

WHAT IS VETERANS COURT?

ALLEGHENY COUNTY VETERANS COURT

Fifth Judicial District of
Pennsylvania, Criminal
Division

Hon Susan Evashavik
DiLucente, Supervising
Judge

436 Grant Street

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

MISSION

Veterans Court strives to connect veterans involved in the criminal justice system to services and support while promoting sobriety, recovery, and stability. With a focus on resource coordination and guided rehabilitation, Veterans Court offers a chance for justice-involved veterans to conquer problems and get their lives back on track. Veterans Court also provides the community with an opportunity to give back to the individuals who have served, and who often suffer from the devastating physical, psychological, and emotional wounds of war.

GOALS OF VETERANS COURT

- Help veterans through recovery during and after their interaction with the criminal justice system
- Reduce the use of jail and repeated interaction with the criminal justice system
- Improve public safety
- Improve the likelihood of success with treatment, access to housing, and linkages with other supports

OVERVIEW

Allegheny County Veterans Court is a treatment court designed to serve justice involved veterans who may be struggling with behavioral health, substance abuse, reintegration, or other issues, including the often unseen wounds of war. Since its inception in 2009, Allegheny County Veterans Court has provided services to a growing number of veterans.

VETERANS COURT PARTNERS

Veterans Court is a team approach in which partners to the Court—Office of the District Attorney, Public Defender's Office/ Duquesne University School of Law Veterans Clinic, Adult Probation, Allegheny County Jail-Veterans Pod, VA-Veterans Justice Outreach, Justice Related Services, Veterans Leadership Program/Peer mentor program, and the Vet Center—work together to collectively support veterans and their individual needs while participating in the court.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Individuals must either have qualifying past military service for which they were not dishonorably discharged or be a current military member in good standing.
- Veterans must have qualifying charges, and either treatment needs (mental health, drug and alcohol, reintegration, etc.), or a military or combat deployment.
- The District Attorney's Office must consent to case admission and vet the cases for victim and/or police officer consent.

Cases considered for admission to Veterans Court include a wide range of both misdemeanor and felony cases where the Veterans Court team believes admission will assist the veteran as well as improve community safety.

REFERRAL PROCESS

All Veterans Court referrals must be submitted in writing by completing a referral form. The form may be obtained in person at the Allegheny County Courthouse, Room 534, or by email from the contacts below, who can also answer referral questions:

C. Denise Senft, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator
(412-496-8535)
Carmen.Senft@va.gov

Heather Bradford, Probation Court Coordinator (412-670-4849)
Heather.Bradford@alleghenycourts.us

VETERANS COURT REQUIREMENTS

Veterans Court requirements include but are not limited to:

- Attend regular review hearings before the court
- Complete the court ordered service plan

Court participants are assigned to a Veteran Justice Outreach Specialist or a Justice Related Services Specialist, who connect and refer the veteran to treatment providers and services, and who facilitate the veteran's compliance with his/her service plan. Veterans are also assisted with housing, health, financial benefits, and other appropriate community support services. Veterans Court also provides participating veterans with the opportunity to benefit from the assistance, support, guidance, and encouragement of a fellow veteran peer mentor.

GRADUATION

Veterans Court participants may become eligible for graduation and termination of supervision if fully compliant with the court and after successfully completing at least

half of their Veterans Court sentence. Completion of Veterans Court is determined on a case-by-case basis.

CONTACTS

Office of the District Attorney:
412-350-4400

Office of the Public Defender:
412-350-2401

Duquesne Univ Veterans Law Clinic:
412-396-4704

Pittsburgh Vet Center:
412-920-1765

Veterans Leadership Program:
412-481-8200

VA Pgh Healthcare:
866-482-7488

Vet Center Call Center:
877-927-8387

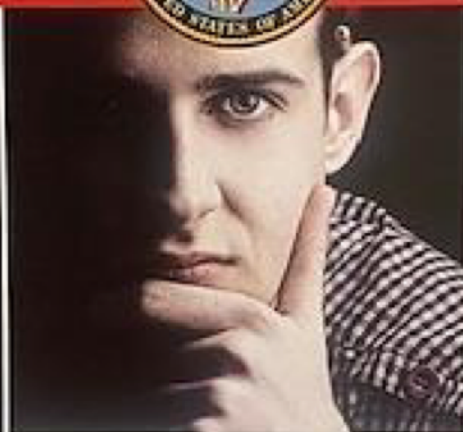
Veterans Crisis Line:
800-273-8255



[Scan here for more information](#)

ARE YOU IN TROUBLE WITH THE LAW?

Have you served in
the **armed forces?**



Please contact VA's **Veterans Justice Outreach Program**

C. Denise Senft, LCSW | 412-496-8535 | carmen.senft@va.gov

Ashley Reckner, LCSW | 412-277-9691 | ashley.reckner@va.gov

James Carroll, LCSW | 412-616-7536 | james.carroll2@va.gov

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System