

THURSTON COUNTY VETERANS COURT

Mission Statement

The mission of the Thurston County Mental Health and Veterans Court is to serve the community and increase public safety by monitoring, supporting and holding accountable justice-involved individuals with mental illness in accessing treatment and improving their quality of life.

We treat each participant with respect and dignity, thus empowering them to make positive changes in their life.

THURSTON COUNTY VETERANS COURT

Our Partners

Thurston County
Sheriff's Office



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs



Washington State
Department
of Veterans Affairs

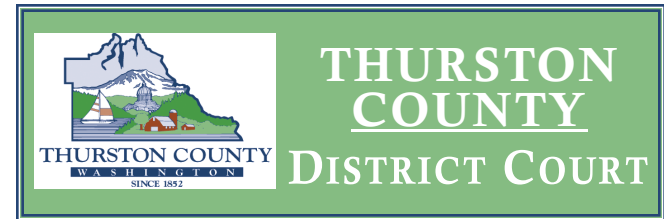


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Washington



Veterans Court is
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**THURSTON COUNTY
TREATMENT SALES TAX**

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VETERANS COURT



*“Supporting those
who have defended us.”*

**Honorable M. Brett Buckley,
Presiding**

WHAT IS VETERANS COURT?

Veterans Court is a problem solving court that is intended to serve veterans or active duty service-members charged with a crime who are struggling with serious mental illness and/or co-occurring disorders.

The Court promotes sobriety, recovery and stability through a coordinated response that involves cooperation and collaboration with the traditional partners found in problem solving courts, with the addition of the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs health care networks, the Veterans Benefits Administration, Washington State Dept. of Veterans Affairs and veterans and veterans' family support organizations.

Veterans Court is a voluntary 24-month program designed for defendants who have served or are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces who are experiencing a treatable mental health problem which may or may not be exacerbated by substance abuse issues.

The program involves ongoing judicial supervision and intensive monitoring with input from a multi-disciplinary team of professionals led by the judge.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- » *Veteran or Active Duty Service Member of any U.S. Armed Forces.*
- » *Open criminal cases in Thurston County, Tumwater or Lacey.*
- » *Diagnosed or diagnosable chronic mental health condition **that is directly related to your military service.***
- » *A connection between mental health symptoms and the charges.*
- » *Low to medium risk for recidivism*
- » *Not currently charged with, or previously convicted of, crimes that involve a firearm, a sex-offense, a serious violent offense, results in the death of another person, or is otherwise prohibited by RCW 2.30.*
- » *Willing to take responsibility for your actions and your part in the commission of the charges against you.*
- » *Willing to fully engage in treatment and take an active part in your recovery.*
- » *Willing to go to all court hearings, which begin as weekly hearings.*
- » *Willing to submit to frequent, random drug and alcohol testing.*
- » *Willing to go to all the services and treatments that are recommended by treatment professionals or ordered by the court.*

If you answered yes, you may be eligible...

HOW DO I GET IN?

- ◇ *Speak with your attorney about a referral to the program.*
- ◇ *Your attorney will discuss the possibility with the prosecutor.*
- ◇ *The prosecutor **MUST APPROVE** the referral. Without prosecutor approval, a case **CANNOT** come into the program.*
- ◇ *The VC Program Manager will meet with you to determine eligibility, obtain releases to access your mental health records, and provide detailed information about the program.*
- ◇ *If you are eligible, the VC Team will meet to decide if your case can come into the program.*
- ◇ *If the team agrees, you will need to observe a full hearing, and provide a **CLEAN DRUG AND ALCOHOL TEST.***
- ◇ *Prior to opting into the program, you will need to discuss all of your options with your attorney to make sure you are making a well-informed and voluntary decision.*