

WARREN COUNTY VETERANS HONOR COURT

PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK



WARREN COUNTY COMMON PLEAS COURT

TIMOTHY N. TEPE, JUDGE
500 Justice Drive
Lebanon, OH 45036
513.695.1244

Table of Contents

Welcome	4
What is Veterans Honor Court?	4
What Makes Me Eligible for Veterans Honor Court?	4
Eligibility Criteria	5
Legal Criteria	5
Clinical Criteria	5
How Do I Apply for Veterans Honor Court?.....	6
What Happens If I Test Positive Before Entering Veterans Honor Court?.....	6
How Much Will I Have to Pay for Veterans Honor Court?.....	6
Overview of Veterans Honor Court Requirements.....	6
What Happens Now That I Have Been Accepted Into Veterans Honor Court?	7
How Long Will I Be in Veterans Honor Court?	7
What Rights Am I Giving Up?	7
What Happens If I Don't Complete Veterans Honor Court?.....	8
Unsuccessful Termination.....	8
Neutral Termination	9
Inactive Status.....	9
What Are Treatment Team Meetings?	9
Judge	10
Magistrate.....	10
Veterans Honor Court Coordinator	10
Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist	10
Peer Mentor Coordinator	11
Warren County Veterans Service Commission Representative.....	11
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.....	11
Defense Attorney	11
Probation Officer	12
Licensed Treatment Provider as Needed.....	12
Employment Specialist Officer/Job Developer/Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor.....	12
What are Status Review Hearings?	13
Disqualifying Behavior	13
Dress Code	14

Electronic Devices	14
Other Attendees	14
What Are the Requirements of Veterans Honor Court Treatment?	14
Outpatient Treatment.....	15
Residential Treatment.....	15
What is the Plan for Life Requirement?	16
How Will I Be Monitored for Substance Use?.....	16
Testing Hotline	16
Types of Testing	17
What is a Positive Test?	17
What Happens If I Test Positive?	17
Taking Prescribed Medication	18
Other Requirements	18
What Are the Different Phases of Veterans Honor Court?.....	19
Phase I-Basic Training 60 Days Minimum	19
Phase II-Technical Training/AIT 90 Days Minimum	20
Phase III-Active Duty Station 120 Days Minimum	21
Phase IV-Excelling at Mission 120 Days Minimum	21
Phase V Continuum of Operation 120 Days Minimum	22
Graduation	22
What Are the Incentives Used in Veterans Honor Court?	23
What Are the Sanctions Used in Veterans Honor Court?	24
What Happens if the Courthouse Closes?	25

Welcome

Congratulations on your decision to consider the Veterans Honor Court! This is a voluntary program designed to provide support by linking you with veteran services you will need not only to complete this program, but that will also help you to establish a solid foundation in recovery, mental health, and life in general. Before you consider applying and entering the Veterans Honor Court program, you need more information. This Handbook, along with the Veterans Honor Court Participation Agreement, is full of information about Veterans Honor Court, and its requirements, rules, and expectations, including your rights and responsibilities. Keep reading to find out if this program is right for you.

What is Veterans Honor Court?

Veterans Honor Court is a program offered by the Warren County Common Pleas Court, Criminal Division, as an alternative to treating substance use, post-traumatic stress disorder, and criminal thinking in individuals who live in and around Warren County, Ohio.

Veterans Honor Court is a voluntary program, which means you are not required to participate in this program, and you do not have a specific right to participate. Rather, if you meet the criteria, you decide you want to participate in the program, and the Veterans Honor Court Judge determines that you are appropriate for the program, then you will be accepted into Veterans Honor Court.

Veterans Honor Court is a five-phase program that begins with intensive supervision and substance use monitoring requirements which slowly lessen over time, based upon your progress in your recovery. The program lasts approximately 17 months (12 months if in low risk docket), but this can change depending on your individual needs. More information on these phases can be found in this Handbook.

While in Veterans Honor Court, you will be required to provide random, frequent, and observed drug screens. You may also be required to attend substance use treatment, mental health treatment, and meetings with probation officers, employment specialists, and others. What your specific requirements are in Veterans Honor Court will be determined based upon your individualized needs.

What Makes Me Eligible for Veterans Honor Court?

If you are interested in Veterans Honor Court, you will be assessed for both legal and social factors to determine if you meet criteria for admission. These factors include current charge(s), criminal history, and circumstances of offense(s).

The Veterans Honor Court Judge has final discretion to decide whether you should be admitted into or terminated from Veterans Honor Court in accordance with the program's written eligibility criteria. Meeting the program's legal and clinical eligibility requirements does not create an automatic right to participate in the program.

Admission into Veterans Honor Court is on a first come, first served basis, and is without regard to race, color, ancestry, citizenship, national origin, age, gender, religion, marital status, veteran's status, disability, financial ability, or sexual orientation.

Eligibility Criteria

Legal Criteria

To be eligible for Veterans Honor Court, you must meet the following legal criteria:

- Must be a veteran or active duty service member of the United States Military including Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Space Force, and Reserves;
- Must have a pending criminal case in the Warren County Common Pleas Court General Division;
- Must be eligible for community control (probation or intervention in lieu of conviction);
- Must not have previously participated in Warren County Veterans Honor Court.

