

BUTLER COUNTY AREA COURTS

Veterans' Court Program

A SPECIALIZED DOCKET SERVING THE NEEDS OF UNITED STATES VETERANS



PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

Guidelines and Program Information

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Butler County Area Courts

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Introduction

The Butler County Court recognizes the proven success of specialized programs providing collaborative services, intensive monitoring of participant's progress and application of immediate sanctions when participant's fail to follow terms of probation and/or their case plan. As a result, the number of participant's who successfully complete probation requirements is greatly improved and this may have also contributed to a significant reduction in the rate of recidivism.

The Veterans Court is a specialized program that works within the framework of the existing Butler County Court. This special docket is intended to serve a target population and to accomplish specific criminal justice objectives. Veterans Court deals with Defendants whose actions and subsequent charges may vary greatly, but their common ground is obviously their past military service.

In recognizing that many of our veterans may return to civilian life with serious trauma, both physical and mental, which may lead to their involvement with the criminal justice system, it is the objective of the Veterans Court to ensure that veterans receive the treatment they need to make a successful transition to civilian life. By providing a specialized docket, we can increase the veteran's chance of success in a collaborative environment. Enhancing access to various programs and treatments and fostering interaction with other veterans will help to ensure that those who have served may in turn receive the treatment they need, if they so desire.

If you would like to join Veterans Court, there will be a brief legal eligibility screening conducted by the Program Manager or Coordinator. Your information will then be sent to the Cincinnati VA to determine your possible eligibility for their services. If you qualify for VA services, you will be referred for a treatment assessment. If you do not qualify, you will be referred to another service provider for an assessment. The following services will be available to you: mental health, healthcare, dental care, employment, housing, and others as needed. You will also be placed on probation and must report to your Probation Officer as ordered in addition to appearing in court for review hearings.

The Court relies heavily on the information and resources noted in the below links. The court has often deferred to the guidance of the Ohio Supreme Court Specialized Docket Services as well as guidance from Mental Health Courts such as that in Fairfield, Ohio.

www.sc.ohio.gov/JCS.specDockets/guidanceConstitutionalStandards.pdf?

[Specialized Dockets Mental Health Court Guidance \(ohio.gov\)](#)

Key Components of the Veterans Court

- Ensuring the veteran becomes aware of treatment and assistance resources available to him or her through a number of agencies
- Develop a comprehensive case plan for defendants placed in the Veterans Court which will include: evaluations and assessments followed by treatment as indicated
- Provide defendants a support team that will assist them in successfully completing their case plan
- On-going review hearings in court before Judge Kevin C. McDonough
- Random, frequent, and observed alcohol & drug testing which will occur at least twice per month with an increase to at least twice per week based on history of substance use or a positive test during the program, and home visits.

This Participant Handbook has been written to help you successfully complete the requirements of the Butler County Area Courts Veterans Court Program. In this handbook, you will find specific information about the Court, program requirements, program rules and guidelines, probation, and treatment. The Veterans Court is broken down into 4 phases. You will progress through each phase and accomplish case plan objectives. There will be specific things you must do to complete each phase. If you fail to comply with the rules of the Veterans Court, specific sanctions can be imposed.

As a participant in Veterans Court you will be required to appear in court on a regular basis. The frequency of those appearances and your progression in the program depends on your status in the program and your level of cooperation and success. The Court will set aside a special docket session to review the status of your compliance. Proceedings will usually occur in the courtroom before the Judge, in the presence of the other veterans involved in the program. These proceedings are open to the public.

Initially you will appear bi-weekly until you are regularly engaged in your case plan or services. At each appearance, the Judge will be given a progress report prepared by the Treatment Team. The report shall review the level of your participation and compliance. The Judge will discuss progress and specific problems with you. Modification of case plans will be discussed and ordered and the Judge may address provider issues. The Court will monitor the provision of services as well as your engagement in services.

