

## MISSION STATEMENT

### Goals and Objectives

It is a goal of this program to reduce, deter, and ultimately eliminate repeat criminal offenses. The objectives are to have participants graduate with the following characteristics:

- Maintaining recovery and sobriety
- Employed
- In stable housing
- Able to manage financial responsibilities
- Restitution and fines paid
- Develop a non-criminal pattern of living.

The Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) will also recognize and provide incentives for accomplishments beyond the VTC requirements that promote drug-free, pro-social, and law-abiding behavior.

### Examples of incentives:

- Decreased frequency of office appointments
- Gift certificates
- Assistance in obtaining a driver's license
- Restored privileges
- Leaving court early
- Graduation
- Charge reduced or dismissed.

### Examples of Consequences:

The program will attempt to use consequences aimed at stabilizing the participant's harmful relationship with drugs, alcohol or non-compliance with VTC rules.

- Warnings (verbal and/or written)
- Held in phase until completion of requirements
- A stricter curfew
- Fine or fee imposed
- Bench warrants
- Termination from Veterans Treatment Court.

The mission of the Northeast Central Judicial District's Veterans Treatment Court is to promote recovery, stability, and accountability for veterans involved in the justice system through supervision and service-oriented mentorship; therefore improving public safety and civic contribution to the citizens and State of North Dakota.

## **"Veteran Accountability Leading to Ongoing Recovery"**

### Weekly Court Sessions:

The Veterans Treatment Court docket will be held at the Grand Forks County Courthouse, Courtroom 302, Mondays at 4:00 p.m. excluding holidays and Mondays designated as non-court days by the presiding judge. Participants must appear on assigned court days.

The minimum length of time assessed for participation in the Veterans Treatment Court is 12 months. Some participants will complete their participation in that time frame, and others will take longer to complete their participation in the court.

Revision Four: 03/03/25



**Northeast Central Judicial District  
Veterans Treatment Court  
124 S 4<sup>th</sup> St  
Grand Forks ND 58201**

**Court Coordinator  
701-787-2760**

*Treatment courts are the most successful intervention in our nation's history for leading people living with a substance use disorder out of the justice system and into lives of recovery and stability. NADCP*

The Veterans Treatment Court is a non-adversarial treatment strategy for veterans in the criminal justice system who suffer from mental health and/or substance use/abuse issues related to their service in the Armed Forces.

### **Benefits of participating in the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC):**

- Reduction in charges
- Dismissal of charges
- Sentence reduced
- Improve family relationships and social support connections
- Improve life stability

### **Who Can Be a Part of the VTC?**

If you are seeking admission into the Northeast Central Judicial District VTC, you must meet the criteria established by the VTC team:

#### **Eligibility Criteria:**

- You are either a current or former member of the Armed Forces (Navy, Marines, Army, Air Force, and Space Force) including the Army or Air Force National Guard or Reserves or equivalent from another nation
- You are a former service member; work with the VSO regarding eligibility for VA benefits and services, and have your discharge paperwork reviewed. If needed, start the process for your BCD or DD discharge to be upgraded
- You are a current service member, must be available to participate for at least 18 months, and must disclose any permanent change of station, or deployment, orders. And command staff will need to ensure that you will be “reasonably available” to participate in the program
- You are justice-involved and are at high risk/high need, or deemed at risk based on LSI-R score or AUDIT score or both, or someone’s whose scores are deemed at risk at the discretion of the court
- Currently reside in Grand Forks/ Nelson counties, or county approved by the presiding judge, and able to comply with program requirements
- Agree to participate in, and be subject to, the rules, regulations, and sanctions of VTC

### **PROGRAM PHASES FOR PARTICIPANTS:**

#### **Phase 1: Clinical Stabilization & Engagement (Minimum 14 Days)**

The goal of Phase 1 is for participants to participate in the VTC program by showing up, being honest, following the program rules, and trying their best. In Phase 1, participants set the foundation of stability that will help them succeed in the program.

#### **Phase 2: Psychosocial Stabilization/Commitment (Minimum of 30 days)**

The goal of Phase 2 is to challenge the participants to continue developing motivation, insight and skills to continue in their recovery and avoid criminal behavior

#### **Phase 3: Commitment/Prosocial Habilitation (Minimum of 45 days)**

The goal of Phase 3 is for participants to concentrate on rebuilding positive social supports and coping skills.

#### **Phase 4: Devotion/Planning for a Successful Life (Minimum of 90 days)**

The goal of Phase 4 is for participants to develop meaningful change by practicing the skills they have learned.

#### **Phase 5: Honor/Continuing Care (Minimum of 90 days)**

The goal of Phase 5 is to complete a participant’s transition into an honest, law-abiding, and healthy member of the community.

#### **Phase 6: Post Graduation Phase (180 days)**

The final phase is designed for minimal court intervention so that participants can become accustomed to maintaining their recovery/sobriety and law-abiding behavior without the accountability of regular court appearances.

Each Phase has specific goals and tasks assigned.

#### **All phases include:**

- Attending court weekly, or as ordered by the judge
- Working with treatment providers, developing a treatment plan, and showing up for appointments.
- Complying with supervision, and meeting weekly with probation officer, or as ordered by the judge.
- Having no drugs, alcohol or mood altering substances in the home or possession.
- No driving unless licensed, and making a driver’s

license application when eligible.

- Creating and keeping a journal, and continue journaling, related to topics such as attending support meetings.
- Receiving random home visits and submitting to random and observed drug tests from the case aide or PO

**Recovery Support:** Attending recovery support meetings is an important part of the recovery process. Participants may be required via their weekly court order to attend recovery support/self-help meetings.

**Graduation:** Upon satisfactory completion of Veterans Treatment Court, there is a graduation ceremony conducted by the court for the successful participant. Upon verification of successful completion of the court then the participant’s charges are eligible for reduction or dismissal, or have a reduction in their sentence.

**Confidentiality:** The participant’s treatment information shall be protected consistent with Federal Regulations and State Law during the screening process and while engaged in treatment in the Veterans Treatment Court. Each participant will be asked to sign release of information (ROI) forms as part of their application process including the ROI for Veterans Affairs. By signing the ROIs the participant agrees that providers are able to inform the Court of the participant’s initial and ongoing treatment as part of fulfilling the Court’s programming requirements.

**Mentor Program:** Each participant is assigned a veteran mentor. The volunteer veteran mentor is there to support them as a coach, guide, role model and advocate.

Participants are expected to meet with their mentor (either in-person, or over the phone or Zoom). The mentor’s input regarding the participant’s progress becomes invaluable when determining the participant’s progression through each phase and ability to move to a new phase.

If requested, the mentor may attend scheduled court sessions. However, mentors will not discuss, with the court, their mentee’s personal information.