

## MISSION

Treatment Courts in the Fifth Judicial District will enhance public safety by holding offenders accountable for their actions, while assisting them to achieve long-term recovery and become productive members of the community through a collaborative multi-disciplinary team approach.

The Mission of the Fifth Judicial District Veteran's Court is to promote public safety and assist and support veterans and their families through a coordinated effort among the veteran services delivery system, community-based services, and the court - thereby leaving no veteran behind.

## MOTTO

Creating a climate for rehabilitation, recovery and reducing crime.

## REFERRAL PROCESS:

Possible reasons for referral;

- Controlled substance crimes
- Crimes committed due to chemical use(ex: theft)
  - DWI – felony and in some cases, gross misdemeanor
  - Failure to complete standard probation requirements

Veterans Court is held in Blue Earth County. Out of district application referrals will be considered.

If you would like additional information about the Fifth Judicial District Treatment Courts, please contact one of our coordinators listed below or you may visit the Minnesota Judicial Branch Website at <http://www.mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/DrugCourts>

<http://www.mncourts.gov/Help-Topics/DrugCourts.aspx#tab08VeteransCourt>

### Fifth Judicial District

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## Volunteer Peer Mentors Needed

If you are interested in becoming a peer mentor and assist the veterans court participants, please contact the Fifth Judicial District Veterans Court Coordinator for more information.

Basic eligibility requirements and commitment is:

- ✓ Must be a veteran of one of the branches of the U.S. military
- ✓ Complete the screening process
- ✓ Completed initial mentor training
- ✓ Agree to adhere to the 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Veteran's Court policies and procedures
- ✓ 6 month minimum commitment to mentor
- ✓ Attend court sessions
- ✓



**MINNESOTA  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**  
FIFTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

# VETERANS COURT

## Veterans Court

### Address

Blue Earth County Justice Center  
401 Carver Road  
Mankato, MN 56001  
Court Room D  
Presided by: Judge Mark Betters

### Date

Monthly: Second and Fourth Friday

### Time

12:00 Noon

### What is a Treatment Court?

Treatment Court is a special court that hears selected cases involving non-violent, substance-abusing offenders (both drugs and alcohol).

Treatment court programs are rigorous, requiring intensive supervision including frequent drug testing and appearances before the judge, along with a long-term regimen of treatment, mental health and recovery services. This level of supervision allows the program to actively support the recovery process and react swiftly to impose sanctions or to reinstate criminal proceedings when participants cannot comply with the program. Treatment Court can be used in lieu of jail and or prison.

### What is Veterans Treatment Court?

Veterans Treatment Courts use a hybrid integration of Drug Court and Mental Health Court principles to serve military veterans, and sometimes active-duty personnel. They promote sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response that involves collaboration with the traditional partners found in Drug Courts and Mental Health Courts, as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare networks, Veterans Benefits Administration, State Departments of Veterans Affairs, volunteer veteran mentors, and organizations that support veterans and veterans' families.

### Are Treatment Courts cost effective?

The treatment programs used by Treatment Courts are relatively inexpensive when compared incarceration costs.

### Who is eligible for Veterans Court?

Must have served in the U.S. Military  
Non-disciplinary discharge from the military.

- Adult – 18 years of age or over
- Resident of one of the participating counties (team may waive residency requirement)
- Charged with a misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony level offense (non-presumptive commit)
- Experiencing a treatable behavioral, mental health, or substance abuse problem substantially related to the offense.
- Consent of the prosecuting attorney for referral to the Veterans Court
- Defendant is willing to participate

*Final determination for admission will be made by the Veterans Court Judge based on recommendations from the prosecuting attorney and other veteran's court team members.*

### Who is involved in Treatment Court?

The Treatment Court Team consists of the following representatives:

- District Court Judge
- County Attorney
- Defense Attorney
- Law Enforcement Officers
- Probation Officers
- Case Managers
- Chemical Dependency Professional
- Mental Health Professional
- Non-profits Veteran's Courts Organization
- Veterans Administration Representative<sup>1</sup>
- Work Force Representative

### How is chemical dependency treatment different from Treatment Court?

Research shows that the longer a person is in treatment, the lower the likelihood of relapse. Treatment Court keeps offenders in treatment for 12 to 18 months. This long-term treatment, combined with the judge's ability to hand down immediate sanctions and rewards, makes Treatment Court different from existing correctional programs. Treatment services may include:

- Group and individual therapy
- Individualized case management
- Urinalysis drug testing
- Placement in detox, residential treatment, sober living and mental health programs as deemed appropriate by the Treatment Court Team and availability of resources.
- Additional services may include job training and employment assistance, education (such as G.E.D.), medical referrals and bi-monthly alumni meetings.

### How often does Treatment Court convene?

Depending upon the phase they are in, Treatment Court participants appear before the judge weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. A report of each participant's progress is prepared and given to the Treatment Court Team prior to the hearing. The judge is notified of positive and negative urinalysis tests, as well as attendance at counseling and educational classes. The judge may increase the frequency of drug testing and/or order increased participation in programs as a requirement to stay in Treatment Court. The judge may also order jail time as a sanction.