Referral Process

The Veterans Court Docket supports the referral of all potentially eligible defendants for review under these policies and procedures. Referrals may be made formally and informally from many sources, including: judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, case managers, self-referral, police officers, Pretrial Services, probation officers, jail staff, or others. An informal referral may consist of a phone call or discussion with any member of the Veterans Court Docket team. The team shall pass along referral information to the Program Coordinator from all sources.

The formal referral process initiates upon a request from a Butler County Court Judge for "Veterans Court Docket Assessment". The referral requires the Veterans Court Docket team to complete an assessment of a defendant for their suitability for the Program. The assessment shall be completed within 30 days of referral. The Veterans Court Docket team promptly assesses individuals and refers them to appropriate services.

Screening and Assessment

Guidelines, Rules & General Conditions Of the Veterans Court

You will be expected to comply with the following:

1. Terms of probation including the case plan ordered by the Court.
2. Immediately update the Court and/or any assigned agency with changes of address and phone number.
3. Attend all review hearings before the Judge and all case plan meetings.
4. Be on time for all hearings and meetings at Court and service provider agencies. Never be violent or verbally aggressive or threatening at Court or service provider sessions.
5. Dress appropriately for Court and service provider sessions.
6. While in Court, be respectful of the Court process by demonstrating conduct that is orderly and calm and never disruptive.
7. Refrain from participating in any threatening or violent activity.
8. Refrain from using alcohol or any controlled substance that are not lawfully prescribed to you by a medical doctor.
9. Submit to random, frequent and observed drug testing at least twice per month with an increase to at least twice per week based on history of substance use for a positive test during the program.
10. Refrain from any activities that may result in your arrest.
11. Be respectful to Probation Officers and Case Plan Coordinators assigned to you through the Veterans Court Program.
12. You will also be required to enter into a Participation Agreement. This agreement will be explained in detail by a Probation Officer and a copy is contained in this handbook.

Costs of the Program

Standard Probation fees apply when participating in Veterans Court. These will be explained by your Probation Officer. You may be also responsible for the costs of drug screening fees and any monetary fines that are imposed as sanctions.

You are responsible for the treatment costs, which will vary depending on your income and the agency providing your treatment. You are also responsible for the payment of any restitution, fines and Court costs ordered by the Court according to your ability to do

so and after considering if a participant is indigent. Failure to abide by the treatment payment plans and the payment of Court financial sanctions could result in increased sanctions or discharge from the program.

With the respect to specialized dockets, this means that candidates shall not be denied admission to the docket on financial ability. The docket shall consider a participant's ability to pay fees and/or other financial obligations and make reasonable accommodations based on financial ability.

Treatment

You may be required to complete a substance use assessment, or other Court ordered assessment to be conducted by a local treatment provider. The assessment will determine what level of treatment, if any, you require. You must attend all scheduled appointments with your treatment agency. Absences and tardiness will not be tolerated. Your court review team which consists of the Judge, Probation Officer, and any treatment providers who deal specifically with your case will meet before court sessions and discuss your progress and make appropriate recommendations. If necessary, your case plan may be adjusted to better suit needs and requirements.

Specific Roles and Responsibilities of Treatment Team Members

Judge

- Has discretion to decide the admission and termination from the Veterans Court Docket in accordance with the written legal and clinical criteria set forth in these policies; meeting legal and clinical criteria do not create a right to participate in the docket.
- Knowledgeable about treatment and programming methods and limitations (including the limitations of local resources; and clinical concepts such as stages of change).
- Final decision-maker concerning incentives, sanctions, phase advancement, and successful completion and termination from the program.
- Shall discuss progress with each participant at status review hearings.

Probation Officer

- Monitors compliance with supervision plan.
- Conducts random alcohol and drug tests and reports the results of tests to the tests to the Treatment Team.
- Monitors sanctions.
- Visits the participants at home, school, or other locations as needed or directed by the Judge.

- Attends Treatment Team meetings and status review hearings.
- Informs the team whether treatment plan, supervision plan, and court orders are followed.
- Advises of any program violations
- During Treatment Team meetings, provides progress reports and recommendations.
- Participates in discussions about incentives, sanctions, phase advancement, successful completion, and termination.

Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist (VJO / Cincinnati VA)

- Primary treatment provider for the Veterans Court Docket.
- Responsible for maintaining an ongoing treatment plan that includes behavioral health, substance use, trauma, medical, housing, benefits, occupational and vocational goals.
- Attends all Treatment Team meetings and reports on compliance with treatment plan.
- Provides access to regular appointments with psychiatrist and other properly licensed therapists, counselors, and case managers.
- Submits Progress Reports to the Court at Treatment Team meetings.
- Conducts diagnostic assessments, provides the clinical diagnosis, and develops the treatment plan.
- Makes recommendations at team meetings concerning treatment needs.
- Makes referrals to other agencies.
- Attends appointments to provide assistance.
- Participates in discussions regarding incentives, sanctions, phase advancement, successful completion, and termination.

Butler County Veterans Services Commission

- Representative attends Treatment Team and reports on participants currently receiving assistance through the Veterans Services Commission
- Completes assessment to determine qualification for discharge upgrades, emergency financial services, and other resources.
- Makes recommendations at Treatment Team meetings concerning resources for Veterans
- Participates in discussions regarding incentives, sanctions, phase advancement, successful completion, and termination.

Butler County Prosecutor

- Shall communicate with the Program Coordinator regarding issues related to diversion and legal eligibility for the Veterans Court Docket.
- Participates in discussions regarding incentives, sanctions, phase advancement, successful completion, and termination.

- The Veterans Court Docket promotes a non-adversarial approach while recognizing that the prosecutor has a distinct role in pursuing justice, protecting public safety and protecting victim's rights.

Butler County Court Public Defender

- Defense counsel may attend Treatment Team meetings and status review hearings.
- Participant has the right to request that their defense counsel be present during any status review hearing or Treatment Team meeting where the participant is discussed.
- Explains to participants what rights are waived by entering the program.
- Explains to participants the possible sanctions that may be imposed for program non-compliance.
- Explains the circumstances that may lead to termination.
- Explains the effect that termination from the Veterans Court Docket may have on the participant's case.
- Participates in discussions regarding incentives, sanctions, phase advancement, successful completion, and termination.
- The Veterans Court Docket promotes a non-adversarial approach while recognizing that the defense counsel has a distinct role in preserving the constitutional rights of the participant.

Veterans Court Program Manager

- Facilitates the specialized docket in accordance with the written program description
- Attends Treatment Team meetings and status review hearings.
- Participates in discussions regarding incentives, sanctions, phase advancement, successful completion, and termination.

Review Hearings

Initially, you will be required to attend bi-weekly court hearings. The Veterans Court Judge will review your progress to help determine if any changes in phases, case plan and/or sanctions are appropriate. You are responsible for keeping track of your court dates. Failure to attend a scheduled review hearing may result in additional sanctions being imposed or a bench warrant issued for your arrest.

Veterans Court Probation Appointments

You are required to report to the Veterans Court Probation Officer(s) as scheduled. You may be required to report as often as ordered by the Court. The frequency of office visits will be determined by your compliance with the program, your supervision phase level, and your individual case plan. Any significant changes in your life – address,

employment, family situation, etc. – should be reported to your Probation Officer immediately by phone or in person. You need to bring all appropriate documentation to verify such things as group attendance, receipts of payment towards fines & costs and restitution, verification of employment, and other items as directed by the probation officer.

Drug & Alcohol Testing

You are required to submit to random, frequent, and observed drug and alcohol tests at least twice per month with an increase to twice per week based on history of substance use or a positive test during the program. Come prepared to your Probation Officer appointments, treatment appointments and Court review hearings to submit to a drug screen. You may be called in for a drug/alcohol test; the probation department will contact you via telephone with a time frame in which to report for screening. Each participant has an individualized drug/alcohol testing plan, and these tests will be random, frequent, and observed. Some participant's may be required to wear an Alcohol detection bracelet to monitor alcohol consumption. Failure to submit to drug and/or alcohol testing, tampering with the urine specimen, providing specimen of another, or the dilution of urine WILL be handled as a positive test and may result in your immediate arrest and sanctions.

