



THE COURT

Started in Dauphin County on January 27th, 2012, the Dauphin County Veterans Court Program is specifically designed for veterans involved in the Criminal Justice System. The intention is to place the veteran, as related to his/her individually developed treatment plan, into an intensive drug, alcohol, and/or mental health treatment program coupled with court intervention as an alternative to incarceration to help return the veteran a productive and healthy lifestyle.

Without the collaboration of the VA Medical Center, multiple Dauphin County Departments, the Veterans Treatment Court, Volunteer Veteran Mentors and community health care providers, many Veterans' would continue to have their illnesses untreated and would suffer the consequences of the traditional criminal justice system of jail or prison.

If you are interested in becoming a **MENTOR**, please contact the Dauphin County Veterans Court Mentor Coordinator:

Mr. Charles (Chuck) Leach
Cell: (717) 579-9651
E-Mail: leach3613@comcast.net

The positions of Mentor and Mentor Coordinator are both strictly volunteer and are unpaid. Expenses related to the Veterans Court may be paid as authorized by the President Judge of Dauphin County.

To submit a **PROGRAM REFERRAL**, please contact the Veterans Court Coordinator:

Ms. Heather Birchfield
Office: (717) 780-6767

Court application forms and information are also available on-line at:

<http://www.dauphincounty.org/publicly-elected-officials/district-attorney/veterans-court/>

To donate to the Veterans Court Program:

<http://www.vva542.org/>

Dauphin County Veterans Court Support Fund
Michael J. Novosel MOH Capital Chapter 542
Vietnam Veterans of America
8000 Derry Street
Harrisburg, PA 17111-5233

For additional information on Veterans Courts around the country:

<http://www.nadcp.org/JusticeForVets>



**Dauphin County
Veterans Court Program**

**Presiding Judge
William T. Tully**

VETERANS COURT	TRADITIONAL COURT
VET Court Team is used to achieve goals to support treatment interventions.	The Court Team consists of a judge, prosecutor, defense counsel, etc.
Non-Adversarial	Adversarial
Goal is to restore the participant as a productive, non-criminal member of society.	Goal is to process the case; apply the law.
The Treatment Team will play a central role in monitoring the participant's progress in treatment.	Judge exercises limited role in supervision of the defendant.
Formalized and structured treatment interventions for each participant.	Interventions for substance abuse at the discretion of the judge.
Incentives used to reinforce positive adjustment and Sanctions used in response to violations of the Veterans Court program.	Relapse may lead to a maximum sentence.

VETERANS COURT MENTORS

A key component of any successful Veterans Court is a Veteran Mentor Program. In this program, a trained Veteran Mentor is paired with a veteran participant to provide support as he/she navigates through the court and treatment. Ideally, Mentors/Participants will be paired by service whenever possible.

The Mentor is present as an ally and friend to assist the veteran through this difficult time. Our belief is that the shared experiences of another veteran will be critical in assisting the participant in regaining control of his/her life and successfully connecting to – and maintaining – treatment, which will lead to successful completion of the Veterans Court program.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

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. Has a severe mental illness, Axis I diagnosis, and/or substance use disorder or problem(s) requiring treatment/support.
5. 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.