

# Fairfax County Veterans Treatment Docket

Of the 178,000 veterans living in Northern Virginia, more than 76,000 reside in Fairfax County (U.S. Census Bureau, 2018). Veterans face unique needs and challenges, as it is estimated that 75% of veterans have substance use treatment needs and many are diagnosed with co-occurring mental health disorders, including PTSD, TBI and/or have experienced military sexual trauma. Currently, it is estimated that 22 veterans commit suicide a day. These unique challenges have caused many veterans to become entangled in the criminal justice system

The Fairfax County Veterans Treatment Docket is an integral part of Fairfax County's comprehensive

## Diversion First Initiative

which aims to improve outcomes and offer alternatives to incarceration for people with mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders (SUD) who come into contact with the justice system.



## What is the Veterans Treatment Docket?

- HOW:** Provides intensive treatment and supervision
- WHO:** to justice-involved veteran
- WHAT:** to address the criminogenic risk & treatment needs
- WHY:** in an effort reduce recidivism rates and to enhance participants' ability to engage in a meaningful and productive life.

## Mission Statement

- The mission of the Fairfax County Veterans Treatment Docket is to serve our justice-involved veterans and the community. The docket aims to return productive, law abiding veterans to our community, reduce recidivism and improve public safety by providing individualized comprehensive treatment and supervision responsive to veterans' unique strengths, needs and culture.

## Eligibility Criteria

### Legal

- Criminal charge under the jurisdiction of the Fairfax County General District Court, Circuit Court or Juvenile Domestic & Relations Court
- Discharged from any branch of the United States Military, the Reserves, or the National Guard

### Demographic

- Can reside outside of Fairfax County, as long as distance to VTD requirements is reasonable and does not pose barrier to participation
- Eligible to receive behavioral health services through the Dept. of Veterans Affairs and/or Fairfax-Falls CSB

### Treatment

- Meets the DSM-5 criteria for a major mental health and/or substance use disorder
- Scores high risk and high treatment needs (HR/HN) on the Risk and Needs Triage (RANT) assessment tool
- Have identified treatment needs that can be met by the program & willingness to engage in the services

### Exclusionary Criteria

Exclusionary criteria is not automatic, but could include: violent criminal history; sex offenses; unresolved felony or jailable misdemeanor offenses in other jurisdictions; a dishonorable discharge from any branch of the United States Military; and/or lack of cognitive ability to have meaningful participation in docket requirements

## Referral Contact Info

### Brooke Postlewaite, LCSW

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703.246.2592 Main Office | 571.585.7415 Work Cell.



# Veterans Treatment Docket Application Process

## Formal Application-

Application is submitted by veteran and/or their lawyer to Docket Coordinator

## Eligibility Screen-

Docket Coordinator conducts preliminary screening to make sure the candidate meets VTD legal & demographic program eligibility

## Clinical & Criminogenic Risk Screening-

If eligibility is met, veteran is scheduled for RANT assessment and clinical assessment to assess risk and treatment need level.

## Commonwealth Attorney Review:

If the candidate meets all program eligibility- application is sent to the Asst. Commonwealth's Attorney for a legal review

## Participant Contract

Defense Counsel and Asst. Commonwealth Attorney confer on VTD Participant Contract/negotiation of the agreed disposition

## Pre-Contract Checklist:

Before Entry, veteran completes observes docket to ensure complete understanding of the program requirements.

## Official Entry into VTD-

The veteran & Defense Counsel appear at the next scheduled VTD hearing, Contract is signed and veteran is sworn into the Docket

### Veteran Treatment Docket Hearings

Circuit Court, General District Court & JDR Court  
2nd & 4th Wednesdays 8:30-9:30 AM

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