If you test positive at intake or have a relapse, the treatment plan will be reevaluated. There will be sanctions, if appropriate, that are strictly enforced by the Judge.

Participants will cooperate and comply with the supervision plan and any subsequent or amended supervision plans. The Veterans Court Judge may impose requirements on me at time of sentencing or as a sanctions for additional program violations. When a sanction may be imposed, a participant will be advised of their right to have counsel present. A participant may waive the right to an attorney, as long as the participant had the right to consult with an attorney, and the waiver is made knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily.

Sanctions

Sanctions will be used to help you conform to program rules and punish inappropriate or illegal behaviors to help you meet all your requirements. If you are noncompliant with the treatment plan or court orders, this will result in immediate and graduated sanctions depending on your history in the program. You are to remain alcohol and drug free and are encouraged to make changes in your lifestyle so that you can live a sober, positive and law-abiding lifestyle. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- Verbal reprimands in court
- Additional community service
- Electronic monitoring
- Imposition of suspended fines or jail time
- Program termination

The level of restrictions will be determined by the Veterans court review team. Below are a few examples of behavior that may warrant additional sanctions or restrictions:

- Non-compliance with Court
- New criminal charges
- Missed treatment and/or probation
- Uncooperative with Veterans court appointments
- Uncooperative with probation
- Alcohol and/or drug use
- Uncooperative with treatment

Incentives

Incentives are individualized according to your specific treatment plan and directly relate to your achievements as certain milestones of the treatment plan are attained. Incentives are also tracked to ensure that you are rewarded on a progressive basis.

The following are examples of incentives that may be utilized by the program:

- Encouragement and praise from the Judge
- Advancement through the Phase System
- Being called earlier in the docket
- Having extended time to talk with the Judge
- Reducing fines and fees
- Increasing or expanding privileges
- Award of phase advancement coin
- Assistance with purchasing clothes and/or household items
- Reducing or suspending jail or detention days
- Graduating from the Veterans Treatment Court Docket

The following are types of behaviors that may be incentivized:

- Attending required court appearances and treatment appointments
- Maintaining close and productive contact with case management
- Reaching individual treatment objectives and milestones
- Abstaining from alcohol and drugs
- Securing stable housing
- Payment of court fines, costs, and restitution according to participant's ability to do so and after considering if a participant is indigent.

- Providing support and encouragement to other participants

Home Visits

While in the Veterans Court, a Probation Officer may conduct visits at your residence. These visits will be random, possibly after curfew, and unannounced. You may be asked to submit to drug and/or alcohol testing during these visits.

Phases of the Vet Court Program

Phase 1: Orientation / Compliance Phase

The goal of the Orientation and Compliance Phase is to help the participant to understand all aspects of Veterans Court, to assure the highest level of function and success within the program and to comply with a treatment plan. While length of stay is based on progression of the individual, the minimum length of stay in Phase I is sixty (60) days. The participant shall complete the following prior to advancement to Phase 2:

Orientation and Compliance Phase requirements may include:

- Report to Probation Department twice weekly for drug testing
- Review and sign the Participation Agreement with their assigned defense counsel.
- Review and sign Release of Confidentiality and Consent to Treatment forms with Veterans Administration, Program Coordinator, and all other providers.
- Attend Veterans Court status review hearings at least twice per month.
- Meet each Treatment Team member to familiarize participant with the team: Judge, Program Coordinator, VJO, Probation Officer, Defense Attorney, Prosecutor, Peer Mentor Coordinator
- Familiarize the participant with the location of service providers and address issues of transportation
- Meet with VJO to complete intake process and complete an initial treatment plan.
- Initial treatment plan is presented to Veterans Court.
- Establish connection with Peer Mentor.
- Sign Probation rules and begin random drug testing, at a minimum of twice per week, for those participants diagnosed with a substance use disorder. Participants who are not diagnosed with a substance use disorder, and do not have a history of substance use, must still undergo random and observed drug testing, although a frequency of less than twice a week will be considered.
- Comply with treatment schedule as approved by the Court.
- Complete legal requirements of plea and sentencing (or intervention in lieu of conviction).

