

GOALS OF VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

- Reduce criminal recidivism
- Stabilize mental health and increase compliance with treatment
- Facilitate participant sobriety
- Improve access to VA benefits & services
- Achieve stable housing
- Improve family relationships & social connections
- Advance employment & educational status



For more information please contact:

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Western MA Veterans Treatment
Court Team Coordinator at the
Holyoke District Court.

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or
Veterans Justice Partnership
1-866-406-8449

Are you interested in being a Mentor?

Contact: Arch Battista
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*Thank you veterans for
your service!*



**A treatment-focused
specialty court
for defendants who
have served in the
United States
Armed Forces**

*Judge Laurie MacLeod
Judge Maureen Walsh*

**Holyoke District Court
20 Court Plaza
Holyoke, MA**

WHAT IS A VETERANS TREATMENT COURT?

The Western MA Veterans Treatment Court offers a voluntary, 18-month probation term intended to serve veterans struggling with mental health and/or substance use disorders. The program involves ongoing judicial and probation supervision with input from a multidisciplinary team of professionals. The Court promotes sobriety, recovery and stability through collaborations with VA and community-based treatment providers. In addition, all participants are matched with a veteran peer mentor who acts as an advocate and mentor.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Eligibility is evaluated by the Veterans Court team on a case-by-case basis.

General requirements include:

- Served in the U.S. Armed Forces
- Charged with a misdemeanor or felony in Hampden, Hampshire or Franklin County (which has not been indicted) and eligible for probation
- Currently experiencing mental health and/or substance use disorders.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION?

- Alternative sentencing options
- Access to a comprehensive treatment plan through the VA service system and/or community providers
- Vet-to-Vet peer mentor program
- A team of support and case management to help reduce any barriers to the success of the participants success.



WHAT IS THE PROCESS TO ENTER THE VETERANS TREATMENT COURT?

1. The veteran completes an intake at the Holyoke District Court.
2. The District Attorney's office determines the veteran's legal eligibility based upon criminal history and current charges.
3. The veteran participates in an assessment to determine treatment needs.
4. The veteran attends a Veterans Treatment Court Session as an observer.
5. The Court approves the veteran's legal and clinical eligibility.
6. Veterans review and accept the plea agreement with their attorney and sign the Veterans Treatment Court Contract.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Western Massachusetts Veterans Treatment Court is to reintegrate court-involved individuals who have served in the nation's armed forces into society as honorable citizens. Admission into the Veterans Treatment Court provides for competent assessment and treatment planning for both substance dependence and mental health disorders. The program includes supervision, monitoring and support to veterans while protecting public safety.

