

About VTC

The Comal County VTC was created on August 13th, 2015 by the Comal County Commissioners Court to assist Veterans charged with eligible misdemeanor offenses who are struggling with addiction, mental illness, or co-occurring disorders. The VTC consists of a Treatment Team led by Judge Charles A. Stephens, II with representatives from the Criminal District Attorney's Office, the defense bar, Adult Probation, the South Texas Veterans Health Care System, the Military Veterans Peer Network, and local mental health authorities.

VTC will have two tracks. Track one is structured as a Pre-Trial Intervention, and successful completion of the program results in a dismissal of the charge. Track two is either regular or deferred probation, but the VTC rules and conditions are substituted for normal conditions of probation.



Comal County Veterans Treatment Court

Contact Information

Judge Charles A. Stephens, II
County Court at Law No. 2
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Mission Statement

To help Justice Involved Veterans by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and providing them with the tools they need to reintegrate into a productive, law-abiding lifestyle through a collaborative effort of support, treatment, and accountability that leaves no veteran behind.

Qualifications

In order for a person to be considered for Veterans Treatment Court (VTC), all of the following conditions must be met:

- Served in the US Armed Forces
- Charged with a misdemeanor offense in Comal County
- Diagnosed with PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injury, a mental health disorder, or a substance abuse disorder as a result of military service
- Connection between the disorder and the offense committed
- Willing to take responsibility for wrongdoing
- Willing to accept help

Structure of VTC

The VTC program consists of four phases plus a community transition period that is tailored to each participant's individual needs and is designed to last for a minimum of 12 months. Each phase includes supervision requirements and addresses specific treatment and recovery goals with therapeutic interventions and rehabilitative directives to be completed in order to advance to the next phase.

The time it will take to complete VTC depends upon an individual's progress through the phases. Lapses in sobriety, incomplete requirements, and/or lack of progress will cause any given phase to last longer than the minimum guidelines set out in the handbook.

Both incentives and sanctions may be utilized by the VTC Treatment Team to encourage participants to stay on track, maintain sobriety and successfully complete the program.

Further information is available in the VTC Handbook which will be made available to interested parties upon request.

Goals of VTC

- Provide each participant with a judicially-supervised treatment program using a variety of methods and treatment options.
- Promote the achievement of educational, employment, and social goals that promote a healthy and productive lifestyle.
- Help each participant become a productive citizen in our community.
- Help each participant abstain from the abuse of substances by treating addiction and other underlying factors, thereby reducing contact with the criminal justice system.

Applying to VTC

Applications are available at County Court at Law No. 2 and the Criminal District Attorney's Office. An application must be COMPLETE in order for it to be considered. In addition to the application form, prospective candidates must attach their DD-214, a military photo, a written personal statement, and other documentation as listed in the application.