- Meet with family or other support parties to describe the Veterans Court Program and refer them to new supportive organizations
- Commit no new criminal offenses.

Phase 2: Stabilization Phase

The primary goals of this phase are to stabilize the participant and obtain compliance with the Veterans Court Docket program requirements. During this phase, the participant has regular contact with the Court by attending all scheduled Veterans Court Docket status review hearings. This is also an intensive contact phase for the participant's treatment provider and probation officer. During this period, the team will assist the participant in addressing essential needs such as housing, health, clothing, and recovery services. While length of stay is based on progression of the individual, the minimum length of stay in Phase II is ninety (90) days. The following tasks shall be considered and addressed during this phase:

- Ensure court obligations are met, such as developing payment schedule for fines, court costs, and restitution according to participant's ability to do so and after considering if a participant is indigent.
- Determine frequency of random alcohol and drug testing in accordance with requirements of Probation, which shall be at least twice per week.
- Continue mental health, trauma, and substance abuse use clinical assessment.
- Identify barriers to recovery.

Participants will be required to comply with the following:

- Attend status review hearing (minimum of once a month; twice a month is recommended)
- Attend treatment sessions and activities contained in the treatment plan and orders of the Court
- Attend meetings with VJO, Peer Mentor, and Probation Officer.
- Continue to submit and provide negative results to alcohol/drug testing, at a minimum of twice per month or as ordered.
- Abide by rules of Veterans Court Program, Probation, and laws of the United States and the State of Ohio.
- Create a plan for stabilization of mental health symptoms, trauma, behavioral issues, and substance use. This may include a referral to psychiatric services, medication, residential substance abuse use treatment, outpatient treatment for substance abuse use, emergency housing for homeless participants, referral to legal services, individual counseling, and other resources.
- Stabilize housing and benefits.

- ~~Display clean~~ Negative urine screens and consistent drug testing compliance.

Additional Advancement Criteria: No positive urinalysis for at least 45 days prior to advancement.

Phase 3: Community Reintegration Phase

After the participant remains stable, for a period of time, other goals can be addressed. During this period, a participant will begin to address the issues that brought the participant in to the Veterans Court. Various service needs can be assessed, including health, dental, optical, permanent housing needs, vocational training, and any other areas identified by the Veterans Court Team. Based on the participant's progress, required appearances at Veterans Court status review hearings may be reduced. While length of stay is based on progression of the individual, the minimum length of stay is one hundred-twenty (120) days. The following tasks shall be considered and addressed during this phase:

- Ensure probation requirements are met.
- Determine frequency of random alcohol and drug testing in accordance with requirements of Probation, which shall be at least twice per month, with an increase to at least twice per week, based on history of substance abuse use or a positive test during the program.
- Identify long term goals.
- Begin to develop plans for employment, educational opportunities, or social activities.
- Continue linking client to housing, employment, educational and vocational opportunities.
- Make referrals for other ancillary services not yet addressed.

Participant requirements to consider for the program engagement phase include:

- Attend required status review hearings as determined by Treatment Team (ranging from every other week to once a month).
- Continue to attend group and individual treatment.
- Continue to cooperate with home visits and appointments with VJO and therapist.
- Continue to attend scheduled appointments with probation.
- Continue to abide by rules of the specialized docket, probation, and the laws of Ohio.
- Engage with housing, educational, vocational, and employment service agencies.
- Maintain medication compliance and symptom management.
- Continue to submit and provide negative results to alcohol/drug testing, at a

- minimum of twice per month or as ordered.
- Maintain safe and stable housing.
- Update treatment goals.
- Address any criminal thinking through evidenced based programming.

Additional Advancement Criteria: No positive urinalysis for at least 45 days prior to advancement.

