

## BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATING IN THE VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

If you qualify, the Court will help you access treatment, counseling, case management, supportive housing and other services. The court works closely with the Northport VA, whose staff makes treatment recommendations specific to the needs of each participant.

The Court offers a chance to address your problems or issues and to avoid incarceration on your charge(s).

If you take advantage of the assistance offered, you may qualify for reduced charges or penalties. You will also discover many ways to make a better life for yourself. Change is never easy; it will take commitment, dedication, self control, perseverance and hard work—all qualities you already have from your military service. The Veterans Treatment Court will provide you with the support, opportunity, assistance and referrals necessary to help you make positive changes in your life.



Rev. 04/18

## JUDGES

Hon. Thomas A. Adams  
District Administrative Judge  
10th Judicial District– Nassau County



Hon. Norman St. George  
Supervising Judge  
District Court of Nassau County



Hon. David Goodsell  
Presiding Judge  
Veterans Treatment Court

**ROSEMARY WALKER, MPS**  
VETERANS TREATMENT COURT  
PROJECT DIRECTOR  
516-493-4145

NASSAU COUNTY  
VETERANS SERVICE AGENCY  
516-572-6565



*“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”*

*John F. Kennedy*

# NASSAU COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT



**FIRST DISTRICT COURT**  
NASSAU COUNTY  
99 MAIN STREET  
HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550  
516-493-4145

**Visit our website:**

[WWW.NASSAUCOUNTYNY.GOV/VTC](http://WWW.NASSAUCOUNTYNY.GOV/VTC)

## ABOUT THE COURT

Men and women who serve in the United States military often endure high costs of service. The impact of military service can be immense and long-lasting. These may include alcohol or substance abuse, mental illness, homelessness, unemployment, and strained relationships. With the increase of veterans with serious issues in our criminal justice system came the need to develop innovative ways of working to address these concerns. In recognition of this, the Nassau County Veterans Treatment Court began in 2011 as a specialized part of the District and County Court, with a mission to help veterans by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and providing them with the tools they need to live productive and law-abiding lives through treatment, rehabilitative programming, mentoring and judicial monitoring.



**A collaborative effort.** The Nassau County Veterans Treatment Court is a collaborative effort of the New York State Office of Court Administration, Nassau County District Attorney's Office, Nassau County Veterans Service Agency, Legal Aid Society of Nassau County, Nassau County Department of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Developmental Disabilities Services, Nassau County Department of Probation, The USA Department of Veterans Affairs Northport Medical Center, Nassau County Comptroller and the Nassau County Clerk.

## ELIGIBILITY

U.S. military veterans charged with relatively minor non-violent offenses may qualify for reduced charges or penalties by participating in a court-supervised treatment program.

Veterans who wish to have their cases considered for Veterans Treatment Court must:

1. Complete a Pre-Screening Questionnaire and forward it to the District Attorney's Office; and
2. Contact the Veterans Treatment Court Project Director to set a clinical evaluation for the purpose of determining treatment needs.

The DA's office will not make a determination of eligibility until it has reviewed the complete Pre-Screening Questionnaire and the initial clinical evaluation.

### **If the DA's Office Finds a Veteran Eligible:**

The DA's Office will notify the veteran and his/her attorney and a plea offer will be proposed. If the terms are accepted, the case will be transferred to Veterans Treatment Court



## PARTICIPATING IN THE COURT

Participants agree to a treatment plan developed by the court's clinical team. If all parties agree, a plea is taken "up front" and a contract is signed. The length of treatment is generally 1 year. When the veteran successfully completes treatment the charges will be reduced or dismissed, depending on the agreement among the District Attorney's office, the defense attorney and the judge. If the veteran fails to complete the program, then the judge will impose the sentence that was agreed upon in the treatment plan.



## ENSURING COMPLIANCE

Participants make regular court appearances, at which their progress is reviewed, incentives are offered to reward compliance with the treatment plan and sanctions for non-adherence are imposed.

## MENTORS

Mentors are U.S. Armed Forces veterans (many with combat service) who volunteer to assist program participants while they are going through the court, including compliance with their treatment agreements. They provide support and encouragement, help navigate the court process and access VA and local services. Mentors are specially trained "battle buddies" who give participants feedback and support in a way that only a fellow veteran can do.