represented you.

## What is Veterans Treatment Court?

The Veterans Treatment Court is primarily, a treatment court. This means that **you will be required to follow all prescribed treatment and provide a copy of your treatment plan to the VTC team.** You will be responsible for asking your treatment provider to give you a copy of your treatment plan. Treatment begins as soon as possible after your first appearance in VTC.

The VTC is a judicially supervised treatment program for persons whose struggles with trauma-related issues including but not limited to PTSD, TBI, substance use, and other mental health conditions appear to have contributed significantly to their current arrest for and/or conviction of a crime. This program **requires a total commitment** to following your treatment plan, remaining clean and sober, and leading a law-abiding life.

Participating in the VTC requires regular court appearances before Judge Enquist, the presiding VTC judge. The VTC is located on the fourth floor of the Jefferson County Administration and Courts Building in Courtroom 4D. You will be required to **follow and complete a treatment plan. Expect to be in treatment throughout the duration of your participation in the VTC.**

This plan may require all or some of the following:

- ✓ Outpatient treatment
- ✓ Inpatient/residential treatment
- ✓ Halfway House or Transitional housing placement
- ✓ Regular and random drug testing
- ✓ Counseling (individual and group)
- ✓ Educational/vocational/employment programs
- ✓ Participation in self-help groups

The VTC staff will also help you with other areas of your life according to your individual needs.

This may include referrals for:

- ✓ Skills testing and an educational assessment
- ✓ Job Training and job-readiness training
- ✓ School or other educational services
- ✓ Job placement services
- ✓ Family counseling (with you, your spouse, and/or your children)
- ✓ Life Skills classes
- ✓ Public Assistance/Medicaid
- ✓ Recreational/pro-social activities

At first you will be required to appear in the VTC weekly; and, as you phase progress, your appearances in court may be reduced to once a month. The Judge will be given progress reports on you regarding your drug tests, attendance, interactions with the VTC team, and participation probation, and in your treatment program. These reports will come from your treatment providers, the Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist, your Probation Officer, treatment and/or your mental health counselor. The Judge will ask you about your progress, and discuss any problems you may be having.

You will be expected to **commit no new law violations, remain clean and sober, attend all your court appearances, and all your treatment and probation appointments.** Attend all of your treatment, including counseling, substance abuse and/or mental health, education, and all other treatment as directed. You will be required to be on time for all sessions. If you are late, you may not be allowed to attend and may be considered absent. **Your treatment schedule will vary according to your clinical needs. It is your responsibility to schedule all needed appointments and to arrive on time for all of them.** The VTC team, your treatment providers, and YOU will develop plans to fit your specific needs. One will specifically address your primary and secondary treatment goals and any substance abuse issues, while others will address other life issues such as education, vocational training, parenting, and family skills. Expect to contribute to these plans with your thoughts and needs.

One of the primary goals of VTC is to help you remain abstinent from alcohol and all non-prescribed drugs. You will be randomly tested weekly throughout the entire program. The Judge will have access to all drug results including failures, refusals to test, and adulterated tests. A drug test may be ordered at any time. A positive test or admission of alcohol or other drug use will not disqualify you from the program, but will result in a sanction or change in treatment planning.

## What's in it for me? Benefits of the Program:



### Dismissal or reduction of your charges

In **some** cases, successful completion of the VTC program results in having the original charge(s) dismissed or reduced. Your attorney will be able to discuss particulars of **your specific case**.



### A Second Chance

This program offers you the chance to move forward in your life with the new things you have learned. As you enter the VTC, you may be asked to describe what a reduction of your charge(s) will do for you in the future.



### A Healthy Lifestyle

The VTC program will help you take control of your life in many ways. Even more important than learning the skills about how not to commit any more crimes or abuse drugs and alcohol are the things you will learn how to do: reducing stress, becoming fully employed, rebuilding family relationships, and becoming a productive member of the community.

Please know this: the people who make up the VTC Work team only want to see you succeed. If you take advantage of the assistance offered by the VTC Team you will discover many new ways to make a better life for yourself.

