



**52nd District Court
for the State of Michigan, County of Oakland**

52-1ST
48150 GRAND RIVER AVE
NOVI, MI
48374
(248) 305-6511

52-2ND
5850 LORAC DR
CLARKSTON, MI
48346
(248) 625-4880

52-3RD
700 BARCLAY CIRCLE
ROCHESTER HILLS, MI 48307
(248) 853-5553

52-4TH
520 WEST BIG BEAVER RD
TROY, MI
48084
(248) 525-0400

HON. TRAVIS M. REEDS
CHIEF DISTRICT JUDGE

Administrative Order 2025 - 04

ORDER FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

IT IS ORDERED:

This administrative order is issued in accordance with MCL 600.1200, *et seq.* The purpose of this order is to establish a veterans treatment court in the 52nd District Court, 3rd Division upon approval by the State Court Administrative Office (SCAO). All policies and procedures comply with the statute and are consistent with the *10 Key Components for a Veterans Treatment Court* (see attachment A), as required by MCL 600.1201 (1).

1. The court has entered into a memorandum of understanding with each participating county prosecuting attorney in the circuit or district court district, a representative of the criminal defense bar, a representative of community treatment providers, and other key parties pursuant to MCL 600.1201(2). The memorandum of understanding describes the role of each party and is attached (Attachment B).
2. The court has established eligibility criteria consistent with MCL 600.1203 and 600.1205.
3. In compliance with MCL 600.1203(3), no participant will be admitted until a complete preadmission screening, substance abuse, and/or mental health assessment are completed.

4. All participants will sign a voluntary written agreement to participate in the program in conformance with MCL 600.1205(1)(d).
5. The court will maintain case files in compliance with Retention and Disposal Schedule General Schedule #13 – District Court, the Michigan Trial Court Case File Management Standards, and Part 2 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations to assure confidentiality of treatment court records.
6. The court has established, as part of its program requirements, procedures to assure compliance with MCL 600.1207 and 600.1208.
7. Pursuant to MCL 600.1210, the court will provide the SCAO with the minimum standard data established by the SCAO for each individual applicant and participant of the veterans treatment court program.
8. The court will use the Drug Court Case Management Information System (DCCMIS) to maintain and submit the minimum data as determined by the SCAO.
9. In order to begin or continue operation of the veterans treatment court, the 52nd District Court, 3rd Division will become certified by the State Court Administrative Office under MCL 600.1201.

Date:

5-5-2015

Chief Judge Signature: _____



ATTACHMENT A

The 10 Key Components of Veterans Treatment Courts

Key Component #1: Veterans treatment courts integrate alcohol and drug treatment, and mental services with justice system case processing.

Veterans treatment court promotes sobriety, recovery, and stability through a coordinated response to a veteran's dependency on alcohol, drugs, and/or management of his/her mental illness. Realization of these goals requires a team approach. This approach includes the cooperation and collaboration of the traditional partners found in drug treatment courts and mental health treatment courts with the addition of the Veterans Administration, support organizations for veterans and their families, as well as volunteer veteran mentors.

Key Component #2: Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights.

To facilitate the veteran's progress in treatment, the prosecutor and defense counsel work together as a team. Once a veteran is accepted into the treatment court program, the team's focus is on the veteran's recovery and law-abiding behavior, not on the merits of the pending case.

Key Component #3: Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the veterans court program.

Early identification of veterans entering the criminal justice system is a vital part of the process of placement in the ICTVC. Arrest can be a traumatic event in a person's life. It creates an immediate crisis and can force recognition of inappropriate behavior out into the open. This assists the veteran in realizing there is a need for treatment.

Key Component #4: The veterans treatment court provides access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services.

While primarily concerned with criminal activity, alcohol and other drug use, and mental illness, the treatment court team also considers co-occurring problems such as medical problems, transmittable diseases, homelessness, basic educational deficits, unemployment, poor job preparation, spouse and family troubles, and the ongoing effects of war-time trauma.

Key Component #5: Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing.

Frequent court-ordered alcohol and other drug testing is essential. An accurate testing program is the most objective and efficient way to establish a framework for accountability and to gauge each defendant's progress.

Key Component #6: A coordinated strategy governs veterans treatment court responses to participants' compliance.

