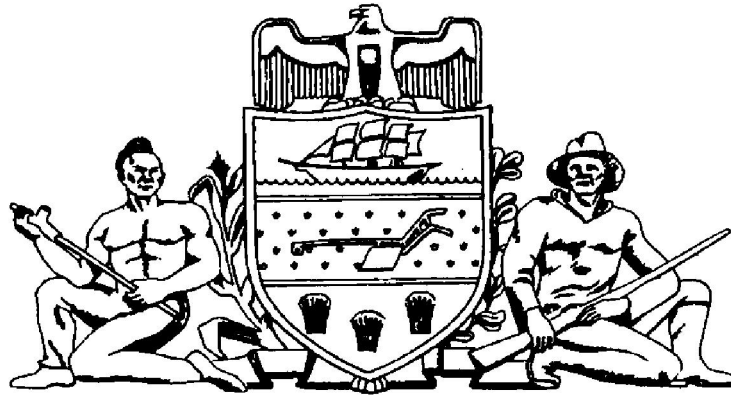


**THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA**



**VETERANS' COURT PROGRAM
INSTRUCTIONS AND REFERRAL FORMS**

Purpose:

The Dauphin County Veterans' Court Program is specifically designed for veterans involved in the Criminal Justice System. The intention is to place these individuals into an intensive drug, alcohol, and/or mental health treatment program coupled with court intervention as an alternative to incarceration to help them return to a productive lifestyle.

Eligibility:

Screening for entrance into the program will be available to those defendants who: are detained at the Dauphin County Prison; currently on pre-trial supervision; currently on probation supervision, or/and are awaiting preliminary hearing before a Magisterial District Justice for an eligible criminal offense.

Informed consent will be obtained for evaluation and consideration by the Court Team and again at the point of acceptance into Veteran's Court.

An individual meeting the following criteria may apply for admission into the Veterans' Court program:

1. Veteran of the United States Armed Forces.
2. Resident of Dauphin County.
3. Charged with or facing revocation of either certain felonies or any misdemeanor offenses.
4. Meets one of the following clinical criteria:
 - a. PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder),
 - b. TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury),
 - c. MST (Military Sexual Trauma),
 - d. Drug/Alcohol Addiction,
 - e. Other Axis I diagnoses that include but are not limited to: Major Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, or a psychological and/or substance abuse problem(s) requiring treatment/support.
5. Veterans with co-occurring disorders (mental health and substance use) will be evaluated for Veteran's Court if they otherwise meet the eligibility criteria, but may be referred to Drug Court and/or Mental Health Court if determined more appropriate, or rejected if those issues/disorders would prohibit satisfactory completion of any veteran's court sentence/program, or/and probation & parole rules.

6. The Offender voluntarily agrees to participate in, and be subject to rules, all guidelines of supervision, regulations, and sanctions of the Veterans' Court program.

Disqualifying factors may include but are not limited to:

1. The type of discharge from Armed Forces.
2. The sentencing requirements based on the prior record score and seriousness of the offense.
3. Whether the individual is in need of treatment.
4. Charges include a violent felony, a Megan's Law offense, and/or a firearm charge.

Program Overview:

- Diversionary Track
 - Dauphin County's Veterans' Court will accept defendants who would otherwise be ARD eligible. Those individuals will participate in the Veterans' Court Diversionary Track.
- Incentive Track
 - A defendant who is charged with a felony but has a low prior record score and no prior felony convictions will be considered for the Incentive Track where the felony will be reduced to a misdemeanor upon successful completion of the program. A guilty plea to the felony is required; however, the charge will be amended prior to sentencing.
- Standard Track
 - A defendant who does not fit into either of these categories will participate in the Standard Track where the intensive supervision received by all participants will be their alternative to incarceration.

Each participant is required to complete all recommended treatment, remain drug and alcohol free, attend the Court sessions as directed, refrain from criminal activity, and comply with all conditions of supervision.

The program is divided into three phases, which vary in length and requirements. When the participant completes all phases, he or she will graduate from the program and be released from the intensive level supervision. The participant will be discharged from all supervision once completing the aftercare portion of supervision.

THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
DAUPHIN COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
VETERANS' COURT REFERRAL FORM

DATE: _____

DEFENDANT INFORMATION:

NAME:

LAST FIRST M.I.

DOB: _____ SS#: _____ TELEPHONE # _____
AREA CODE AND NUMBER

RACE: _____ MARITAL STATUS: _____ SEX: _____

ADDRESS:

STREET NUMBER AND STREET NAME

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

DOCKET#: CP – 22 – CR – 000 _____ - 20 ____ OTN: _____ BAIL / DCP
(circle one)

IF KNOWN (or not yet received by Court of Common Pleas):

LOWER COURT DOCKET#: _____ MDJ: _____

CHARGE(S):

DA ASSIGNED: _____ DEF ATTY: _____

PUB DEF / PRIVATE ATTY

- In what branch(es) of the Armed Forces did you serve? _____
(including Reserves or National Guard)

- Have you served in any of the following? _____
 - Vietnam
 - Korea
 - Iraq
 - Afghanistan
 - Other-Specify _____

- When did you enter the Armed Forces? _____

- What was your rank in the Armed Forces? _____

- What was your occupation in the Armed Forces? _____

- How long did you serve in the Armed Forces? _____

- When were you discharged? _____

- Do you have a copy of your DD-214? Yes No

- What type of discharge did you receive? _____
 - Honorable
 - General (Honorable Conditions)
 - General (Without Honorable Conditions)
 - Other than Honorable
 - Bad Conduct
 - Dishonorable
 - Other-Specify _____
 - Type of discharge of unknown