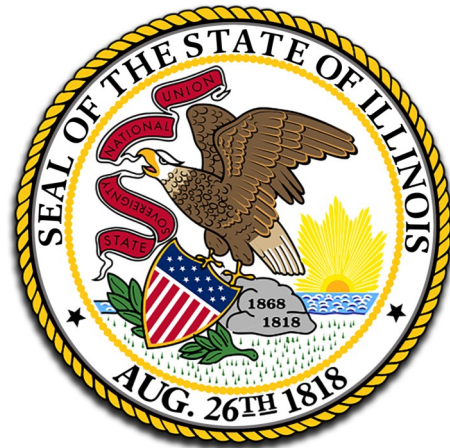


**STATE OF ILLINOIS
CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY**



**Veterans Treatment
Court Program**

Participant Handbook





CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

Office of the Chief Judge
Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois
Richard J. Daley Center
50 West Washington Street, Suite 2600
Chicago, Illinois

Updated March 2022



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VETERANS TREATMENT COURT PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE, TO
BE SIGNED AND GIVEN TO YOUR DEFENSE COUNSEL



CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

INTRODUCTION

Thank you for your interest in learning more about the Circuit Court of Cook County Veterans Treatment Court Program (program in this handbook). This program helps people with behavioral health disorders, such as substance use and/or mental health, get the support they need to thrive.

Veterans Treatment Court is a type of problem-solving court. Problem-solving courts help people by providing services and support. If you are accepted and complete the program, you may also avoid a sentence of incarceration.

What are the goals of the program?

If you are accepted into the program, a support team (team in this handbook) will work with you in many ways. They will help you plan your goals for the future:



Health goals in your treatment plan



Life goals in your case management plan

If you decide to join this program, you will have a chance to make many changes in your life. The team will help you get access to many types of services and support, including:



Substance use and/or
mental health
treatment services



Housing
services



Enrolling in school
or finding a job



Achieving
other goals

How does this program work?

The program supports you by providing:

- Substance use disorder, and/or mental health treatment
- Ongoing treatment and counseling
- Check in meetings with the judge and team on program progress
- Additional services and support such as help finding a job and a place to live
- Peer mentors to assist you through the program

Important: You are not allowed to take drugs or use alcohol while you are in the program. You can only take medicine that are prescribed to you by your doctor. Contact your veteran justice outreach (VJO) social worker or clinical case manager and probation officer (PO) with questions.

What is the purpose of this handbook?

You got this handbook because you might be eligible for this Veterans Treatment Court Program. This handbook explains the program rules and what would be expected of you. Please review it carefully.

If you have questions about how the program works, ask your defense counsel (lawyer in this handbook) or anyone on the team.

If I want to apply, what is next?

If you want to apply to the program, you should let your lawyer know. They can tell you the next steps and talk with you about it.

WHO CAN APPLY

You can apply if you have been charged with one (1) or more felony non-violent offenses.

To be considered, you must:

- ☐ Have served in the United States Armed Forces
- ☐ Have a diagnosed substance use disorder and/or a mental health disorder as defined by in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Health Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5)
- ☐ Be willing to be honest about your drugs/alcohol use
- ☐ Be willing to join a substance use disorder and/or mental health treatment program (outpatient or a place where you live for some time)
- ☐ Have not been in the program three (3) or more times
- ☐ Agree to take drug/alcohol tests
- ☐ Agree to an interview to help the team learn about your substance use, mental health issues and of your risk of being re-arrested, to see if the program can meet your needs

You will also need to:

- ☐ Sign a form that allows the judge and the team to discuss your private information so they can learn more about you, to see if you are eligible for the program
- ☐ Be willing to enter a plea of guilty and be sentenced to two (2) years of Veterans Treatment Court Probation

The judge and the team will review your information. The judge will decide if you are accepted into the program.

What happens next if I am accepted?

If you are accepted into the program:

1. A clinical treatment plan will be presented to you. This will explain what treatment is recommended and the details of it. It will include substance use disorder, mental health or any other treatment you may need
2. Your lawyer will review the program materials and forms with you
3. If you agree to the plan, you must voluntarily enter a plea of guilty in court
4. At that time, you will sign the program consent forms. By signing this paperwork, you formally agree to all the rules of the program

Before you join the program, it is very important that you understand all the rules and what you are agreeing to. You will get copies of all paperwork you sign.