The court will also take the following into consideration:

- Prior criminal/supervision history;
- Circumstances of the instant offense;
- A veteran who receives a sentence of probation for a sexually oriented offense or a gang-related offense, or who has a criminal record of such crimes, must present compelling circumstances to warrant acceptance by the Veterans Honor Court Judge. If you are seeking Veterans Honor Court in connection with your Intervention in Lieu of Conviction (ILC) plan, you must also satisfy the criteria listed in Ohio Revised Code Section 2951.041.

Clinical Criteria

In addition to being legally eligible for Veterans Honor Court, you must also meet the following clinical standards:

- You have demonstrated a sincere willingness to participate in long-term treatment;
- You have demonstrated a willingness not to take any medication that is determined by the Veterans Honor Court treatment team as being addictive, including but not limited to benzodiazepines, opiate-based medications, or marijuana (including medical marijuana);
- If you have been identified as having a mental illness, and/or are a person with a history of substance use, you have demonstrated a willingness to take medication as prescribed;
- You do not have needs that are beyond the scope of what Veterans Honor Court can reasonably accommodate.

How Do I Apply for Veterans Honor Court?

A person who is interested in participating in Veterans Honor Court must be referred to Veterans Honor Court. This referral can come from you, your probation officer, your pretrial officer, your pre-sentence investigator, your attorney, the prosecutor, or the judge. If your judge thinks you might be eligible for Veterans Honor Court, he or she will order you be assessed for the program and your attorney will need to fill out and sign a Veterans Honor Court application to be submitted to the Veterans Honor Court Coordinator.

The Veterans Honor Court Coordinator will review your application to see if you meet the legal criteria discussed above. If you do, then you will be referred for triage. This triage will help determine if you meet the clinical criteria discussed above. You need to be honest so they will know if you are the right candidate for Veterans Honor Court. Failing to be honest or fully cooperating during the triage may result in you not being accepted into Veterans Honor Court.

Remember, there is no legal right to participate in Veterans Honor Court, and the decision of the Veterans Honor Court Judge regarding admission is final.

What Happens If I Test Positive Before Entering Veterans Honor Court?

You will not be sanctioned for use prior to entering the Veterans Honor Court program. This use will be addressed at your first status review hearing with the Veterans Honor Court Judge, and the judge will explain a timeline within which you need to have negative drug screens.

How Much Will I Have to Pay for Veterans Honor Court?

There is no cost for participating in Veterans Honor Court, however, you may be ordered to wear a GPS bracelet. You will be responsible for all costs associated with the costs of the monitor. Your costs shall be an initial fee of two-hundred dollars (\$200.00), forty dollars (\$40.00) installation fee and up to ten dollars (\$10.00) per day. In addition, there is a twenty dollar (\$20.00) per month supervision fee.

You shall pay a probation program fee of three hundred sixty dollars (\$360.00)(subject to change). None of the three hundred sixty dollars (\$360.00) program fee shall be used as part of the treatment costs.

These costs will be added to your court costs. The above costs will be waived if you are deemed indigent.

Overview of Veterans Honor Court Requirements

If you are accepted into Veterans Honor Court, you will be referred to a treatment provider for a clinical assessment to determine your appropriate level of care. This information will form the basis of a diagnosis. If deemed appropriate, the provider will educate you on the Medication Assisted

Treatment Program to determine your interest and commitment level. The treatment provider will develop your treatment plan. You will be required to attend all treatment sessions in your treatment plan, submit to random, observed urine screens, comply with ongoing case management, report for status review hearings, complete the required Veterans Honor Court phases, comply with Veterans Honor Court Participation Agreement, and comply with all supervision rules as identified by the Court.

What Happens Now That I Have Been Accepted Into Veterans Honor Court?

If you are accepted into Veterans Honor Court, successfully completing Veterans Honor Court will become a requirement of your community control supervision or your ILC plan.

Term of Probation: If you are accepted as a term of your community control supervision (commonly referred to as probation), your assigned judge will sentence you on your charge(s) and, as part of your probation terms, require you to successfully complete Veterans Honor Court. Then your case will be assigned to the Veterans Honor Court Judge for the rest of your time in the program.

Term of ILC: If you are accepted as a part of your ILC plan, your judge will accept your plea of guilty to your charge(s), grant you ILC, and make Veterans Honor Court a part of your ILC plan. Then your case will be assigned to the Veterans Honor Court Judge for the rest of your time in the program.

How Long Will I Be in Veterans Honor Court?

The Veterans Honor Court program is divided into phases, that take, on average, 17 months to complete. If you are determined to be low risk, you will be entered into the Warren County Veterans Honor Court Low Risk Docket and shall complete a minimum program length of 12 months (or 4 phases instead of 5) for successful completion.

The time you spend in each phase of the program is based on your performance in treatment and your compliance with the requirements of each phase. These determinations are made by the Veterans Honor Court Treatment Team on an individual basis, taking into consideration what each program participant needs to be successful. To successfully complete Veterans Honor Court, you must complete the requirements of each phase and have negative drug screens (that means no misses too!) for a minimum of 90 days and no sanctions within your last 30 days in the program.

