

## Mission Statement:

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"**

Northeast Central Judicial  
District Veterans  
Treatment Court

124 S 4<sup>th</sup> St  
Grand Forks ND 58201

Court Coordinator  
701-787-2760



Providing a structured environment for justice-involved veterans.

**Northeast Central Judicial  
District**



**Veterans Treatment Court**

**Background:**

The Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is the culmination of interested parties listening to various stakeholder groups in the justice community, veterans, and those representing the community's views.

Between 2019 and 2021, the VTC Committee met as a working group and committee to consider research, analysis, and background information relating to the need for, and creation of, a VTC.

VTC is not a new initiative nationwide. Since 2008, more than 600 such courts have been created leaving North Dakota as one of the few remaining states without a court to address significant concerns that many veterans struggle with that can be attributed to military service.

**Who is involved in this effort?**

The list is long and distinguished -- representatives of the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs, North Dakota Veteran's Service Officers, Adjutant General's office, veterans, State's Attorney offices, Public Defense Bar, Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, ND Job Service, ND Behavioral Health, law enforcement, Northeast Department of Human Services, legislators, judges, and North Dakota Court System staff.

**Why do we need a VTC?**

It is a proven, effective treatment court model that assists veterans struggling with the impact of traumatic brain injury, military sexual trauma, substance abuse, and/or post-traumatic stress disorder the consequences of which can lead to homelessness and/or criminal activity. VTCs go beyond the adult drug courts now in existence.

The court adds a military-style structure, procedures, and rules and is assisted by creating a mentorship model based on military peer-to-peer support, which is found to be effective.

VTC builds upon military camaraderie by allowing participants to go through the treatment court process with people who are similarly situated and have common past experiences and through the use of volunteer veteran mentors.

The veteran also has access to services they've earned within the VA system for mental health and addiction. They also access support from the North Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs and their local veteran service officers.

As of 2022, the veteran population for Grand Forks County is 4,107, or 5.7% of Grand Forks' population. Nelson County's veteran population is 228 or 7.6 % of the county's population. Parole and probation numbers of justice-involved veterans demonstrate a need for this court.

The courtroom truly becomes a place of hope and healing.

**VTC team composition:**

The Court's team is comprised of the presiding judge, the defense and prosecuting attorneys, the mentor coordinator, the probation officer, the Veterans Justice Officer, the court coordinator, and when called upon veteran mentors plus other representatives from support agencies such as ND Job Services or Northeast Human Services.

**Revision Four: 03/03/25**

**How can you help?**

Donate goods and services to the VTC (gift certificates for groceries, gas, haircuts, restaurants, recreation, etc.)

**Or Consider:**

- ◆ Hiring a VTC participants
- ◆ Renting to veterans treatment court participants
- ◆ Volunteering to be a veteran mentor
- ◆ NDACP is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization to reduce substance abuse, crime, and recidivism by promoting and advocating for the establishment and funding of VTC and providing for the collection and dissemination of information, assistance with technology for the veteran participant, and mutual support to association members.

A tax-deductible donation to the ND Association of Drug Court Professionals for the VTC can be sent to:

NE Central Judicial District, VTC Court Coordinator, 124 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Grand Forks, ND 58201