YOUR RIGHTS

Here are some protections and services for all participants, including the non-discrimination policy. The Court does not discriminate based on any of the following:

- Race, color or ethnicity
- Country where you are from
- Socio-economic status
- Religion
- Gender, gender identity or gender expression
- Sexual identity
- Age
- Ability to speak or understand English
- Any reason protected by law Including the Americans with Disabilities Act

What if I do not speak or understand English?

If you do not speak or understand English, you have the right to have an interpreter at no cost to you. This person will interpret the court meetings each time you attend court. All court buildings in Cook County have Spanish and Polish interpreters available. You or your lawyer can ask for an interpreter at any time. You or your lawyer can order an interpreter for any other language through the Office of Interpreter Services.

What if I am deaf or hard of hearing?

If you are deaf or hard of hearing, the court will assign you a sign language interpreter. They are available at all court buildings in Cook County.

How can I get the services I need?

You can request disability services fourteen (14) days in advance from the Court Disability Coordinator for the Office of the Chief Judge:



(312) 603-1915



(312) 603-1914 (TTY)



ocj.accommodations@cookcountyiil.gov

The office will follow up with you within seven (7) days from the date they get your request.

Will my information be private?

The program follows all privacy laws about your identity and your health information. This includes information shared by a substance use disorder, mental health or medical provider.

You must sign a form called the Consent for Release of Confidential Information. This form gives the team permission to get your treatment and health records before and while you are in the program. The form also explains how the team can use the information. It also gives the team and agencies they work with permission to share information about you.

This includes:

- Medical records and diagnoses
- Drug/alcohol test results
- Armed forces service records
- Substance use disorder records
- Mental health records
- Your attendance reports
- Information on how well you follow program rules

You may need to sign updated consent forms to share information with new team members or other agencies. Once you leave the program, they will no longer have access to your information.

If you change your mind at any time about giving them permission to access your information, you will not be able to finish the program. They must have access to this information for you to be in the program.

Can my information be shared in other cases?

None of your private information shared in the program can be used in any other civil or criminal cases. You or your lawyer can ask the program judge to issue a protective order. This makes sure that your records and any information from your time in the program stays confidential. The only exception is if you voluntarily give written consent to re-share the information.

If you are not accepted to the program or are asked to leave at any point, the team including the prosecutor (the lawyer for the county) must delete or destroy any private information collected through your application or time in the program.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Veterans Treatment Court is a problem-solving court program designed to provide you with treatment and resources to improve your health in the community and avoid incarceration. The program includes supervision and frequent court dates, where you have contact with a team. The team includes the judge, prosecutor, defense council or private lawyer, probation officer (PO), veteran justice outreach (VJO) social worker or clinical case manager and problem-solving court director/coordinator. Each member plays an important role on the team, team roles are explained on page 7 in the handbook.

The program has four (4) phases or parts. Each phase has different goals, outlined on pages 8 - 9 in the handbook. During each phase, you focus on developing skills and behaviors to help you achieve the outlined goals to move to the next phase. Typically, the program takes about two (2) years to finish.

During the program you will regularly report to a PO and take random drug/alcohol tests. The VJO social worker or clinical case manager will develop a clinical treatment plan, then connect you to treatment and resources, based on your individual needs. You must actively participate in your treatment.

The team will support you while monitoring your progress. You must follow the instructions given to you by the judge and the team. Your progress will be reviewed by the team and discussed with you during court, which you attend with the other people in the program. This allows you to learn from the other participants as you advance through the program. While you are in the Veterans Treatment Court Program, you may be paired with a peer mentor. This is a veteran who volunteers there time to support you through the program.

Honesty with yourself, the judge and the team is key to success in the program.



After you read this handbook, the judge and team can answer any questions you may have.

What are my responsibilities?

If you join the program, you will have many responsibilities.