A veteran's progress through the treatment court is measured by his or her compliance with the treatment regimen. The program rewards cooperation as well as responds to noncompliance. The program establishes a coordinated strategy, including a continuum of graduated responses, to continuing drug use and other noncompliant behavior.

Key Component #7: Ongoing judicial interaction with each veteran is essential.

The judge is the leader of the veterans treatment court team. This active, supervising relationship increases the likelihood that a veteran will remain in treatment and improves the chances for sobriety and law-abiding behavior. Ongoing judicial supervision also communicates to veterans that someone in authority cares about them and is closely watching what they do.

Key Component #8: Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness.

Management and monitoring systems provide timely and accurate information about program progress. Program monitoring provides oversight and measurements of the program's performance against its stated goals and objectives. Information and conclusions developed from periodic monitoring reports, process evaluation activities, and longitudinal evaluation studies may be used to modify the program.

Key Component #9: Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective veterans treatment court planning, implementation, and operations.

All veterans treatment court staff should be involved in education and training. Interdisciplinary education exposes criminal justice officials to veteran treatment issues. In addition, VA employees, veteran volunteer mentors, and treatment staff are exposed to criminal justice issues. It also develops shared understandings of the values, goals, and operating procedures of the VA, treatment, and the justice system components.

Education and training programs help maintain a high level of professionalism and provide a forum for solidifying relationships among the veterans treatment court stakeholders. A spirit of collaboration and commitment is also promoted.

Key Component #10: Forging partnerships among the court, VA, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances program effectiveness.

Because of its unique position in the criminal justice system, a veterans treatment court is well-suited to develop collaborations among community-based organizations, criminal justice agencies, the VA, support organizations for veterans and their families, and treatment delivery systems. Forming such collaborations expands the continuum of services available to defendants and informs the community about veterans treatment court concepts.

Memorandum of Understanding

52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court

Parties

This agreement is made and entered into as of the date set forth below, by and between the following parties whose representatives have signed the agreement:

1. 52-3 District Court
2. 52-3 District Court Probation Department
3. Michael D. Schloff, Defense Attorney
4. U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
5. Aylsa Wamsler, Veteran Benefits Coordinator, Oakland County
6. Cathy Louis, Veteran Justice Outreach Specialist
7. Vito Anthony, Lead Mentor

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to describe duties and allocate responsibilities for members of the 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court team. The MOU also establishes team member responsibilities and requirements for maintaining compliance with the Michigan Veterans Court Statute (MCL 600.1200-600.1212).

Terms/Definitions

1. Ex parte communication: Any communication, relevant to a legal proceeding, between a judge and a party to the proceeding or any other person about the case, outside of the presence of the opposing party or the opposing party's attorney, that is not on the record.
2. Participant: Any person referred to the 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court, (including those who are ultimately denied entry to the program), currently participating in 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court, or someone who has been discharged from the 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court.
3. Policies and Procedures Manual: Policy and procedure manuals document policies and procedures designed to influence and determine all major decisions and actions, and all activities that take place within the boundaries set by them. Procedures are the specific methods employed to express policies in action in day-to-day operations of the organization.
4. Staffing meetings: Team meetings where participants' progress is discussed and options for incentives & sanctions, treatment, and phase changes are evaluated.

5. Stakeholders: A person, group or organization that has interest or concern in an organization.
6. Treatment services: Any services provided by a licensed clinician or by an employee of any agency providing therapeutic services for substance use disorder, mental health, or developmental disabilities.

Mission of the 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court

1. We agree that the mission of the 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court shall be to successfully stabilize substance using and mentally ill individuals while maintaining public safety.
2. We endorse the goals of the 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court in order for participants to eliminate future criminal behavior and improve the quality of their lives. For this program to be successful, cooperation must occur within a network of systems to facilitate and achieve the mission, challenge, and vision of the 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court.

