
Anchorage Veterans Court

What is the Anchorage Veterans Court?

The Anchorage Veterans Court is a specialized court designed to facilitate the rehabilitation of eligible veterans who are charged with criminal offenses. The court provides judicial monitoring coupled with alternative sentencing plea agreements to help eligible veterans succeed with their own rehabilitation and return to a productive law-abiding lifestyle, thereby reducing crime and its costs to society.

What are the objectives of the Anchorage Veterans Court?

- Promote public safety.
- Reduce incarceration of offenders who are veterans and promote their well being in the community.
- Reduce repeated contacts with the criminal justice system among our nations's veterans.
- Facilitate access to VA resources to aid the veteran with addressing problems that led to criminal justice contact.
- Promote treatment adherence for the veteran through ongoing judicial monitoring.

Who is eligible?

- The veteran must reside in the Municipality of Anchorage.
- The veteran must be eligible for VA services, as defined by federal law and confirmed by the Veterans Administration.
- The veteran must be charged with a criminal offense. A veteran charged with a felony offense will be considered on a case by case basis to ensure public safety. Considerations will include the seriousness and the class of the current offense, and offender's criminal history.
- The veteran must voluntarily agree to waive his or her right to a speedy trial while they participate in Anchorage Veterans Court.
- The veteran must have no other pending cases in district or superior court. All open cases must be heard at Anchorage Veterans Court hearings.
- The veteran must have a treatment need (related to the criminal conduct charged) that the VA can address through one of its programs in order to participate in the Veterans Court Program.

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Admission to the Anchorage Veterans Court is not automatic. The prosecutor's office, the VA, the veteran and the Veterans Court judge must all agree that you and your criminal case qualify.

How does the Anchorage Veterans Court work?

Collaboration

The Anchorage Veterans Court provides a single and consistent point of contact for eligible veterans in the criminal justice system. Together the court team and the VA behavioral health system work to create a therapeutic court process that promotes behavioral change for the veteran.

Treatment

Eligible veterans receive assistance in developing, coordinating and monitoring an individualized treatment plan through the Department of Veterans Affairs. The court then orders the plan as conditions of bail.

Alternative Sentencing

The veteran “opts-in” to the Anchorage Veterans Court by entering into a plea agreement. The veteran must agree to plead Guilty or No Contest to a least one charge, and agree to receive one of two sentences: a regular court sentence if the participant does not complete his or her VA treatment plan or a lesser sentence if the participant completes his or her treatment plan.

Monitoring by the Court

The court monitors the veteran’s treatment plan through regularly held status hearings during which reports are given by the VA, the prosecutor, the veteran’s attorney and the veteran.

The Anchorage Veterans Court is a cooperative effort of:

- The Alaska Court System
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- State of Alaska Public Defender Agency, Office of Public Advocacy
- Law firm of Denali Law Group (indigent defense contractor for the MOA)
- State of Alaska Department of Law
- Municipality of Anchorage Prosecutor’s Office (MOA)

For more information:

Anchorage Veterans Court
907-264-0466
dsang@courts.state.ak.us

Dept. of Veterans Affairs
907-257-4817

Public Defender Agency
907-334-4400

Denali Law Group
907-276-1942

Invitation

The Anchorage Veterans Court hearings are open to the public and are held on Mondays, at 1:00 P.M. in the Boney Courthouse, 303 K Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.



**A Court that Assists Those
Who Have Served
in Our Armed Forces**

Thank you for your service.

**Anchorage Veterans Court Mentoring Program
Mentor Application**

Duties and responsibilities

- Must be a United States Military veteran (Army, Marine Corps., Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or Reserve or National Guard)
- Must adhere to all Anchorage Veterans Court Program Policies and Procedures
- Must be familiar with Veterans Affairs services and veterans community resources
- Must act as an ally, advocate and role model for a Participant involved in the Anchorage Veterans Court
- Must be able to attend court sessions when needed
- Must act professionally and respectfully towards other veterans, court staff, and staff of other agencies who work with the Anchorage Veterans Court Program

Full Name _____ D.O.B. _____

Address _____ Phone Number(s). _____

Email address _____

Place of current employment, if any _____

Branch of military in which you served and dates _____

List any combat theater service you have and dates _____

Please state why are you interested in being a Veterans Court Mentor _____

What skills and experiences do you possess that will be helpful to you as a mentor, to other mentors, or to veterans in the program?

What does being a "mentor" mean to you?

Have you ever been involved as a defendant in a criminal matter? If so, list all offenses with which you were charged, excluding summary traffic offenses, and the outcome of those charges. (This information will be kept confidential. It is recognized that personal experience in the justice system may help a Mentor relate better to another justice involved veteran.)

Do you have a history of engaging in addictive behaviors, including but not limited to, use of illegal drugs and/or abusing alcohol or prescription drugs? If your answer is yes, please describe, and indicate the date since which you have been clean or have engaged in addictive behavior. (This information will be kept confidential. It is recognized that past history may help a Mentor relate better to a justice involved veteran.)

Please provide any additional information you feel should be taken into consideration for your application

Please list three references who are not relatives, and their contact information:

Volunteer Mentors are expected to participate in training, observation, shadowing, and supervision as part of their participation in the Anchorage Veterans Court Mentoring Program. The Mentoring Program is also seeking a commitment of at least six months, if possible, from all volunteers.

By signing below I give permission to the Anchorage Veterans Court Mentoring Program to conduct an investigation and contact anyone it deems appropriate to verify the accuracy of the information contained in this application, or otherwise determine my suitability to serve as a volunteer. I voluntarily and knowingly waive all liability against all persons providing and obtaining information for the Veterans Court Mentoring Program concerning my application. By signing below I also understand that this application does not create a contract or employment relationship, nor am I guaranteed to be selected as a Volunteer Peer Mentor. I understand that any intentional omission or misrepresentation of fact in this application may result in refusal of or separation from volunteer service.

Signature _____ Date _____

Applications may be delivered to:

**Anchorage Veterans Court
303 K Street # 249
Anchorage, AK 99501
(907) 264-0466**