

## Are You Eligible?

Defendants must plead guilty to be eligible to participate in the Veterans Treatment Court.

### Legal Eligibility Guidelines

- Felony 3, 4, 5 level offenses with prosecutor's consent;
- No history of serious or repetitive violence (reviewed by prosecutors office and treatment team);
- Specialized Docket Tracks: Diversion and Community Control;
- Participation can occur at multiple stages including judicial transfer of new case prior to plea, post plea, post sentencing, probation violation, sentence mitigation;
- Exclusions Include: Persistent offending unrelated to trauma, mental health disorders, or substance abuse issues.

### General Treatment Eligibility Guidelines

- Diagnosed Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), or other trauma, mental health, substance abuse use and related co-occurring disorders.
- Must have cognitive ability to understand and voluntarily participate in program;

Must have identified treatment needs that can be met by this program and a willingness to engage in the services provided.

# Athens County Veterans Court

[athenscountyveteranscourt@gmail.com](mailto:athenscountyveteranscourt@gmail.com)

### Community Partners Include:

Appalachian Behavioral  
Healthcare Hospital

Athens County Common Pleas Court

Athens County Prosecutors Office

Athens County Sheriff's Office

Athens Police Department

A-News

Flores & Associates

Health Recovery Services

Hopewell Health Centers

N.A.M.I. (Athens County)

Ohio Adult Parole Authority

Ohio Means Jobs-Athens County

Ohio Public Defender's Office (Athens  
Branch)

Ohio University Police Department

P.R.I.S.M.

T.A.S.C.

Sonic

Veterans Administration

Veterans Administration Outpatient Services  
(Athens County)

Veterans Affairs Office

Veterans Service Office  
for Athens County

Wounded Veterans Project

# Athens County Veterans Court



Honorable George P. McCarthy  
Presiding Judge  
Athens County Veterans Court  
1 S. Court Street  
Athens, OH 45701  
(740)593-3591

[athenscountyveteranscourt@gmail.com](mailto:athenscountyveteranscourt@gmail.com)

# What is Veterans Court?

Veterans Court is a specialized docket section of the Athens Common Pleas Court that is a treatment court. It is a court supervised, comprehensive treatment collaboration, whose goal is to help defendant's address the issues that lead to contact with the criminal justice system. It is a voluntary program that includes regular court appearances before a designated Veterans Treatment Court Judge. Treatment can include individual and/or group counselling, drug testing, and regular attendance at self-help meetings where appropriate. Services are provided through local area community agencies as well as through the Veterans Administration and Veterans Affairs Office.

## Program Overview

Participants are required to sign a contract. This contract is an agreement between you and the Judge. It explains what is expected of you and the consequences of noncompliance. In addition, you will work with a treatment team to identify goals that you will work towards while in the program. That may include trauma related treatment, returning to school, job skill training, counselling, employment, substance-abuse treatment, medication compliance, reconnecting with family, strengthening supports in the community, accessing benefits and securing safe and stable housing.

## Program Structure

The Veterans Court is separated into five individual phases. Your progress will be closely monitored and reported to the Judge. Advancements through these phases

is dependent upon your completion of the tasks within each phase of treatment.

**Phase 1: Orientation.** You will be assigned a Case Manager, Probation Officer, and a Veteran Mentor who will provide you with an overview of the program. Your specific needs will be assessed and addressed by the treatment team. This phase last 60 days. You will begin by reporting to court every other week.

**Phase 2: Treatment Plan Development.** Your treatment plan will be developed by you and the Treatment Team. Together with the Treatment Team you will create individual achievement goals in addition to your treatment goals such as GED, vocational training, counselling, anger management, parenting skill development, etc.). Phase 2 lasts approximately 60 days.

**Phase 3: Ongoing Treatment.** Your treatment plan will be updated by your counsellors and the Treatment Team on an ongoing basis. Counselling and meetings focus on your particular areas of need and will help you identify and cope with issues that are particular to you. Phase 3 last approximately 150 days.

**Phase 4: Stabilization.** Your ongoing recovery needs will be assessed including maintaining abstinence from drugs. Phase 4 focuses on daily living skills and is designed to support you in your return to the community as a productive and responsible member. Phase 4 lasts a minimum of 60 days.

**Phase 5: Achievement/Graduation.** Phase 5 will help you successfully transition from a supervised lifestyle with the Veterans Court structure to a lifestyle after graduation. Phase 5 lasts approximately 120 days.

# A New Beginning

The Veterans Court is a voluntary program. By joining you are saying that you want to improve your life by working with the treatment team to reach your recovery goals. The people involved on the Treatment Team are those who want to see you succeed.

The Veterans Court will help you connect with VA services, develop job skills if needed, help rebuild family relationships and community ties, live a drug free and crime free life stabilize your living situation, and connect you with your veteran peers.

You may qualify for the Diversion Program as well. That means completion of the program may result in reduction or dismissal of the underlying criminal charge in your case. Please consult with your defense attorney to determine if you are eligible for the Veterans Program and/or Diversion Program.

The cost of the Veterans Court is \$250. There are additional court costs as well that vary from case to case.

## Contact Information

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Judge George P. McCarthy  
Athens Common Pleas Court  
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