



Richmond County Veterans Court

Veterans Courts operate like other special diversion courts and are designed to address the unique personal challenges many vets find themselves facing after returning home from military service.



Often times, substance abuse and mental health disorders negatively impact the lives of veterans and their families—leading to felonies and misdemeanors that might put vets into the criminal justice system without addressing their core problems. Criminal behavior, mental health problems and substance abuse often stem directly from service in combat zones and may be amplified by re-entry into home life.

The alternative track provided by the Veterans Courts can lead to a reduction or dismissal of charges if vets complete it successfully. Veterans Court volunteer mentors are instrumental in making these courts work by talking to and counseling fellow veterans in ways that civilian counselors cannot.

Veterans Court Peer Mentor Program:



Peer mentors are a critical component of the Veterans Court. They are men and women who have previously served in our military's armed forces and volunteer their time to work with veterans in court. By virtue of their military experience, peer mentors provide veteran-defendants with a unique source of support and motivation as they navigate through the court process. Through the use of peer mentors, judicial monitoring, coordinated services and enhanced communication, the Veterans Court seeks to provide veterans with immediate and intensive intervention so that they can successfully reintegrate into civilian life.

Veterans are better served by having a support system that includes veterans who understand combat experience and the different aspects of military service. Mentors participate in a supportive relationship with participants to increase the likelihood that they will remain in treatment, attain and manage sobriety and maintain law-abiding behavior.