Guiding Principles of the 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court

1. Veterans treatment court programs promote positive legal outcomes by well-defined terms of participation that facilitate engagement in treatment that corresponds to the level of risk to the community.
2. Veterans treatment court offers an opportunity for veterans, whose mental illness or substance use disorder is related to their service and contributed to their crime, a program that integrates alcohol, drug treatment, and mental health services with justice system case processing.
3. Treatment intervention should occur early on upon entry to the criminal justice system to achieve maximum treatment outcomes.
4. Thorough assessment and evaluation is a critical component of the veterans treatment court program.
5. Participants with mental illness or substance use disorders cannot maximize their treatment potential without appropriate treatment intervention that includes their families when appropriate.
6. Participant accountability is foremost in the program, with written program agreements and court monitoring of behavior on a regular basis. Court monitoring will include sanctioning or treatment adjustment for negative behaviors and positive rewards for improved behaviors.
7. Veterans treatment court programs are established with written protocols, which are well-defined and documented through the policies and procedures manual. The program manual will be updated annually, to respond to the changes in the needs of the programs, participants, families, agencies, and community.
8. Participant entry into the veterans treatment court program shall be governed by written eligibility criteria as established by the veterans treatment court team.
9. Information about participant progress, participant family progress, and the functioning of the veterans treatment court program shall be made available to all team members, in compliance with federal and state confidentiality laws.
10. Effective evaluation of the veterans treatment court program shall be sought with appropriate responses being made relative to these evaluations.

11. Forging of partnerships among veterans treatment court, veterans administration, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances veteran treatment court effectiveness.

Roles of the Parties of the 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court

1. All parties shall:
 - i. Participate as a team member, operating in a non-adversarial manner.
 - ii. On an annual basis, attend current training events on legal and constitutional issues in veterans treatment courts, judicial ethics, evidence-based substance abuse and mental health treatment, behavior modification, and/or community supervision.
 - iii. Help to identify potential and eligible veterans treatment court participants.
 - iv. Provide feedback, suggestions, and ideas on the operation of the veterans treatment court.
 - v. Attend staffing meetings, and provide input on incentives and sanctions for participants.
 - vi. Share information as necessary, and in compliance with federal confidentiality laws, to appraise participants' progress in, and compliance with, the conditions of veterans treatment court.
 - vii. The parties, including each party's employees and other agents, shall maintain the confidentiality of all records generated during the term of this MOU in accordance with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, 42 CFR Part 2.
2. Veterans treatment court judge shall:
 - i. Serve as the leader of the team.
 - ii. Preside over status review hearings.
 - iii. Engage the community to generate local support for the veterans treatment court.
 - iv. Communicate with the participants in a positive manner and make final decisions regarding incentives and sanctions and program continuation.
 - v. Consider the perspective of all team members before making final decisions that affect participants' welfare or liberty interests and explain the rationale for such decisions to team members and participants.
 - vi. Rely on the expert input of duly trained treatment professionals when imposing treatment related conditions on the participants. Provide program oversight and ensure communication and partnership with treatment.
 - vii. Shall consider whether to terminate a participant's participation in the veterans treatment court program if that participant is accused of a new crime. If a participant is convicted of a felony for an offense that occurred after being admitted to veterans treatment court, the judge must terminate the participant from the program.

3. Program coordinator shall:
 - i. Assist probation officer with inquiries from defense attorneys on possible eligibility.
 - ii. Enter data into DCCMIS system.
 - iii. Liaison with non-treatment agencies that are providing services to the participants.
 - iv. Ensure that new team members are provided with a formal training within three months of joining the team on the topics of confidentiality, and his or her role on the team, ensure that the new team member is provided with copies of all program policy and procedure manuals, the participant handbook, and a copy of all current memoranda of understanding.
4. Probation officer shall:
 - i. Administer a validated criminogenic risk/needs assessment tool to participants during the referral process to ensure the veterans treatment court is serving the appropriate target population.
 - ii. Attend review hearings
 - iii. Work with the program coordinator in supervising and monitoring the individuals in the program.
 - iv. Prepare presentence reports and perform alcohol and drug tests as needed. Schedule probation violations or show cause hearings for participants who have violated the program rules and are subject to termination from the program or if a liberty interest is at stake.
 - v. Enter data into the DCCMIS system.
5. Defense counsel shall:
 - i. Ensure that a defense counsel representative is present at all staffing meetings to avoid ex parte communication.
 - ii. Attend review hearings.
 - iii. Ensure that defendants' procedural and due process rights are followed.
 - iv. Ensure that the participant is treated fairly and that the veterans treatment court team follows its own rules.
 - v. When appropriate, and without breaching attorney-client privilege, encourage clients to be forthcoming and honest regarding their recovery process.
6. Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist shall:
 - i. Arrange for clinical assessments to determine program eligibility, appropriate treatment services, and progress in treatment.
 - ii. Ensure that a treatment representative is present at all staffing meetings to ensure therapeutic input regarding any sanctions being considered.
 - iii. Liaison with any Veterans Affairs (VA) treatment providers that are providing services to the participants, and keep the team updated on treatment attendance and progress.
 - iv. Attend review hearings.
 - v. Manage delivery of treatment services.
 - vi. Administer, or ensure administration of, behavioral or cognitive-behavioral treatments that are documented in manuals and have been demonstrated to improve outcomes.
 - vii. Offer insights and suggestions on the treatment plans of individuals in the program.
 - viii. Connect veterans to VA treatment services and homeless programs.