Here are some:



Legal

- Report to your PO and appear in court whenever asked
- Tell your PO right away if you move, get a new phone number, get or lose a job
- Tell your PO right away if you have an encounter with law enforcement, you are in the hospital or your medicines change
- Take part in all random drug/alcohol testing the team asks of you
- Try to pay any fees you may owe (if applicable) **please note:** if you are not able to pay any fees you owe, that will not affect your progress in the program



Health

- Take part in any assessments the team asks of you
- Take part in in-or outpatient substance use, mental health, medical treatment or housing placements the team asks of you
- Take part in any other treatment or counseling the team asks of you



Goals

- Attend sober support group meetings and find a sponsor
- Take part in education programs, GED program or job training program the team asks of you (if recommended)

Important: You must appear in court for all court dates. If you do not appear on any scheduled court dates (court status hearings), the court may issue a warrant for your arrest. If you do have an issue that comes up, contact your PO right away.

Who is on my team and how will they support me?

In this program the judge monitors program participants much more than they would in traditional court. Why? This increases your chance of successfully completing the treatment plans and program.

You must appear in court for all court status hearings during your time in the program.

The team will discuss your overall progress in private team meetings with the judge. It is important that the judge is fully informed and ready to talk with you when your case is called in court. They will share what they talk about with you and you will have a chance to speak in court.



The team will do everything possible to help you 6 through each phase of the program.

Team Members and Their Roles

Judge

The judge is the team leader, considers input from the team and:

- Oversees team meetings, court sessions and makes final decisions
- Motivates you to follow the case management and clinical treatment plans

Prosecutor (sometimes called State's Attorney)

The prosecutor is the lawyer for the County and:

- Balances the community and County's needs with what they can offer you
- Works with the team to recommend rewards, consequences or in some cases possibly arrest

Defense Counsel (lawyer in this handbook)

The defense counsel (sometimes called public defender if assigned to you) advocates for you and:

- Explains program rules, your rights and what can happen if you are not able to follow them
- Tells you about what is happening with the team

Probation Officer (PO in this handbook)

The PO oversees drug/alcohol testing, how you are following the rules, your activities and:

- Works with you to make a case management plan, helps you identify goals and find resources
- Keeps the team updated about your progress and recommends when you move to the next phase

Veteran Justice Outreach (VJO) Social Worker or Clinical Case Manager

The VJO social worker or clinical case manager coordinates a clinical assessment and:

- Works with you on a clinical treatment plan and shares it with the team
- Coordinates substance use disorder, mental health treatments and connects you with programs
- Connects veterans with additional VA services and benefits

Treatment Provider

The treatment provider is responsible for your health services and:

- Provides substance use disorder, mental health, behavioral, or medical treatment, counseling and other services
- Reports on your progress and recommends treatment options

Problem-Solving Court Director/Coordinator(s)

The problem-solving court director/coordinator(s) help the judge, the team and:

- Make sure the program runs smoothly
- Make sure the program is meeting its goals

Support Services

Peer Mentor

A peer mentor is a veteran who is trained to work with the Veterans Treatment Court and:

- Volunteers to assist you through the program and support you at court

PROGRAM PHASES

There are four (4) phases of the program. You must meet specific goals to move to the next phase. Your PO will recommend to the judge when you are ready to move to the next phase, and the team must also agree. You must complete all four (4) phases to successfully complete your probation. It usually takes about two (2) years to go through all the phases.

<div>1</div> <div>Acceptance</div>	<div>Phase 1 Requirements</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Report to your PO at least weekly and develop a plan to meet your program goals (unless excused for residential treatment)<input type="checkbox"/> Appear in court at least every two (2) weeks (unless excused for residential treatment)<input type="checkbox"/> Complete random drug/alcohol testing<input type="checkbox"/> Attend all scheduled appointments<input type="checkbox"/> Follow all treatment recommendations and attend all appointments<input type="checkbox"/> Attend sober support group meetings and find a sponsor<input type="checkbox"/> Have at least 30 days without an unexcused absence from court appearance, treatment or probation meeting<input type="checkbox"/> Have at least 30 days drug/alcohol-free time<input type="checkbox"/> Have at least 60 days since your last arrest
<div>2</div> <div>Stabilization</div>	<div>Phase 2 Requirements</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Report to your PO at least every two (2) weeks<input type="checkbox"/> Complete random drug/alcohol testing<input type="checkbox"/> Appear in court at least every three (3) weeks<input type="checkbox"/> Follow all treatment recommendations and attend all appointments<input type="checkbox"/> Provide proof you attend sober support groups and have a sponsor<input type="checkbox"/> Find a stable place to live<input type="checkbox"/> Enroll in education programs, GED program, job training or find a job (if applicable)<input type="checkbox"/> Have at least 30 days without an unexcused absence from court appearance, treatment or probation meeting<input type="checkbox"/> Have at least 60 days drug/alcohol-free time<input type="checkbox"/> Have at least 90 days since your last arrest