Phase 4: Maintenance Phase/Growth and Development

This phase is focused on the participant continuing the structure and discipline developed in earlier phases and developing self-sufficiency. By the time the participant moves to this phase, he or she has successfully adhered to the psychiatric treatment requirements, including medication compliance, integrated structure into their life by obtaining permanent housing; pursuing employment; volunteering; participating in educational or vocational opportunities; developing a functional support system; abstaining from the use of illegal drugs; and avoiding additional involvement with the criminal justice system.

The contact with treatment providers may lessen as the participant builds his or her self-sufficiency. At the discretion of the Treatment Team, appearances at Veterans Court Docket status review hearings are reduced even further (but not less than one time per month). While length of stay is based on progression of the individual, the minimum length of stay in Phase IV is one hundred-twenty (120) days.

Tasks to consider for the Growth and Development / Maintenance Phase:

- Complete probation obligations.
- Identify long term goals with implementation strategy.
- Begin improving sober support network and recovery-oriented activities.
- Begin developing plan for success beyond the program.
- Determine frequency of random alcohol and drug testing in accordance with requirements of Probation, which shall be at least twice per month, with an increase to at least twice per week, based on history of substance abuse use or a positive test during the program.

Participant requirements to consider for the growth and development phase include:

- Attend required status review hearings (once a month).
- Continue to attend treatment or programming sessions and activities.
- Continue to cooperate with case management home visits and appointments.
- Maintain medication compliance.

- Continue to submit and provide negative results to alcohol/drug testing, at a minimum of twice per month or as ordered.
- Continue established peer mentor relationship.
- Continue to meet with probation as directed.
- Obtain stable housing.
- Obtain employment or secure disability benefits.
- Complete Graduation Application and submit to the treatment team.
- Submit a treatment plan for post-graduation engagement.

Additional Advancement Criteria: No positive urinalysis for at least 45 days prior to advancement.

Completion Criteria

The following is information regarding what may be required of you for graduation from the program.

Compliant behavior and accomplishments include:

- Completed community service hours.
- Demonstrated period of abstinence from alcohol and drugs, evidenced by submitting negative alcohol and drug screens for a substantial period prior to graduation; establishment of a relapse prevention plan.
- Demonstrated compliance with mental health treatment including psychiatric appointments and medication compliance.
- Improved symptom identification and management.
- A displayed change in thinking, attitude and beliefs.
- Maintained consistent employment.
- Demonstrated ability to identify and eliminate criminal thinking patterns.
- Paid in full fines, court costs, restitution, and treatment costs according to participant's ability to do so and after considering if a participant is indigent.
- Identification and completion of a treatment plan to continue after program completion.
- Stable housing.
- No new criminal charges or convictions.
- Completed Veterans Treatment Court Docket requirements.
- Completed vocational and/or educational plan.
- Displayed responsibility for behavior.
- Demonstrated stability in the community.
- No new criminal charges or convictions

The following are the policies and procedures for determining when a participant

has successfully completed the program:

- A participant may be nominated for graduation by any treatment team member. The treatment team shall discuss progress in the program, time in the program, and stability in the community in determining completion (the Judge shall have final discretion).
- Upon judicial decision that the participant is ready for graduation, an after-care plan shall be put into place and accepted by the Court. The participant shall have the option to retain case management, psychiatric, substance use, and other supportive services outside of the Court through the VA or other treatment providers.
- The underlying case shall be disposed of (dismissed if on Diversion; Probation terminated).
- The participant shall participate in a final public graduation ceremony and will be presented with a final coin and certificate of completion.

Termination Criteria

The following is information that may lead to your termination from the program. The Judge has final discretion on decisions concerning termination and classification of termination in accordance with written eligibility and termination criteria. The treatment team shall advise the Judge on these decisions.