**While we recognize that addiction is a treatable disease, it is important for you to remember that you are in the VTC program because of a criminal charge.**

## Program Expectations

If you follow the rules and structure of the program, your life will get better. We are not saying that it will be problem-free, but we can help teach you to keep from adding more problems to an already difficult life. Below are some of the guidelines and program expectations.

### **#1 RULE OF VTC: HONESTY**

### **# 2 RULE OF VTC: COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR PROBATION OFFICER**

Arrive at Court and at all of your scheduled appointments on time. Docket starts at 10:00 am. Participants are called in order of where they are in the program (i.e., participants in later phases and most compliant participants are called first). It is very important to be to court on time. If you think you will be late, call your Probation Officer who will let us know why.

Do not miss any scheduled Court dates, treatment sessions, support group meetings, extra court appearances, or conferences with the VTC team. **If you miss Court or any scheduled appointment (Probation, treatment, etc.) due to medical issues, you must provide medical verification to the Court as well as your Probation Officer. You must also call the Court and your Probation Officer to notify so a bench warrant is not issued if you miss Court.**

Contact your Probation Officer if you are having any kind of difficulty, including making your appointments on time. **You cannot change your treatment plan on your own.** Do not wait until your next Court appearance as it can lead to a sanction by the Judge.

**You must abstain from the use of any and all mind altering substances, alcohol, illegal drugs, bath salts, spice, designer drugs, marijuana (medical or recreational), and any paraphernalia.**

Non-Alcoholic beer contains alcohol. No alcohol means **no alcohol.**

**REMEMBER: The VTC team interprets drinking/drug use as you asking for more help. Your use tells us that you need both our team and your treatment providers to come in tighter and provide more structure and support.**

You must notify the Court of any medications that are prescribed to you. **You must also provide medical documentation of said medication for the Court file.** You must keep the team informed if your medications change.

Do not take any alcohol-based fluids, example: cough syrup, NyQuil, Listerine, etc. There are items sold over the counter that contain no alcohol.

**Expect to take random and scheduled urine tests and/or breathalyzers throughout the week and at Court sessions.** Do not tamper with urine samples as they are fully observed. Tampering with your sample may lead to a jail sanction.

**Do not dilute or miss your urine test. This will count as a positive UA and you will receive a harsher sanction.** It is better you have a positive UA than missed or dilute one. This way the VTC team can work with you toward your recovery in an environment of honesty.

You are not to leave the State unless you receive Probation's approval. Ask your Probation Officer for further assistance.

**If your personal information changes (location, phone number, etc.), contact your Probation Officer with a full update.** We must be able to contact you at any time.

If you need a letter written on your behalf for your job, another court, etc., you must contact the Court no later than three days before you need it.

Dress appropriately for Court and treatment sessions. If you are unsure as to what is appropriate dress, ask your Probation Officer.

Do not argue with the Judge or staff. If you disagree with something, state your position in a calm manner and accept what is being asked of you.

Do not coerce (or force) any other program participant into doing anything that may harm or interfere with their recovery or treatment.

Do not make threats toward other participants or staff or behave in a violent manner.

Do not bring drugs, alcohol, or weapons into any treatment program, meeting, appointment, or event.

Turn OFF your cellphone before entering the Courtroom or treatment session (no vibrate or silent ring).

**Always keep in mind that removal from the VTC program may result in a return to criminal court or sentencing on the charge(s) to which you have been convicted.**

Please remember this is a voluntary program.

## How long will I be in the VTC?

The amount of time you spend in the VTC program will be determined by **your individual progress**, but it will be no less than 14 months.

There are some steps you can take to help you begin this program.