<div data-bbox="177 212 334 369">3</div> <div data-bbox="168 407 349 434">Maintenance</div>	<div data-bbox="391 197 735 233">Phase 3 Requirements</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Report to your PO at least every three (3) weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Stay in contact with your PO and regularly review your plan to reach your goals <input type="checkbox"/> Complete random drug/alcohol testing <input type="checkbox"/> Appear in court at least once a month <input type="checkbox"/> Follow treatment recommendations and attend all appointments <input type="checkbox"/> Complete any required community service <input type="checkbox"/> Complete education programs, GED program, job training or get a job (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a budget and think about planning for your future <input type="checkbox"/> Have at least 60 days without an unexcused absence from court appearance or probation report <input type="checkbox"/> Have at least 90 days drug/alcohol-free time <input type="checkbox"/> Have at least 120 days since your last arrest
<div data-bbox="177 850 334 1008">4</div> <div data-bbox="190 1056 326 1083">Transition</div>	<div data-bbox="391 842 735 877">Phase 4 Requirements</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Report to your PO at least once a month <input type="checkbox"/> Maintain contact with PO and review your post-program plan <input type="checkbox"/> Complete random drug/alcohol testing <input type="checkbox"/> Appear in court at least once a month <input type="checkbox"/> Make a genuine effort to pay court ordered probation fees in full (if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Have at least 90 days without an unexcused absence from court appearance or probation report <input type="checkbox"/> Have at least 90 days living in a stable place <input type="checkbox"/> Have at least 120 days drug/alcohol-free time <input type="checkbox"/> Have at least 120 days since your last arrest

YOUR HEALTH PLAN

This program is about getting you healthy mentally and physically. A case management and clinical treatment plan break down the way this is done.

What is a Case Management Plan?

Your PO will interview you to assess your strengths and needs. You will also talk about your goals and identify what you want to accomplish. Your answers will help the PO make a case management plan. The plan is like a road map to guide you while you are in the program. Your case management plans may change as you move along in the program.

What is a Clinical Treatment Plans and what does it usually look like?

Your VJO social worker or clinical case manager works with you on a clinical treatment plan. Your clinical treatment plan will guide the team to what kind of treatment is best for you. It is different for everyone, but one thing is the same, no one is allowed to take drugs or use alcohol in this program.

If they refer you to a treatment program, they will take many things in to consideration to make sure it is the best fit for you:

- Your cultural needs such as language or gender
- Where the treatment center is located and how easy you can get there
- Special substance use or mental health needs you may have
- Any other medical or disability issues that might impact your treatment

If you are incarcerated, you may have already started treatment. If you are accepted into this program, the team will work to get you into the right setting as soon as possible. You could be referred to a community inpatient treatment program, recovery home, halfway house, sober living facility or other treatment-based housing facility.

Some participants may need to complete an outpatient substance use disorder treatment program. As a participant you may be required to attend sober support or self-help group meetings throughout your time in the program.

What if I need to take medicine?

You are only allowed to take medicine that is prescribed to you by your doctor. You cannot take someone else's prescribed medication.

You also must:

- Tell your doctor about the program
- Tell your PO about any over-the-counter medicine you take (medicine you buy at the store without a prescription)
- Tell your PO right away if your doctor prescribes you any new medicine
- Bring proof of any prescriptions to the next meeting with your PO

You should ask for non-narcotic medication, whenever possible.

What if I need medicine for my substance use disorder?

