

Veterans Dockets present a single orientation from which the judicial branch, including judges and all court personnel, can work with prosecutors, the defense bar, corrections officials, local government, law enforcement, public and private treatment providers, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare networks, the Veterans Benefits Administration, State Departments of Veteran Affairs, volunteer veteran mentors and veterans family support organizations to promote sobriety, recovery and stability through a coordinated response with the understanding that the bonds of military service and combat run very deep.

Standards for Veterans Dockets in Virginia

Standard 1: Administration

Standard 2: Team

A veterans docket team should include, at a minimum, the judge, Commonwealth's Attorney, Defense Attorney, and a representative from local treatment providers, a Veterans Justice Liaison, a representative from the local Department of Social Services, a veteran mentor coordinator, and a representative from community corrections.

Standard 3: Evidence-Based Practices

Standard 4: Voluntary and Informed Participation

Participation in the docket must be completely voluntary. Participants must have capacity to consent to participation in the docket.

Standard 5: Eligibility Criteria

The criteria should focus on high risk/high need veterans who are at risk for criminal recidivism and in need of treatment services

Standard 6: Program Structure

All participants shall be paired with a veteran mentor to navigate them through the program and assist with VA healthcare.

Standard 7: Treatment and Support Services

The docket utilizes services of the Department of Veterans Services (DVS).

Standard 8: Participant Compliance

Standard 9: Confidentiality

Standard 10: Evaluation and Monitoring

Standard 11: Education

Virginia Veterans Treatment Dockets

Department of Judicial Services

Office of the Executive Secretary

Supreme Court of Virginia

*Veterans Fought for our Freedom
Veterans Treatment Dockets Fight for
Theirs*





What is a Veterans Docket?

Veterans dockets offer eligible defendants who are veterans of the armed services with substance dependency or mental illness a specialized criminal specialty docket that is coordinated with specialized service

Specialty dockets are those which:

- Require more than simply the adjudication of discrete legal issues,
- Present a common dynamic underlying the legally cognizable behavior,
- Require the coordination of services and treatment to address that underlying dynamic, and
- Focus primarily on the remediation of the defendant in these dockets.

Specialty Dockets Require Authorization.

Veteran – A current or former member of the active duty military, national guard, or reserves without consideration of deployment status, combat experience, legal veterans status, or GI Bill use.¹

¹ <http://acegonline.org/journal/journal-of-military-and-government-counseling> Participants deemed eligible for VTC docket may not have received “Veteran” status by the US Department of Veterans Affairs or their respective states.

Authorization & Oversight

- Specialty dockets must seek authorization with the Supreme Court of Virginia to operate
- Application process developed
- Operating Standards created *11 standards distill the best of research and practice into standards that foster high-quality programming and accountability for veterans dockets*
- Advisory Committees established by the Chief Justice

Key Offerings

Veterans Dockets are not a “get out jail free card” for veterans. They are to provide treatment resources for veterans who are high risk for recidivism and high need for treatment as determined by an objective screening tool.

- Must have identified treatment needs that can be met by the program and a willingness to engage in the services provided.
- Provides veterans with intensive treatment and other services while holding them accountable to the court, society, their families and themselves
- Frequent court appearances and random drug tests
- Rewards for positive behavior and sanctions for negative

Mentors

The active involvement of mentors throughout a participant’s treatment increases the likelihood that the participant will remain in treatment.

http://www.courts.state.va.us/courtadmin/aoc/djs/programs/dtc/specialty_dockets/home.html