Unsuccessful Discharge

Criteria:

- Ongoing noncompliance with treatment or resistance to treatment plan
- New serious criminal conviction
- A serious probation violation or series of probation violations
- A serious infraction of the Veterans Court participation agreement

Result of Unsuccessful Discharge:

- Participants will be considered on a case by case basis for future consideration into the program.
- Further legal action, including revocation of Diversion or probation violation.
- Depending on the circumstances, the participant may be subject to jail or other penalties.
- Should the defendant remain on probation, the defendant shall be transferred to the regular criminal docket of the Veterans Court Judge, assigned probation officer, and continued under the terms of probation
- An unsuccessful discharge from the Veterans Court Program shall not mean a

discharge from appropriate mental health, substance use, or other programming available to a qualified defendant. Discharge shall have no effect on access to VA services.

Neutral Discharge

Criteria:

- A serious medical condition resulting in inability to participate in program requirements.
- Serious mental health condition resulting in inability to participate in program requirements.
- Death.
- Choice to voluntarily withdraw from the program prior to completion of a plea and signing of the Veterans Court Participation Agreement.
- Other factor that may keep the participant from meeting the requirements for successful completion.

Result of Neutral Discharge:

- Defendant is returned to the regular criminal docket of the Veterans Court Judge for regular case processing.
- Defendant shall have the right to request new representation other than the representation of the assigned Veterans Court Defense Attorney.
- Should the defendant wish to be admitted in the future to the Veterans Court Program, the Treatment Team and Judge shall review the request closely (final discretion is with the Judge).

Termination Process

- Circumstances that could merit termination from the program occur at the Vet Court Status Review Hearing Docket. Participants are entitled to have legal counsel for the proceedings. If terminated from the program, a participant could face imposition of the balance of the jail sentence, transfer to an alternative supervision program, placement in a residential treatment program, or other penalties deemed appropriate by the Judge. Individuals unsuccessfully terminated from the Vet Court Program will be evaluated on a case by case basis for future consideration into the program.

Telephone Numbers

Butler County Area Courts Probation Department
(513) 887-3571

Butler County Veterans Services
(513) 695-1363

Veterans Court Coordinator – Cincinnati Veterans Administration
(937) 268-6511

**The following is a copy of the Participation Agreement for Veterans Court:
Agreement by Defendant for Participation in Veterans Court
Guidelines, Rules, and Conditions**

I have received notice that I am eligible for admission into the Veterans Court Program. I desire to participate in the program and agree to the following:

1. I have been found guilty or pled guilty to an offense in Butler County Area Courts and consent to have my case transferred to Veterans Court for supervision, sentencing and disposition.
2. I understand that I will appear before Probation Department staff and Veterans Court Judge on a regular basis (twice monthly in the initial phase, then as directed by the Court) without counsel, unless I request their appearance, to report on progress in the program and that I am subject to sanctions for failure to comply with the guidelines, rules and conditions of the program.
3. I understand that I am permitted to request that my defense counsel appear in the specialized docket treatment team meeting during the portion of the meeting where my case will be discussed.
4. I agree not to commit any further criminal or traffic offenses while participating in the program. I will report any arrest, citation of a violation of any criminal/traffic law, conviction, alleged probation violation in another court, or any other contact with law enforcement to my Probation Officer immediately.
5. I understand that the Veterans Court Program is a condition of community control/probation and failure to comply with the program guidelines, rules and conditions may result in revocation of my community control/probation and may result in my incarceration.
6. I will cooperate and comply with my supervision plan and any subsequent or amended supervision plans. The Veterans Court Judge may impose requirements on me at time of sentencing or as sanctions for additional program violations.
7. I will cooperate with all treatment and services outlined in my Veterans Court treatment plan and any subsequent modified or otherwise amended treatment plans.
8. I will comply with all financial obligations, including restitution, fines, Court costs, and probation service fees according to participant's ability to do so and after considering if a participant is indigent; and child support as directed by my probation officer and/or the Veterans Court Judge.
9. I will provide all information regarding my financial status to my Probation Officer and my treatment agency to assist in determining my ability to pay specific financial obligations.
10. I understand there is a purpose and need for the disclosure of information to the Veterans Court Program regarding my attendance and progress in treatment. The extent of information to be disclosed will include, but shall not be limited to, my diagnosis, information about my attendance or lack of attendance at treatment sessions, my cooperation with treatment program prognosis, and my drug/alcohol screening.
11. I understand that my consent to disclose information regarding my attendance and

progress in treatment will remain in effect and cannot be revoked until there has been a formal and effective termination from my supervision by the Butler County Area Court Judge.