7. Veterans Benefits Coordinator shall:

- i. Meet with participants to discuss available veterans benefit programs for which they may qualify.
- ii. Attend review hearings.

Deferrals, Delays, and Deviation from Sentencing Guidelines

Under MCL 600.1205(2), the prosecutor must approve an individual's admission into the 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court if the individual will be eligible for discharge and dismissal of an offense, delayed sentence, or deviation from the sentencing guidelines.

Program Fee

The program charges a fee of \$250.00 to each participant, to be paid at the time of sentencing unless a payment plan is granted. In accordance with MCL 600.1206(4) the clerk of the veterans treatment court shall transmit the fees collected to the treasurer of the local funding unit at the end of each month. The fee must be reasonable and calculated based on costs reasonably related to administering the program that are not covered by other funding such as insurance, block grants, PA 511, or another agency. These costs include treatment, drug testing, supplies, travel costs, training, and any other costs incurred by the veterans treatment court to administer the program.

Term of Agreement

This agreement is effective for one year upon the date of the final signature and shall renew automatically for subsequent one-year terms unless otherwise modified. Any signatory to this agreement may terminate participation upon thirty days' notice to all other signatories.

Agency Representatives

This MOU will be administered by the 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court local team, which consists of the following stakeholder agency representation:

- A. 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court Veterans Court Judge, Hon. Laura E. Polizzi.
- B. 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court Veterans Court Program Coordinator, Danielle Monnier.
- C. 52-3 District Court Probation Department, Probation Officer, Heather Whited
- D. Alysa Wamsler, Veteran Benefits Coordinator, Oakland County.
- E. Michael D. Schloff, defense attorney.
- F. Cathy Louis, Veteran Justice Outreach Specialist, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Modification of Agreement

Modification of this agreement shall be made by formal consent of all parties, pursuant to the issuance of a written amendment, signed and dated by the parties, prior to any changes.

Other Interagency Agreements

This agreement does not preclude or preempt each of the agencies individually entering into an agreement with one or more parties to this agreement, nor does it supplant any existing agreement between such parties.

Signatures of Parties to this Agreement

The parties have entered into this agreement as evidenced by their signatures below. A certified copy of the agreement shall be provided to each signatory to the agreement. The original agreement shall be filed with the clerk of 52-3 District Court.

Honorable Laura E. Polizzi, 52-3 District Court Veterans Court Judge, 52-3 District Court

<p>Signed by:</p>  <p>8700704D1C2C401...</p> <p>Signature</p>	<p>4/30/2025</p> <p>Date</p>
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Heather Whited, Probation Officer, 52-3 District Court

<p>Signed by:</p>  <p>0FE1531AE1754E8...</p> <p>Signature</p>	<p>4/30/2025</p> <p>Date</p>
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Danielle Monnier, Program Coordinator, 52-3 District Court Veterans Treatment Court

<p>Signed by:</p>  <p>8BB6C80C8C8B4B8...</p> <p>Signature</p>	<p>4/30/2025</p> <p>Date</p>
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Michael Schloff, Defense Attorney

<p>Signed by:</p>  <p>A57BB0C09504E4F8...</p> <p>Signature</p>	<p>5/1/2025</p> <p>Date</p>
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Aylsa Wamsler, Veterans Benefits Coordinator, Oakland County

<p>Signed by:</p>  <p>821C715B1937448...</p> <p>Signature</p>	<p>4/30/2025</p> <p>Date</p>
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Cathy Louis, LMSW, ACSW, Veteran Justice Outreach Coordinator, John D. Dingell VA Medical Center

Signed by:

Cathy Louis

8BC47807E15F4B9...

Signature

4/30/2025

Date

Vito Anthony, Lead Mentor

Signed by:

Vito Anthony

40BF0C3C56EA4D2...

Signature

4/30/2025

Date