Some people with an opioid use disorder may need certain medicines to treat their opioid use disorders. Some examples of these are suboxone and naltrexone. These medicines for opioid use disorders are sometimes referred to as Medicated Assisted Treatment (MAT). They are allowed in Veterans Treatment Court only when:

- Prescribed by doctors with training in substance use disorders
- An approved part of your treatment plan

The team must make sure that any medicine is not misused or used for illegal purposes. If you need medicine for opioid use disorder, here is how it works:

1. You will get a letter that says what information is needed
2. You must give the letter to your doctor or health provider
3. The doctor prescribing you the medicine for opioid use disorder must provide the information that is asked for in writing
4. Your doctor must submit quarterly reports that explain your progress to the team

You may be monitor more closely while you are on medicine for opioid use disorders.

This could mean:

- Taking the medicine in front of a team member
- Taking more drug test
- Having a team member count your pills

If you stop the medicine, you may need to come to court weekly again. This is not a punishment but a safety measure to help your transition.

Do not misuse or break the rules around medicine for opioid use disorder. If so, there may be consequences that include leaving the program.

How often will I have to take drug/alcohol tests?

You will be randomly tested for drugs/alcohol the entire time you are in the program. You may have to take instant drug tests or breathalyzers on demand. Cook County Adult Probation Department order the tests. The team or staff of a treatment program or facility that is part of this program can also order them.

It is a serious probation violation to:

- Not give a saliva or urine sample when asked
- Give a swapped, altered or falsified sample

If a violation like this happens, the judge could ask the participant to leave the program, take away their probation or add felony charges.

How will I know when I need to take a drug/alcohol test?

The Adult Probation Department uses the Random Color Code Drug Testing Program. Your PO will assign you a color. Each color represents a different testing schedule. Schedules are weekly, semi-weekly or monthly.

Important: You must call the Drug Testing Hotline number for your court location by 8:30 am each day. When you call, the recording will say that day's color. Anytime your color is called, you must go to your probation office for a drug test during the time period stated in the message.

Court Location	Drug Testing Hotline Numbers
Leighton (26 th Street) Veterans Court	(773) 674 - 4835
Skokie Veterans Court	(847) 470 - 7392
Rolling Meadows Veterans Court	(847) 818 - 2803
Maywood Veterans Court	(708) 865 - 5973
Bridgeview Veterans Court	(708) 974 - 6594
Markham Veterans Court	(708) 232 - 4759

If you do not report and complete a drug test the day your color is called, the court may file a petition that you violated your probation.

If you have an emergency or an issue that comes up, please contact your PO right away. Communication is very important in the program.

INCENTIVES, SANCTIONS AND THERAPEUTIC ADJUSTMENTS

The team wants to encourage your success. Rewards in the program are called incentives. When rules are broken, there are consequences called sanctions. If you relapse or need additional treatment, you will be given a therapeutic adjustment. You will hear these terms a lot through out the program.

The team regularly discusses your progress and the judge makes the final decisions. The judge will talk with you in court on your progress and about any issues or concerns. You can also respond and ask questions. Before any incentive, sanction or therapeutic adjustment are given, the court will explain what is happening and will be fair and transparent.

What are examples of incentives (or rewards)?

When you are successful, you may get incentives from the judge and the team:



Applause, praise or recognition in court



Being allowed to travel



Promotion to a new phase



Less supervision requirements or community restrictions



Small rewards or legal incentives

There will be a graduation ceremony when you complete the program.

What is against the rules?

The program has many rules you will need to follow to be successful. Here are some examples of actions that break the rules of the program. The consequences depend on how serious the issue is.



Legal

- Getting arrested or violating probation
- Acting violently or threatening violence toward anyone associated with the program
- Not telling the probation department about an arrest, address change or job change
- Leaving Illinois without permission
- Missing a court status hearing or probation meeting
- Not following directions from the team



Health

- Having a positive drugs/alcohol test
- Not providing a urine or saliva sample
- Changing or altering a urine sample
- Missing a treatment session
- Taking medicine not prescribed to you
- Breaking any treatment or program rules
- Not completing treatment



Goals

- Not attending sober support group meetings or finding a sponsor
- Not attending education programs, GED program or job training (if recommended)

What are examples of sanctions (or consequences)?