12. I understand that any disclosure made is bound by Part 2 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations governing confidentiality of alcohol and drug use patient records and that the recipient of this information may re-disclose it only in connection with their official duties.
13. I consent to the release of health, mental health and chemical dependency information as permitted under state and federal law.
14. I agree to enter into and complete outpatient and/or residential substance use treatment and counseling, including any aftercare requirements, and to pay the treatment provider for costs not paid by government sources. I agree to attend further counseling as directed by the Veterans Court Program. I further agree to report as scheduled for treatment and to participate in all activities of the treatment program.
15. I understand that the length of the program is determined by my progress and compliance with program guidelines, rules and conditions. I must successfully complete all four (4) phases of the program in order to complete and graduate from the program. I also understand that if I am noncompliant, there will be immediate and graduated sanctions.
16. I will not leave the State of Ohio without prior written permission of my Butler County Area Court Probation Officer.
17. I will not consume alcohol or use any illegal or non-prescribed controlled substances. I will not possess or purchase alcohol and agree to inform any individuals that I reside with that I am prohibited from having alcohol in my residence and I will be subject to sanction for violation of this order. For the purpose of the Veterans Court Program, the presence of alcohol/drugs in the residence constitutes possession of alcohol/drugs, regardless of the ownership of the alcohol/drugs in question.
18. I will not enter any bars or establishments whose primary source of revenue is derived from the sale of alcohol.
19. I will submit to random, frequent, and observed drug/alcohol testing upon request of my probation officer, treatment agency, and/or the Veterans Court Treatment Team or Veterans Court Judge at least twice per week in Phase I and II. Drug screens will become less frequent as the participant advances through the program based on history of positive tests during the program.
20. I understand that if I fail to submit to a drug screen, tamper with the urine specimen, provide specimen of another, if the urine is diluted, or if I fail to provide a sufficient quantity of urine, I will be immediately sanctioned as if the test results were positive for illegal substances.
21. I understand that if I fail to submit to a breathalyzer test or if I fail to provide a sufficient breath sample, I will be sanctioned as if the test results were positive for alcohol.
22. I will take all prescription medications as prescribed and report all medications prescribed by the next business day to the Probation Department and provide documentation of all prescribed medications.

23. I will keep all appointments with my probation officer, treatment liaison and attend all court hearings as scheduled.
24. I will keep the Veterans Court probation officer informed of my current address and telephone number at all times. I will notify my probation officer prior to changing residences and telephone numbers.
25. I will not associate with anyone known to be actively involved in the sale or use of illegal drugs.
26. I will not associate with any persons who have a criminal background and/or persons who could influence me to engage in criminal activity without prior permission of my probation officer.
27. I will notify the Probation Department of any individuals residing in my residence who are currently being supervised by any Community Control agency.
28. I will not purchase, possess, own, use or have under my control any firearms, ammunition, dangerous ordnances or weapons, including chemical agents, electronic devices used to immobilize, pyrotechnics, and/or explosive devices.
29. I agree to a search without warrant of my person, motor vehicle, or place of residence by my Probation Officer or other authorized representative(s) of the Veterans Court.
30. I will work regularly at a lawful occupation to the best of my ability. When out of work, I will notify my probation officer immediately of any employment changes.
31. I understand that I am subject to house arrest and curfew with or without electronic monitoring, which may include ankle bracelet radio frequency units, continuous alcohol monitoring units, and global positioning satellite (GPS) units as described.
32. I understand that if I am ordered to wear a continuous alcohol monitoring unit or electronic monitoring unit as a sanction that I am required to comply with the financial obligations attached to the wearing of the equipment and I am not to consume any alcohol whatsoever under any circumstances.