

Veterans Court (VC)

What is this program?



VC is a program for justice involved veterans that provides alternatives to incarceration for successful completion of the program.

Who is it for?



Military veterans at all risk and need levels.

Goal of Program



To reduce expenditure of public resources as a result of decreased incarceration costs, as well as to help defendants learn from their mistakes, make better choices, engage in productive behavior, help veterans connect with specific services, and reduce the risk of recidivism.

How Long is the Program?



12 months to 24 months

What are the Qualifiers?



- Served at least 12 months in the U.S. armed forces (Army, Army Reserve, Army National Guard, Navy, Navy Reserve, Air Force, Air Force Reserve, Air National Guard, Marine Corps, Marine Corps Reserve, Coast Guard, Coast Guard Reserve, Space Force)

What are the Disqualifiers?



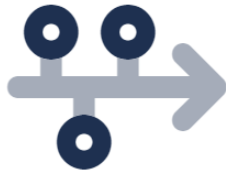
- Defendants charged with a sex-offense or crimes against minors;
- Defendants in removal proceedings or with an active immigration detainer.

What are the Successful Outcomes?



Dismissal of charge (VC Track I) or a non-custodial sentence of probation or supervised release (VC Track II)

Steps and Timeline to Program Entry



- (1) Pretrial Services prescreens for eligibility (within 30 days from initial appearance) and informs the parties
- (2) Parties confer regarding entry into program. If agreed...
- (3) Pretrial Services completes full assessment (within 60 additional days) and informs parties of candidate's program needs
- (4) Parties confer and sign either a Track I or Track II plea agreement (within 30 days of assessment)
- (5) Parties and Pretrial Services create participant's Individualized Success Plan
- (6) Participant enters plea pursuant to plea agreement

What Happens in the Program?



Participants meet with their judge at regular intervals (approximately monthly) for status conferences at standard court hearings. Court monitors participant compliance with completion of Individualized Success Plan.

What Happens if Participant is Successful?



A Presentence Report (Track II only) is prepared by the Probation Office for the assigned judge. Sentencing proceeds at a court appearance.

What Happens if Participant is Unsuccessful?



A Presentence Report is prepared by the Probation Office for the assigned judge. Sentencing proceeds at a court appearance. Participants may be subject to a term of custody.

More Questions?



<https://www.cand.uscourts.gov/about/court-programs/cap-frequently-asked-questions/>