- ✿ Get involved with your treatment plan, and stay involved with it.
- ✿ Get to know the names of all of the staff associated with the Veterans Treatment Court, and keep their contact information handy.
- ✿ Develop a folder or notebook to keep this handbook and other forms and papers that will be given to you.
- ✿ Know how you will travel to Court and have a back-up plan if you are relying on another person to bring you here. **Under no circumstance should you drive yourself to Court if you do not have a valid driver's license.**
- ✿ Begin to organize things at home. Being organized where you reside helps you to be organized in the way you approach other areas of your life. Ask the VTC team for help if you don't know how to start.
- ✿ If you need help with reading or understanding any of the forms, papers, or proceedings, make sure you let us know so we can help you.

- \* You will be given a calendar at your first VTC appearance to help you stay organized. Keep it up-to-date with your court dates, meeting dates, treatment dates, etc. and bring it with you to Court.

**M**y notes and important names, numbers and appointments to remember

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**Important names and numbers to know:**

**My Attorney:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**My Treatment Program:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**My Treatment Counselor:**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**My first appointment:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Time \_\_\_\_\_

**Court Ordered Treatment**

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**Other Important Numbers**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

## Regular Attendance

Treatment includes counseling, individual sessions, substance abuse groups, education, and all other sessions as directed. You will be required to be on time for all treatment. If you are late, you may not be allowed to attend and may be considered absent. This will result in a sanction from the Court. You may also be required to attend treatment because of your sentence (ex: Anger Management, Domestic Violence treatment, DUI classes, etc.).

**Your treatment and probation schedule will vary according to your progress and as your needs become more apparent.** It is your responsibility to schedule all needed appointments and to arrive on time for all of them. **You should only reschedule a treatment session in the case of an emergency – a phone call to your Probation Officer and documentation to the Court will be required.**

**Personal needs must be scheduled around Veterans Treatment Court requirements, which include Court, treatment, probation appointments, drug testing, etc.**

## Drug and Alcohol Screening

Besides treatment, one of the primary goals of VTC is to help you remain abstinent from alcohol and all non-prescribed drugs. You will be tested throughout the entire program. **Drug testing in the VTC program is done in the spirit of therapeutic recovery (we are not trying to catch you doing something bad; we are trying to increase your accountability in your recovery process).**

Drug testing is generally done using urinalysis (UAs). Other mechanisms used to monitor sobriety may include SCRAM, Sober Link, oral swabs, hair follicle tests, or other procedures approved by the court. **Participants are responsible for the costs of testing unless other arrangements have been made with your Probation Officer or treatment provider.**

- UAs require “direct observation.” Screens not witnessed are of no value and will not be accepted.
- The Judge will have access to all UA results including failures, refusals to test, dilutes, and adulterated tests.
- A UA or a breathalyzer may be ordered at any time. Drug screens may be conducted at your drug testing facility, during court appearances, or at any other time.

- A positive test or admission of alcohol or other drug use will not disqualify you but will result in a sanction or change in treatment planning.
- If the specimen appears to be dilute you will be sanctioned.
  - Urine samples with creatinine levels below 20mg/dl (dilute) or above 400 mg/dl will be considered invalid and subject to sanction.
- Substituting your specimen or having someone blow into a breathalyzer for you will be considered positive and a jail sanction may be implemented.
- You are responsible for ensuring the screens you provide are valid. You should be aware that prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, herbal remedies, coffee, GNC products, energy drinks, dietary, or energy supplements can affect your test results. As such, you must have prior approval from the VTC team to use anything that may affect your sample.
- Do not take any medication (including over-the-counter medications) without first talking to your Probation Officer. Never take someone else's medication.
- Lack of money to pay for a drug screen does not excuse you from submitting. If you have financial constraints, discuss this with your Probation Officer.

**You will be required to voluntarily report all drug or alcohol use to the Judge at each court appearance. REMEMBER:**

**Be upfront and honest!**

- **Repeated substance use will result in a treatment response or sanction that may include a higher level of care, jail, and/or both.**
- **Failure to report drug or alcohol use will result in a harsher sanction than if you were honest to the Judge.**
- **Any drugs that a doctor prescribes for you must be reported to your VTC Probation Officer.**

**Incentives** are rewards for positive behavior.

**Sanctions** are the imposition of a consequence for negative behavior

## Incentives & Sanctions

Frequent court appearances allow the VTC team the opportunity to respond quickly to both your positive and negative behaviors.

