

# Hays County Veterans Treatment Court



**“LEAVE NO VETERAN  
BEHIND AND HONOR THEIR  
SERVICE”**



## WHAT IS VETERANS TREATMENT COURT?

Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is a 12 – 24 month specialized court program designed to meet the particular needs of veterans. The Court substitutes a treatment-based problem-solving model for traditional court processing and punishment. The goal is to divert eligible veteran-defendants from traditional or other specialty courts to a specialized docket specifically crafted for them. Participating veterans may suffer from substance abuse, PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder), TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury) and/or other mental illnesses that may have contributed to their involvement in the justice system. Veterans accepted into Hays County’s program typically have misdemeanor offenses.

## MISSION

The mission of VTC is to successfully rehabilitate veterans by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and providing them with the tools that they need to lead a productive and law-abiding lifestyle.



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR VETERANS COURT?

Eligible veterans are those who find themselves in trouble with the justice system because of criminal behavior that can be linked to physical, mental, emotional, and/or moral injuries that occurred during/or were exacerbated by their honorable military service. Typical offenders who have transferred to this docket are those who have committed misdemeanor offenses or felonies that can be reduced to misdemeanor offenses. Participation is voluntary on the part of the veteran-defendant and to approval by the District Attorney’s Office and VTC Judge.

## THE VETERANS COURT TREATMENT TEAM?

The Hays County Veterans Treatment Court Team consists of the following representatives:

- Veterans Treatment Court Judge
- VTC Program Manager
- Hays County Asst. District Attorney
- VTC Defense Attorney
- VTC Case Manager
- VTC Mentor Coordinator
- Hays County Veterans Services Officer
- Community Supervision/Probation Officer
- VA and other Treatment Providers
- Volunteer Mentors

## PROGRAM PHASES

**Phase I** – Orientation and Assessment;  
(3 months minimum)

Supervision: Attend VTC every 2 weeks;

Treatment: Psychosocial Assessment; enroll in and attend treatment according to Treatment Plan; develop timeline to work on goals identified in the Treatment Plan; maintain sobriety

**Phase II** – Treatment  
(3 months minimum)

Supervision: Attend VTC once every 4 weeks;

Treatment: Continue treatment according to Plan; maintain stable employment that is conducive to a sober lifestyle and/or attend school or vocational training; maintain stable housing; establish relationship with support groups and people who are supportive of recovery; maintain sobriety

**Phase III** – Treatment & Transition  
(6 months minimum)

Supervision: Attend VTC once every 6 weeks;

Treatment: Attend Aftercare or other treatment sessions recommended by treatment provider; continue treatment according to plan; maintain stable employment that is conducive to a sober lifestyle and/or attend school or vocational training; maintain stable housing, sobriety, and relationships with people who are supportive of recovery; remain sanction free prior to graduation and obtain Court's approval for graduation

(Participants must submit regular and random drug/alcohol testing, and attend Treatment and Court monitoring as directed throughout program.)

### After-Court Recommendations

**(Up to 180 days):**

Self-monitor with voluntary update reporting;  
Maintain support group participation;  
Seek possible mentoring opportunities

## STEPS TO ENTER THE VTC

1. Apply to the VTC program by self, attorney, or other referral
2. Application approval will be made on eligible veteran's status and history, criminal history and current charges
3. Veteran will be assessed for substance abuse and/or mental health issues to determine the appropriate level of care
4. The Court and Asst. District Attorney have final approval of the veteran's eligibility
5. Once approved, the veteran will enter into an Agreement to Participate and a Participation Contract with the Court



## PROGRAM COST

Veterans may be subject to a program fee up to \$60. Participants may be responsible for costs of treatment services including but not limited to drug urinalysis, evaluations, inpatient/outpatient treatment, and treatment counseling. Veterans may also be required to pay restitution.

## Contact Information

Hays County Veterans Treatment Court  
San Marcos, TX 78666

Hon Chris Johnson, Judge

Gerald Ramcharan, Program Manager

Laura Balo, Case Manager

Steven Henriquez, Mentor Coordinator

(512) 878-6677

### Helpful Numbers

Department of Veterans Affairs

San Antonio, TX 78229

(210) 617-5300 or (512) 878-6677

Texas Veterans Commission

Austin, TX

1-800- 252-VETS (8387)

Texas Veterans Legal Assistance Project

Austin, TX

1-800-622-2520, Option 2

Hays County Veteran Service Office

San Marcos, TX

512-392-8387

Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-TALK (8255) Press "1"