

The Mission

In recognition of the toll on veterans that accompanies military service, the mission of the Fairfax County Veterans Treatment Docket is to serve the community and increase public safety by integrating and incorporating a coordinated treatment response for justice-involved veterans with substance abuse and/or mental health issues with the goal of returning productive, law-abiding citizens to the community, thereby reducing recidivism and criminal justice costs.

What is Fairfax County's Veterans Treatment Docket?

The Veterans Treatment Docket is a court-supervised, comprehensive treatment program to help veterans address the issues that led to their contact with the criminal justice system. This voluntary program includes regular court appearances before a designated Veterans Treatment Docket judge. The "one-stop shop" program links veterans with the program benefits and services they have earned.

Treatment, including individual and group counseling, drug testing and regular attendance at self-help meetings, is provided through the combined effort of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and partnerships with other public agencies and community-based organizations.

Program Overview

The Veterans Treatment Docket is a minimum 18-month commitment, which includes three phases. Participants sign a contract in court with the judge.



It explains what is expected and the consequences of noncompliance, including relapses in recovery from substance abuse.

Program participants work with a treatment team to identify goals to work toward such as:

- Trauma-related treatment.
- Substance-use treatment.
- Medication compliance.
- Returning to school.
- Job-skills training.
- Employment.
- Reconnecting with family.
- Strengthening community supports.
- Accessing benefits.
- Securing safe and stable housing.

Volunteer mentors, who are also veterans, are a key element of the program and support program participants through their treatment process. Participants who successfully complete all three phases of the Veterans Treatment Docket are recognized at a graduation. After graduation, the veteran has the opportunity to continue with the program as a mentor.

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Program Eligibility

Legal

Must have been discharged other than dishonorably from any branch of the U.S. military, the Reserves or the National Guard.

Misdemeanor or felony level offense with prosecutorial consent.

No history of serious or repetitive violence (reviewed by designated prosecutor and treatment team).

Exclusions: incompetence to stand trial, history of serious sex offenses, offenses involving weapons in the commission of the crime, specific violent offenses defined in §19.2-297.1, and persistent offenses unrelated to mental health or other behavioral health illnesses.

Treatment

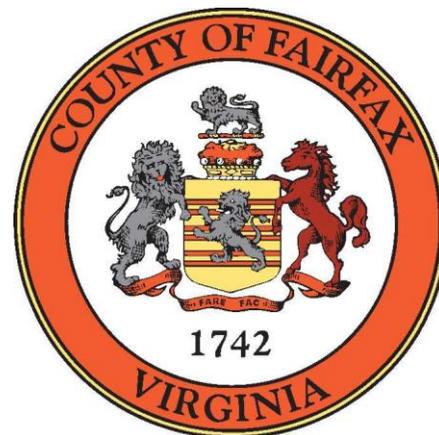
Diagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other trauma, mental health, substance use and/or related co-occurring disorders.

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



Ten Key Components of the Veterans Treatment Docket

- Integrates alcohol, drug treatment and mental health services with justice system case processing.
- Uses a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.
- Identifies eligible participants early and promptly places them in the program.
- Provides access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.
- Monitors abstinence through frequent alcohol and other drug testing.
- Provides a coordinated strategy for responses to participants' compliance.
- Provides essential ongoing judicial interaction with each veteran.
- Uses monitoring and evaluation to measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.
- Includes continuing interdisciplinary education for staff to promote effective planning, implementation and operations.
- Forges partnerships among the docket, the VA, public agencies and community-based organizations to generate local support and enhance effectiveness.



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To request this publication in an alternate format, call the Fairfax County General District Court at 703-246-4374 (TTY 711).

A Fairfax County, Va.,
publication May 2016



Fairfax County Veterans Treatment Docket

A voluntary, court-supervised,
comprehensive treatment
program for veterans.