### Incentives

When you demonstrate compliance and progress in treatment, you will be awarded incentives.

Incentives used by the court may include:

- Verbal acknowledgement
- Written acknowledgement
- Peer recognition
- Gift cards
- Court paying for transportation passes
- Court paying for drug testing
- Court paying for treatment
- Phase promotion
- Reduction in court costs or treatment fees
- Reduced supervision (court hearings, PO meetings, etc.)

### Sanctions

If you violate program rules you will be subject to sanctions. Sanctions will be imposed every time a non-compliant behavior occurs. This means that you will receive a sanction for each missed target behavior. The sanctions imposed will increase in severity for serious violations as well as repeated violations. Sanctions will be imposed for the entire period you are involved in the VTC program.

Sanctions used by the court may include:

- Verbal warning
- Written assignment
- Increased court appearances
- Increased or daily reporting (to your PO)
- Community service
- Behavior contract
- Increased drug testing
- SCRAM
- Phase regression
- Time in custody
- Termination contract
- Program removal

Please keep in mind that you will receive a sanction for each missed behavior. This means that if you miss a requirement on Monday, do not blow off your requirements for the rest of the week (or you will receive several sanctions).

## Proximal and Distal Goals

**Proximal goals are behaviors you are already capable of performing**, and are necessary for your long-term goals to be achieved.

- Some examples of proximal goals are: telling the truth, attending treatment, making your UAs.

**Distal goals are behaviors that are ultimately desired, but will take some time for you to accomplish.**

- Some examples of distal goals are: gainful employment, effective parenting, sobriety.

The sanctions you are assigned vary according to what your proximal and distal goals are. Distal goals eventually become proximal goals as you make progress in the program. You will receive a harsher sanction for violating a proximal goal than a distal one.

**Right now, what are three of your Proximal goals?**

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**Right now, what are three of your Distal goals?**

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*Note: The VTC team NEVER uses treatment as a sanction. If you receive a treatment response (clinical staffing, redirection group, treatment workbook, outside meeting, re-assessment, or additional treatment groups or days), please know that it is a required action the court takes as we work toward your treatment and recovery together.*

### **Probation Meetings**

Your relationship with your Probation Officer is very important – you must comply with the terms and conditions of probation as part of this program. Your PO coordinates and provides case management, case planning, contingency management, and referral information. They also monitor your substance use/sobriety through testing, home, and other field visits, and provide all relevant information to the VTC team.

Your PO has a comprehensive knowledge base of local and statewide treatment, monitoring, and supervision resources for all aspects of your life (ex: substance abuse, mental health, medical, psychiatric, housing, vocational, educational, community service, etc.). In addition, she demonstrates respectful, motivation-enhancing communication skills with you and other professionals and sets positive expectations by working with you to set and achieve your goals.

If you have a question, miss a treatment session, UA, or other appointment, or change your schedule, you should notify your PO.

Because your PO is your first point of contact, you should try to establish a respectful relationship with her. If you demonstrate verbally or physically aggressive behavior in your meetings, she has the right to terminate the meeting immediately, without giving you credit for it. This will result in you being noncompliant with court expectations for the week and you may receive a sanction.

## **Payment for Services**

You will be assessed for your ability to pay for treatment and monitored sobriety at the beginning of each phase. Please address your payment concerns with your PO. Traditionally, clients pay for more treatment and drug testing as they progress through the program. However, we understand you may have fines, fees, and restitution to pay off, and we will work with you to make sure your financial burden is bearable. It is expected that each participant will financially invest in his/her treatment and drug testing. Failure to attend treatment or submit a UA due to non-payment will result in a sanction. If you cannot afford anything, work with your PO.

All restitution must be paid before graduation from the VTC. Participants must be showing a good faith effort to be paying fines and fees before graduation will be approved.

