



**THIRD JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
OF MICHIGAN**

ROBERT J. COLOMBO, JR.
CHIEF JUDGE

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Local Administrative Order 2015 – 03

**State of Michigan
Third Judicial Circuit**

SUBJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF A VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

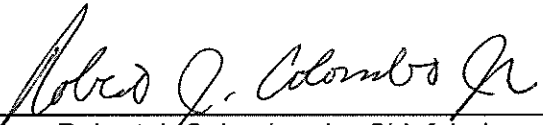
This Administrative Order is issued in accordance with MCL 600.1201 *et esq.* The purpose of this Order is to establish a Veterans Treatment Court in the Criminal Division of Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan (The Court). All policies and procedures comply with the statute and are consistent with the 10 Key Components for Veterans Treatment Court as promulgated by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP)(Attachment A) as required by MCL 600.1201 (1).

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Court will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each participating county prosecuting attorney, a representative of the criminal defense bar, a representative of community treatment providers and other key parties pursuant to MCL 600.1201 (2).
2. The Court has established eligibility criteria consistent with MCL 600.1203 and MCL 600.1206.
3. No participant shall be admitted until a complete pre-admission screening and substance abuse assessment are completed in compliance with MCL 600.1203(3).
4. All participants shall sign a voluntary written consent to participate in the Program in conformance with MCL 600.1205(1)(d).
5. The Court shall maintain case files in compliance with Trial Court General Counsel Schedule 16, the Michigan Case File Management Standards, and Part 2 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations to assure confidentiality of drug treatment records.

6. The Court has established, as part of its Program requirements procedures to assure compliance with MCL 600.1207 and MCL 600.1208.
7. Pursuant to MCL 600.1210, the Court shall provide the State Court Administrators Office (SCAO) with the minimum standard data established by SCAO for each individual applicant and participant of the Veterans Treatment Court Program.
8. The Court shall use the Drug Court Case Management Information System (DCCMIS) to maintain and submit the minimum standard data as determined by SCAO while receiving grant money from SCAO.
9. The Court acknowledges that case disposition information regarding Veterans Treatment Court participation is unavailable from the Department of State driving record and criminal history record, and failure to use the DCCMIS will result in the absence of a complete record of Veterans Treatment Court participation in Michigan courts.
10. Pursuant to MCL 600.1201(3), the Court acknowledges it shall participate in training as required by the SCAO.

Dated: January 5, 2015



Hon. Robert J. Colombo, Jr., Chief Judge
Third Judicial Circuit of Michigan

Date approved by SCAO: April 21, 2015

ATTACHMENT A

The Ten Key Components of Veterans Treatment Court

Key Component #1: Veterans Treatment Court integrate alcohol, drug treatment, and mental health services with justice system case processing

Veterans Treatment Courts promotes sobriety, recovery and stability through a coordinated response to veteran's dependency on alcohol, drugs, and/or management of their mental illness. Realization of these goals requires a team approach. This approach includes the cooperation and collaboration of the traditional partners found in drug treatment courts and mental health treatment courts with the addition of the Veteran Administration Health Care Network, veterans and veterans family support organizations, and veteran volunteer mentors.

Key Component #2: Using a non-adversarial approach, prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while protecting participants' due process rights

To facilitate the veterans' progress in treatment, the prosecutor and defense counsel shed their traditional adversarial courtroom relationship and work together as a team. Once a veteran is accepted into the treatment court program, the team's focus is on the veteran's recovery and law-abiding behavior—not on the merits of the pending case.

Key Component #3: Eligible participants are identified early and promptly placed in the Veterans Treatment Court program

Early identification of veterans entering the criminal justice system is an integral part of the process of placement in the Veterans Treatment Court program. Arrest can be a traumatic event in a person's life. It creates an immediate crisis and can compel recognition of inappropriate behavior into the open, making denial by the veteran for the need for treatment difficult.

Key Component #4: Veterans Treatment Court provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health and other related treatment and rehabilitation services

While primarily concerned with criminal activity, AOD use, and mental illness, the Veterans Treatment Court team also consider co-occurring problems such as primary medical problems, transmittable diseases, homelessness; basic educational deficits, unemployment and poor job preparation; spouse and family troubles—especially domestic violence—and the ongoing effects of war time trauma.

Veteran peer mentors are essential to the Veterans Treatment Court team. Ongoing veteran peer mentors interaction with the Veterans Treatment Court participants is essential. Their active, supportive relationship, maintained throughout treatment, increases the likelihood that a veteran will remain in treatment and improves the chances for sobriety and law-abiding behavior.

Key Component #5: Abstinence is monitored by frequent alcohol and other drug testing

Frequent court-ordered AOD testing is essential. An accurate testing program is the most objective and efficient way to establish a framework for accountability and to gauge each participant's progress.

Key Component #6: A coordinated strategy governs Veterans Treatment Court responses to participants' compliance

A veteran's progress through the treatment court experience is measured by his or her compliance with the treatment regimen. Veterans Treatment Court reward cooperation as well as respond to noncompliance. Veterans Treatment Court establishes a coordinated strategy, including a continuum of graduated responses, to continuing drug use and other noncompliant behavior.

Key Component #7: Ongoing judicial interaction with each Veteran is essential

The judge is the leader of the Veterans Treatment Court team. This active, supervising relationship, maintained throughout treatment, increases the likelihood that a veteran will remain in treatment and improves the chances for sobriety and law-abiding behavior. Ongoing judicial supervision also communicates to veterans that someone in authority cares about them and is closely watching what they do.

Key Component #8: Monitoring and evaluation measure the achievement of program goals and gauge effectiveness

Management and monitoring systems provide timely and accurate information about program progress. Program monitoring provides oversight and periodic measurements of the program's performance against its stated goals and objectives. Information and conclusions developed

from periodic monitoring reports, process evaluation activities, and longitudinal evaluation studies may be used to modify program

Key Component #9: Continuing interdisciplinary education promotes effective Veterans Treatment Court planning, implementation, and operations

All Veterans Treatment Court staff should be involved in education and training. Interdisciplinary education exposes criminal justice officials to veteran treatment issues, and Veteran Administration, veteran volunteer mentors, and treatment staff to criminal justice issues. It also develops shared understandings of the values, goals, and operating procedures of both the veteran administration, treatment and the justice system components.

Education and training programs help maintain a high level of professionalism, provide a forum for solidifying relationships among criminal justice, Veteran Administration, veteran volunteer mentors, and treatment personnel, and promote a spirit of commitment and collaboration.

Key Component #10: Forging partnerships among Veterans Treatment Court, Veterans Administration, public agencies, and community-based organizations generates local support and enhances Veteran Treatment Court effectiveness

Because of its unique position in the criminal justice system, Veterans Treatment Court is well suited to develop coalitions among private community-based organizations, public criminal justice agencies, the Veteran Administration, veterans and veterans families support organizations, and AOD and mental health treatment delivery systems. Forming such coalitions expands the continuum of services available to Veterans Treatment Court participants and informs the community about Veterans Treatment Court concepts. The Veterans Treatment Court fosters system wide involvement through its commitment to share responsibility and participation of program partners.