The judge can give sanctions for any violation of probation or program rules, that includes:

- Any behavior that impacts your progress such as being late
- Anything listed in this handbook

When a judge gives a sanction, they aim to be fair. They will consider the current behavior or violation. They will review how you handled any past sanction(s).

They want you to be successful. If you are given a sanction, use this time as a chance to reflect. Here are common examples of what might happen:



Talking about the issues or
completing a writing assignment



Getting drug/alcohol
testing more often



Community
service



Electronic monitoring (EM), curfew or confinement at home



More supervision, restrictions or a limit on privileges (more court dates, etc.)



Incarceration (after a written petition about the probation violation and hearing)

As you can see, some people are removed from the program for not following the program rules, not meeting program requirements or not benefiting from the program.

Tell me about therapeutic adjustments and why my clinical treatment plan may change?

If you are not doing well with the type or amount of treatment you are getting, your treatment might be adjusted based on the feedback of the treatment team. This change is called a therapeutic adjustment.

The team might decide you:

- Need more intense services
- Should attend more meetings or groups
- Should enroll in a different treatment program

If changes are made in your treatment plan, know that it is not a punishment. It is a change to better meet your health needs.

FINDING SUCCESS IN THE PROGRAM

When you complete all parts of the program as described in the consent form and the program phases, this is called a successful discharge. At that time, the court will end your probation sentence and declare that you completed the program successfully.

What happens if I complete the program successfully?

If you complete the program, you will be recognized for your hard work and success.

You will be invite to attend a graduation ceremony. The entire team you worked with, other participants, former graduates, elected officials, news reporters and members of the public may attend. You can also invite family and friends. At the ceremony you can share about your experience in the program, if you would like.

You will also get a graduation certificate and a small token to celebrate your success.

What about my record if I complete the program?

As a reward for your hard work, the court may dismiss the original charges against you and successfully terminate your sentence for participation in the program under the provisions of the Veterans and Servicemembers Court Treatment Act (730 ILCS 167/35).

There might be additional steps for some:

- **If you are sentenced to TASC probation as a first-time felony offender under 20 ILCS 301/40-10(e)**, you have the right to file a motion to vacate the judgment of conviction and dismiss the criminal proceedings against you
- **If you were originally sentenced to first offender probation under either 720 ILCS 550/10 or 720 ILCS 570/410**, the court will discharge you and dismiss the criminal proceedings against you

If you are not sure what applies to you, talk with your lawyer.

LEAVING WITHOUT COMPLETING THE PROGRAM

Sometimes, people are not able to complete the program. There are three (3) ways that people may leave without finishing:

1. **Neutral Discharge - Leaving the Program Because of Health or Disability**

If someone can no longer take part or complete the requirements because of a serious health condition or disability, they may be eligible for a neutral discharge. In this case, there would not be any more responsibilities or consequences related to the program because of these issues.

2. **Voluntary Withdrawal - Deciding to Leave the Program for Personal Reasons**

Everyone has the right to choose to leave the program. This is called a voluntary withdrawal. A person must first have the chance to talk to their lawyer, to make sure they understand what could happen. If you leave this way you could be in violation of probation. You could also have your original charges reinstated or be prosecuted.

3. **Unsuccessful Discharge - Being Removed from the Program**

If someone is not following the program requirements, the team can recommend that the person be removed from the program. This is called an unsuccessful discharge.

A written petition to revoke, to end probation and/or terminate a person from the program will be filed. The person will be told why they are being removed from the program and have a hearing.

At that time, they may be sentenced to the Illinois Department of Corrections.

What are my rights if I am unsuccessfully discharged?

In any violation of probation, conditional discharge or other termination proceeding, you have the right to:

1. Have the petition to revoke (reasons you are being removed from the program) shared in writing
2. Have a formal hearing about this paperwork called the petition to revoke
3. Be represented by a lawyer (your own lawyer or a lawyer that is assigned to you) in a hearing or other proceeding about the petition to revoke
4. Make the government prove what the petition to revoke argued by a preponderance of evidence (prove you violated program requirements or probation) in a hearings about the petition to revoke
5. The right to speak to witnesses, ask them questions and to present witnesses or evidence on your behalf in a hearings on the petition to revoke
6. The right to file a motion (make a formal request) for a different judge in a hearing on the petition to revoke
7. The right to know how long your sentencing could be, based on the original offense that brought you to the program

Important: By pleading guilty or admitting to the allegation(s) in the petition to revoke, you give up your rights listed above.