## **Employment and Disability**

As a participant in the VTC, treatment is your top priority. Later in the program you will be asked to find employment or education that will lead to employment. We understand some veterans who come to us will be on disability and unable to work. If you have not already been granted disability, it will not be a consideration for this court. In this case, you will be held to the normal phase expectations for employment or education.

If you are disabled and unable to work you may be held to a required number of hours of useful public service (community service) or restorative justice programs per week. The amount of time

you will participate in these programs varies according to what phase you are in, your abilities, and can be found in the phase requirements below.

## **Transportation**

Procuring transportation to and from court is important. Under no circumstances should you drive yourself anywhere if you do not have a valid driver's license. You should have a backup plan for your weekly appointments if your first choice in transportation falls through. Peers frequently offer participants a ride to court since it is beyond the scope of RTD transportation. Other participants in the program who still have their licenses or are getting rides from their families might also be able to drive you. And did you know that if you are 50% or more disabled, you can present your disability card to RTD and ride for free?

Other agencies can help with your transportation needs as well. Probation can provide a bus pass and coupon to VTC participants based on financial need. Discuss this with your PO if you are struggling with transportation issues.

## **Peer Mentors**

One particularly unique and vital component of the VTC is the veteran peer mentor program. In addition to the VTC work team and various agencies, a group of volunteers serve in the Court as mentors. Mentors can serve a variety of roles, including coach, facilitator, advisor, sponsor, and supporter. Mentors listen to the concerns and problems of participants and assist them in finding resources. They observe participants and work with them to help set goals and action plans. Mentors provide feedback to participants and highlight their successes.

Most importantly, mentors act as a support for the veteran participant in a way that only other veterans can. The mentoring program thrives on the premise that behind every successful person, there is one elementary truth: somewhere, somehow, someone cared about their growth and development. We ask that you, as a participant, utilize the mentors as they are here for you.

## Phase Guidelines

The VTC program has four phases, each with different requirements. It is important that you ensure you are meeting the goals you set in your case plan with your PO. The VTC team, your treatment providers, your PO, and YOU will develop plans to fit your specific needs. One will specifically address your treatment needs, another will address any substance use problems, and others will address life issues such as education, vocational training, budgeting, parenting, and family skills.

**It is important to remember that the VTC program will not work for you unless you work for the program.**

The case and treatment plans for each phase can be changed as your needs change and become more apparent to your PO, treatment providers, and the VTC team. While there are requirements for each phase (see below) you will most likely have an individualized plan catered to your specific needs, abilities, and sentencing requirements. The VTC team can make changes to your plans at any time, but will let you know each time we do. The duration listed for the later phases is compliance-based, and can vary according to your progress. It is a guideline – not a rule.

As a VTC Participant it is expected that you meet with the peer mentors, participate in pro-social activities, or go to support services if needed. It is essential that you develop a support system as well as the skills that will allow you to build a lasting recovery that will help you for the rest of your life. The team recognizes that recovery is not an easy process, but we also recognize your effort and courage to change. Together, we can make it work.

**Remember: While there are certain things you must complete, your ability to move along in the program and graduate will depend mostly on your own actions. If you miss appointments, ignore other requirements, or fail to stay away from drug and alcohol use, your time in the VTC will be longer.**

## GENERAL VETERANS TREATMENT COURT REQUIREMENTS

All participants in the First Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court are expected to abide by the general VTC requirements. Failure to do so may result in sanctions up to and including termination from VTC.

