

### **Our Mission**

To support veterans and their families through a coordinated effort among veterans services, community based providers, and the Court, improving public safety while leaving no veteran behind.

### **Goals of the 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



*“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”*

*- John Fitzgerald Kennedy*



**For more information, please call:**

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**A court-supervised, treatment-focused collaborative for defendants who have served in the United States Armed Forces.**

**Judge Eleanor C. Sinnott  
Boston Municipal Court Department  
Central Division  
Edward W. Brooke Courthouse  
24 New Chardon Street, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Boston, MA 02114**

**Courtroom 12, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.**



### What is a Veterans Treatment Court?

The Boston Veterans Treatment Court is a voluntary 12-24 month program for veterans who are struggling with service-related addiction, mental health issues and/or other co-occurring disorders.

Veterans in the program receive ongoing judicial and probation supervision, with input from a multidisciplinary team of professionals led by the judge.

The Court promotes sobriety, recovery and stability through a collaboration with VA and community-based treatment providers.

All participants are matched with a veteran peer mentor who will act as an advocate, mentor, and ally.

### Who is eligible?

The Veterans Treatment Court team evaluates potential participants on a case-by-case basis.

In general, participants must have:

- Served in the U.S. Armed Forces
- Service-connected misdemeanor or felony charges in Suffolk County (which have not been indicted)
- Current mental health or substance abuse problems, or other co-occurring disorders related to their service

### What are the program benefits?

- Alternative sentencing options
- Access to a comprehensive treatment plan through the VA service system and/or community providers
- Vet-to-Vet peer mentor program
- Team of support and case management help increase your chances of success

### How does someone enter the Veterans Treatment Court program?

- 1) After submitting a referral form, the veteran completes an intake interview at the Court with the BVTC Team Coordinator and Probation Officer.
- 2) The District Attorney assesses the veteran's legal eligibility based upon criminal history and current charges.
- 3) The veteran submits to a clinical evaluation to determine if the offense was related to service-connected substance abuse, mental health issue and/or another co-occurring disorder.
- 4) The veteran participates in an assessment to determine treatment needs, and observes a Veterans Treatment Court Session.
- 5) The Court approves the veteran's legal and clinical eligibility.



### What Happens at Veterans Treatment Court?

The Veterans Treatment Court is made up of five different phases which take at least one year to complete.

Participants must satisfy a set of pre-determined requirements to advance through each of the five phases.

Incentives reward compliance with the program; non-compliance results in immediate and predictable sanctions.

### While in the Boston Veterans Treatment Court, veterans will:

- Appear often before the Veterans Treatment Court Judge for review hearings.
- Meet regularly with a probation officer.
- Participate in random and frequent drug and alcohol screens.
- Receive an individualized treatment plan, which may include mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- Participate in assessment for needs such as housing, medical, dental, childcare, etc., and receive assistance with those needs.
- Utilize the Veterans Benefit Administration to determine if they qualify for disability compensation, pension, education benefits, or vocational rehabilitation benefits.
- Establish connections with one or more peer mentors.

**Thank You for Your Service!**