At a hearing on a petition to revoke to terminate a person from the program, the judge may not consider any information learned through their participation in the program. The exception is if their information is admitted in to evidence at a hearing.

A judge must disqualify themselves from any hearings where their “impartiality might reasonably be questioned” according to the Illinois Supreme Court.

CONCLUSION

The Veterans Treatment Court Program is designed to help you obtain treatment and develop tools to address any behavioral health, substance use and mental health needs. The hope is that you will embrace the supports in this program and achieve your goals.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

You can write down important information here:

Participants Name:
Court Location:
Weekly Court Day/Time:
PO Name:
PO Phone Number:
VJO Social Worker/Clinical Case Manager Name:
VJO Social Worker/Clinical Case Manager Phone Number:
Peer Mentor Name:
Peer Mentor Phone Number:

Court Location	Probation Office Numbers
Leighton (26 th Street)	(773) 674 - 3282
Skokie	(847) 470 - 7370
Rolling Meadows	(847) 818 - 2330
Maywood	(708) 865 - 6014
Bridgeview	(708) 974 - 6330
Markham	(708) 232 - 4230

COMMON QUESTIONS

Should I share this information with anyone?

It is suggested you share this handbook with your family and friends. This way, they can learn what the program is about and how they can best support you.

Do people ever complete the program early?

Sometimes, people complete all aspects of the program before the end of the probation term. The team may possibly allow you to successfully finish the program early in these situations.

What is a Peer Mentor?

A veteran who is trained to work with the Veterans Treatment Court. They support and encourage you while you are in the program. They cannot provide legal advice or financial support.

Can I work while I am in the program?

You are encouraged to get and keep a job during your participation in the program. You will need a job that is very flexible. A job cannot get in the way of your program responsibilities.

You will not be excused for:

- Not enrolling in or attending treatment
- Not reporting to probation
- Not appearing in court because of work

If you need help juggling responsibilities, talk to your PO for support.

COMMON TERMS USED IN COURT**Case Management Plan**

The plan you and your PO create that assess your strengths and needs, identifies what you want to accomplish for your life goals and helps find resources towards housing and work

Clinical Treatment Plan

The plan your VJO social worker or clinical case manager creates that recommends substance use, mental health or medical treatment and connect you to programs to help you address your health goals

Incentive

Rewards given to you for program success

Phase

The four (4) parts of the program you will need to move through to successfully complete the program

Random Color Code Drug Testing Program

The system used for drug/alcohol testing and how you will know when you are scheduled to take a test. Schedules are weekly, semi-weekly or monthly.

Sanction

Consequences when program rules are broken that are meant to help you get back on track

Successful Discharge

Completing all of the program phases, requirements and your probation

Therapeutic Adjustment

Changes to your clinical treatment plan to better help you if the type or amount of treatment is not working well for you

**VETERANS TREATMENT COURT
PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE**

By checking each box and signing this document, I confirm that the following are true:

- ☐ I received a copy of the Veterans Treatment Court Participant Handbook for the Circuit Court of Cook County
- ☐ I have reviewed and understand this handbook
- ☐ I understand all of the program rules, expectations and responsibilities

Your Name (printed)

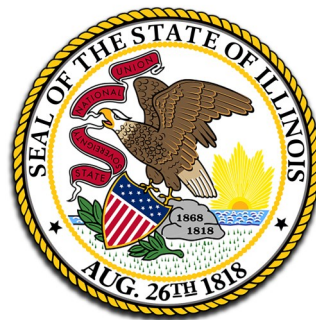
Your Signature

Date

Defense Counsel (lawyer)

Date

Instructions for Defense Counsel (lawyer): Once your client has completed and signed this page, tear it out and place it in the client's court file.



Office of the Chief Judge
Circuit Court of Cook County
Veterans Treatment Court Program
50 West Washington Street, Suite 2600
Chicago, Illinois 60602