- Remain law abiding.
- No possession or use of firearms without written authorization from the VTC judge.
- No use of alcohol or alcohol-based products without explicit authorization from the VTC team.
- No use of any drugs, controlled substances, or illicit substances that have not been prescribed to the participant by a licensed physician.
- No use of medical or recreational marijuana.
- Submit to all required alcohol and/or substance testing.
- Take all prescribed medications as directed by physician.
- If prescribed a narcotic or habit-forming medication or drug, participant must disclose this to probation officer within two business days.
- Arrive on time for all scheduled court appearances. VTC is held Tuesday mornings from 10:00 – 12:00.
- Comply with individual treatment plan as established by the VA, any community based service providers, the probation officer, and the VTC team.
- Cooperate with unscheduled home visits by probation officers or law enforcement officers.
- Pay all fees, fines, costs, and restitution as ordered, including treatment costs.
- Do not function in any capacity as a police informant while participating in VTC without written authorization from the VTC judge.
- Attend all VA and community based appointments as scheduled.
- Inform probation officer of any change in address within two business days.
- Complete all required community service work.
- Attend all self-help or community support groups ordered by the VTC judge.
- Obtain and maintain employment, actively seek employment, and/or make progress toward education and training goals, as appropriate.
- Secure and maintain a permanent residence.
- Adhere to a curfew if ordered by the VTC judge.
- Be respectful to the VTC team and other VTC participants at all times.
- Comply with all standard or specific conditions of probation.

## VETERANS TREATMENT COURT PHASES AND GRADUATION CRITERIA

### **PHASE 1: ORIENTATION** (minimum of 30 days)

The main goal of this phase is to develop an individualized treatment plan that will be approved by the VTC team prior to commencement to the next phase. An individualized treatment plan includes but is not limited to substance abuse treatment, individual and/or group therapy, self-help groups, behavioral health treatment and/or counseling, behavioral health and/or medical appointments, medication monitoring, domestic abuse groups and/or programming, involvement with additional evaluations and/or assessments and complying with all resulting recommendations, cognitive and/or behavioral modification therapies, and family and/or spouse counseling and/or therapy.

#### ***Phase 1 Requirements:***

- Maintain contact with probation officer as directed.
- Establish contact with VA and/or community providers.
- Promptly submit to all required drug and alcohol testing.
- Attend Veterans Treatment Court weekly or as ordered by the VTC judge.
- Remain law abiding.
- Work with Veteran Mentors as required by the VTC team.

#### ***Criteria for Advancement to Phase 2:***

- On date of advancement to Phase 2, a VTC participant must have sobriety for the past two weeks with no missed, positive, dilute, or tampered drug or alcohol tests.
- No program violations for two weeks prior to phase advancement.
- Be in compliance with all program requirements and probation supervision plan.

**PHASE 2: TREATMENT STABILIZATION** (minimum of 120 days)

This phase requires the participant to work with the VA and any other community-based treatment providers on issues identified in the individualized treatment plan. The treatment plan may be modified to address individual issues as they are identified.

***Phase 2 Requirements:***

- Maintain contact with probation officer as directed.
- Attend all appointments with VA and other service providers.
- Engage in Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) as directed.
- Promptly submit to all required drug and alcohol testing.
- Attend Veterans Treatment Court every other week or as ordered by the VTC judge.
- Remain law abiding.
- Follow the individualized treatment plan.
- Obtain stable housing
- Seek employment/volunteer work and/or pursue education if required in probation supervision plan.
- Work with Veteran Peer Mentors as required by the VTC team.

***Criteria for Advancement to Phase 3:***

- On date of advancement to Phase 3, a VTC participant must have sobriety for the past 60 consecutive days with no missed, positive, dilute, or tampered drug or alcohol tests.
- Petition VTC team for advancement to next phase, showing compliance with individualized treatment plan.
- No program violations for 4 weeks prior to phase advancement.
- Be in compliance with all program requirements and probation supervision plan.

**PHASE 3: TREATMENT MAINTENANCE** (minimum of 180 days)

This phase requires the participant to continue working with the VA and any community treatment providers on issues identified in the individualized treatment plan. Additional emphasis is placed on establishing a permanent residence, gainful permanent employment or in school, and establishing pro-social supports and activities.

