

Washtenaw County Veterans Treatment Court Referral / Transfer Process

A defendant must plead, or be eligible to plead, guilty or no contest to a misdemeanor. The Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) cannot accept defendants who are violent offenders as defined in MCL 600.1200(k) or who have ever been charged with (or convicted of) criminal sexual conduct in any degree. No individual has a right to be admitted, with admission at the discretion of the court.

- The VTC process begins with:
 - A **VTC Referral Form** (attached) completed and signed by the referring judge and referring prosecutor. The form should then be emailed or faxed to the VTC Coordinator - KFinney@a2gov.org or fax (734) 794-6762. The screening process cannot begin until the completed form is received.
 - After the form is forwarded, the **defendant** must contact the 15th District Court Probation Department (734) 794-6761 extension "0", to arrange an intake interview to provide the information necessary to determine legal eligibility.
- At the time of the intake interview, the defendant must provide a copy of their DD 214. An **Agreement to Participate** and **Participant Handbook** will be reviewed with the defendant and copies given to them to assist them with understanding the requirements of the VTC.
- The defendant will sign a **Multi-Party Release of Information** covering the VTC Team and associated agencies and a specific release of information for the Veterans Administration.
 - The probation officer will contact the Ann Arbor Veterans Administration to obtain the veteran's records and benefit qualification information.
 - The defendant will be instructed to attend and observe an upcoming VTC docket so that the defendant will have an opportunity to see the operation of the VTC and to ask questions. They will be provided with dates for upcoming sessions. This is a requirement.
- When a determination of acceptance or denial is made the referring court, the referring prosecutor, and the defense attorney will be notified. If recommended for acceptance, an **Agreement to Participate and Participant Handbook** will be sent to the defense attorney for review with their client to ensure that the defendant understands the requirements of the VTC. Once the signed (by client and attorney) agreement has been returned to the VTC Coordinator (see fax or email note above) and the VTC docket observation has been completed, an entry date will be determined, and the referring court notified.
- When a defendant is referred by a court other than the 15th District Court, the defense attorney will be sent the **PSC Memorandum of Understanding Transfer of Jurisdiction (MOU)** and be responsible for having it signed by the transferring court as indicated and forwarded to the 15th District Court.
- When the MHTC has received the signed **Agreement to Participate and MOU**, an entry date will be set, and the referring court and defendant notified. The VTC is a voluntary court. If a defendant declines to participate at any time during the process, all pertinent parties will be notified.
- Please contact the VTC Coordinator (734) 794-6761 x47542 with any questions.