

STATE OF MICHIGAN



District Court - 52nd Judicial District

1ST DIVISION

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ALEXANDRA BLACK
COURT ADMINISTRATOR

Administrative Order 2022 - 04

ORDER FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

IT IS ORDERED:

This administrative order is issued in accordance with MCL 600.1200, *et seq.* The purpose of this order is to establish a veterans treatment court in 52nd 1st Division District Court upon approval by the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO). All policies and procedures comply with the statute and are consistent with the *10 Key Components for a Veterans Treatment Court* (see attachment A), as required by MCL 600.1201 (1).

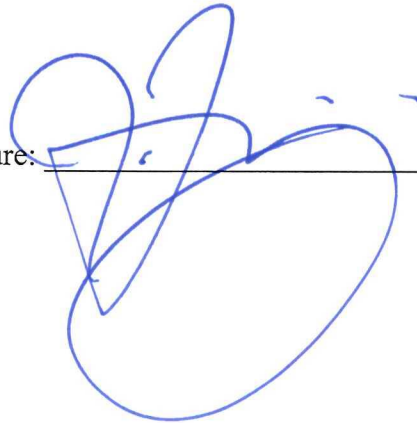
1. The court has entered into a memorandum of understanding with each participating county prosecuting attorney in the circuit or district court district, a representative of the criminal defense bar, a representative of community treatment providers, and other key parties pursuant to MCL 600.1201(2). The memorandum of understanding describes the role of each party and is attached (Attachment B).
2. The court has established eligibility criteria consistent with MCL 600.1203 and 600.1205.
3. In compliance with MCL 600.1203(3), no participant will be admitted until a complete preadmission screening, substance abuse, and/or mental health assessment are completed.
4. All participants will sign a voluntary written agreement to participate in the program in conformance with MCL 600.1205(1)(d).

5. The court will maintain case files in compliance with Trial Court General Schedule #13, the Michigan Case File Management Standards, and Part 2 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations to assure confidentiality of treatment court records.
6. The court has established, as part of its program requirements, procedures to assure compliance with MCL 600.1207 and 600.1208.
7. Pursuant to MCL 600.1210, the court will provide the SCAO with the minimum standard data established by the SCAO for each individual applicant and participant of the veterans treatment court program.
8. The court will use the Drug Court Case Management Information System (DCCMIS) to maintain and submit the minimum data as determined by the SCAO.
9. In order to begin or continue operation of the veterans treatment court, the 52nd 1st Division District Court will become certified by the State Court Administrative Office under MCL 600.1201.

Date:

5/19/22

Chief Judge Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and curves, positioned over a horizontal line.

ATTACHMENT A

The 10 Key Components of Veterans Treatment Courts

Key Component #1: Veterans treatment courts integrate alcohol and drug treatment, and mental services with justice system case processing.

Veterans treatment court promotes sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response to a veteran's dependency on alcohol, drugs, and/or management of his/her mental illness. Realization of these goals requires a team approach. This approach includes the cooperation and collaboration of the traditional partners found in drug treatment courts and mental health treatment courts with the addition of the Veterans Administration, support organizations for veterans and their families, as well as volunteer veteran mentors.

Key Component #2: Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.

To facilitate the veteran's progress in treatment, the prosecutor and defense counsel work together as a team. Once a veteran is accepted into the treatment court program, the team's focus is on the veteran's recovery and law-abiding behavior, not on the merits of the pending case.

Key Component #3: Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the veterans court program.

Early identification of veterans entering the criminal justice system is a vital part of the process of placement in the ICTVC. Arrest can be a traumatic event in a person's life. It creates an immediate crisis and can force recognition of inappropriate behavior out into the open. This assists the veteran in realizing there is a need for treatment.

Key Component #4: The veterans treatment court provides access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.

While primarily concerned with criminal activity, alcohol and other drug use, and mental illness, the treatment court team also considers co-occurring problems such as medical problems, transmittable diseases, homelessness, basic educational deficits, unemployment, poor job preparation, spouse and family troubles, and the ongoing effects of war-time trauma.

Key Component #5: Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.

Frequent court-ordered alcohol and other drug testing is essential. An accurate testing program is the most objective and efficient way to establish a framework for accountability and to gauge each defendant's progress.

Key Component #6: A coordinated strategy governs veterans treatment court responses to participants' compliance.

A veteran's progress through the treatment court is measured by his or her compliance with the treatment regimen. The program rewards cooperation as well as responds to noncompliance. The program establishes a coordinated strategy, including a continuum of graduated responses, to continuing drug use and other noncompliant behavior.

Key Component #7: Ongoing judicial interaction with each veteran is essential.

The judge is the leader of the veterans treatment court team. This active, supervising relationship increases the likelihood that a veteran will remain in treatment and improves the chances for sobriety and law-abiding behavior. Ongoing judicial supervision also communicates to veterans that someone in authority cares about them and is closely watching what they do.

Key Component #8: Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.

Management and monitoring systems provide timely and accurate information about program progress. Program monitoring provides oversight and measurements of the program's performance against its stated goals and objectives. Information and conclusions developed from periodic monitoring reports, process evaluation activities, and longitudinal evaluation studies may be used to modify the program.

Key Component #9: Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective veterans treatment court planning, implementation, and operations.

All veterans treatment court staff should be involved in education and training. Interdisciplinary education exposes criminal justice officials to veteran treatment issues. In addition, VA employees, veteran volunteer mentors, and treatment staff are exposed to criminal justice issues. It also develops shared understandings of the values, goals, and operating procedures of the VA, treatment, and the justice system components.

Education and training programs help maintain a high level of professionalism and provide a forum for solidifying relationships among the veterans treatment court stakeholders. A spirit of collaboration and commitment is also promoted.

Key Component #10: Forging partnerships among the court, VA, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances program effectiveness.

Because of its unique position in the criminal justice system, a veterans treatment court is well-suited to develop collaborations among community-based organizations, criminal justice agencies, the VA, support organizations for veterans and their families, and treatment delivery systems. Forming such collaborations expands the continuum of services available to defendants and informs the community about veterans treatment court concepts.