***Phase 3 Requirements:***

- Maintain contact with probation officer as directed.
- Attend all appointments with VA and any other service providers.
- Promptly submit to required drug and alcohol testing.
- Attend court appearances every three weeks or as ordered by the VTC judge.
- Remain law abiding.
- Follow the individualized treatment/aftercare plan.
- Obtain and maintain permanent housing.
- Maintain stable employment and/or continue education if required in probation supervision plan.
- Establish pro-social supports and activities.
- Work with Veteran Peer Mentors as required by the VTC team.

***Criteria for Advancement to Phase 4:***

- On date of advancement to Phase 4, a VTC participant must have sobriety for the past 90 consecutive days with no missed, positive, dilute, or tampered drug or alcohol tests.
- Petition VTC team for advancement to next phase, showing compliance with individualized treatment plan.
- No program violations for 6 weeks prior to phase advancement.
- Have stable employment/volunteer work or be attending an education/training program if required in probation supervision plan.
- Create an aftercare plan describing how participant will maintain stability after discharge from VTC and present the plan to VTC team and other VTC participants in court.
- Be in compliance with all program requirements and probation supervision plan.

**PHASE 4: TRANSITION TO STANDDOWN** (minimum of 90 days)

This phase requires the participant to work with the VA, other treatment providers, community support systems, and the VTC team to show a plan for continued success once no longer involved with the VTC. Significant progress with addressing behavioral health issues and reducing risk to reoffend in the future must be demonstrated.

***Phase 4 Requirements:***

- Maintain contact with probation officer as directed.
- Attend all appointments with VA and any other service providers.
- Promptly submit to required drug and alcohol testing.
- Attend monthly court appearances or as ordered by the VTC judge.
- Remain law abiding.
- Follow the treatment aftercare/stability plan.
- Maintain stable employment and/or continue education if required in probation supervision plan.
- Maintain pro-social supports and activities.
- Maintain permanent housing.
- Pay all outstanding fines, fees, costs, and restitution or be in compliance with payment plan.

***Graduation Criteria:***

- On date of completion of court requirements, a VTC participant must have sobriety for the past 90 consecutive days with no missed, positive, dilute, or tampered drug or alcohol tests.
- Petition VTC team for graduation, showing compliance with individualized treatment plan and present a written relapse prevention/safety plan. Turn in to probation officer for VTC team review and approval at least 2 weeks before scheduled graduation date and present verbally to VTC team and other VTC participants on day of graduation.
- No program violations for 8 weeks prior to graduation.
- Have stable employment/volunteer work or be attending an education/training program if required in probation supervision plan.
- Have permanent housing.
- Be in compliance with all program requirements and probation supervision plan.

Program progression may be temporarily suspended if participant is unable to actively participate in VTC.

While Veterans Treatment Court program graduates are no longer required to appear in VTC, if they remain on probation after graduation, they will continue to be subject to all terms and conditions set by the sentencing judge until they are discharged from probation.

## TERMINATION FROM VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

### ***Termination Process:***

To be terminated from VTC the Probation Department or District Attorney's Office shall file a motion to revoke probation or deferred judgment. An attorney for the participant may provide representation in any revocation proceedings. A neutral judge will make the final decision regarding revocation.

### ***Termination Criteria:***

Participant will be terminated from the program for the following:

- Participant revokes the Release of Information that allows the VTC team to share information about his or her case or treatment progress;
- Participant presents a threat to public safety, any VTC personnel, participants, or victims;
- Participant moves away from the area in which necessary providers can provide treatment and participant does not have adequate transportation. While this is grounds for program termination, it may not necessarily result in a probation revocation.

Participant may be terminated for the following:

- Failure to remain law abiding.
- Violation of program rules.
- Failure to follow treatment plan.
- Failure to comply with monitored sobriety.
- Failure to attend scheduled court review hearings. (make more clear language to specify diluting, adulterating, using whizzinators).
- Participant absconds from probation supervision.
- A post-entry determination that the participant was not appropriate for the VTC program due to his or her level of need or ability to comply with basic program requirements.

**“Valor is stability, not of legs and arms, but of courage and the soul.” – Michel de Montaigne**