What Rights Am I Giving Up?

By entering Veterans Honor Court, you will be required to waive some of your constitutionally guaranteed rights to which you would otherwise be entitled. These rights are:

Your right to be represented by an attorney at all status review hearings before the Veterans Honor Court Judge, though you maintain the right to request the attendance of your attorney during the portion of any Treatment Team meeting that concerns you.

- Your right to object to *ex parte* communications with the Veterans Honor Court Judge regarding your treatment, progress, and rule infractions without your presence or the presence of your attorney.
- Your right to have your person, residence, or personal property searched without probable cause and/or a warrant by Veterans Honor Court staff.
- Your right to remain silent and to not incriminate yourself regarding violations of the rules of the Veterans Honor Court program. However, the waiver does not apply to your rights in regard to pending criminal charges and statements that you make cannot be used as evidence in any criminal prosecution.

Veterans Honor Court will comply with all constitutional and statutory rights regarding your participation. Any rights that are permitted to be waived by you are to be done in a manner ensuring your due process rights.

What Happens If I Don't Complete Veterans Honor Court?

Unsuccessful Termination

You may be unsuccessfully terminated from Veterans Honor Court if you fail to comply with all the terms and conditions contained in this Handbook and the Veterans Honor Court Participation Agreement. Reasons for unsuccessful termination include, but are not limited to, the following:

- On-going noncompliance with Veterans Honor Court rules, Veterans Honor Participation Agreements, or the rules of community control or Intervention in Lieu of Conviction;
- Noncompliance with GPS monitoring;
- On-going noncompliance with treatment requirements;
- Continued use of illegal substances or alcohol;
- A verified positive confirmation from a contested drug/alcohol screen;
- Noncompliance with the use of prescribed medications;
- Noncompliance with the rules of confidentiality;
- Noncompliance with veteran peer;
- Absconding from community control supervision or Intervention in Lieu of Conviction supervision;
- Obtaining new criminal convictions;
- Continued Warren County Veterans Honor Court infractions resulting in graduated sanctions;
- Probation violation or Intervention in Lieu revocation hearings.

Term of Probation: If you are unsuccessfully terminated from Veterans Honor Court for your failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the program, a probation violation will be filed, and the matter will be set for a violation hearing before the judge originally assigned to your case. Should that judge determine you violated the terms of community control for being terminated

from the program, you will then be sentenced to the usual sanctions allowable under the laws for the offense(s) you committed.

Term of ILC: If you are terminated from Veterans Honor Court for your failure to comply with the terms and conditions of the program, an ILC revocation will be filed, and the matter will be set for a violation hearing before the judge originally assigned to your case. Should that judge determine you violated the terms of your ILC plan, you will then be sentenced to the usual sanctions allowable under the laws for the offense(s) you committed. This may include the termination of your ILC.

If you are in jeopardy of being unsuccessfully terminated from Veterans Honor Court, you will be provided with notice, a hearing, and the right to be represented by an attorney. You may waive your right to this hearing after consulting with or being given the opportunity to consult with an attorney, and only if the court finds your waiver is made knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily.

Neutral Termination

If you are unable to complete Veterans Honor Court due to a serious medical or mental health condition, death, other factors that may keep you from meeting the requirements for successful completion or discretion by Veterans Honor Court Judge to determine if you are no longer appropriate for Veterans Honor Court, you will be neutrally discharged from Veterans Honor Court. In that case, no violation will be filed against you and your case will be sent back to the judge originally assigned to your case to make any modifications to your supervision as needed.

Inactive Status

Veterans Honor Court can place participants in an “inactive status” in the program, wherein the participant is neither terminated from Veterans Honor Court nor currently participating with Veterans Honor Court requirements. You may be placed on inactive status in Veterans Honor Court if you meet any of the following:

- You are placed in a community based correctional facility (CBCF) or other treatment facility for inpatient treatment and you cannot be transported to status review hearings.
- You are serving time in a local or state facility for another county or jurisdiction.
- You have absconded from community control supervision.
- You have been hospitalized due to an accident or illness for more than 24 hours.

What Are Treatment Team Meetings?

Veterans Honor Court uses a team approach. The purpose of the team approach is to have all team members work together to assist you to become a successful, substance free, productive member of society. The whole team is involved in monitoring your performance and progress in the program. To do that, the team holds treatment team meetings prior to the status review hearings. Each participant’s progress is discussed at every team meeting.

The treatment team consists of the Judge, Magistrate, Veterans Honor Court Coordinator, Veterans Justice Outreach specialist, Warren County Veterans Service Commission representative, peer mentor coordinator, probation officers, treatment providers, the employment specialist officer, job developer, vocational rehabilitation counselor, a representative of the Warren County Prosecutor's Office, law enforcement, and the Veterans Honor defense attorney.

You have the right to request your defense counsel attend the portion of the treatment team meeting concerning you.

Judge

The Veterans Honor Court Judge will preside over your case during your time in Veterans Honor Court. It is the job of the Veterans Honor Court Judge to be knowledgeable about your case, your treatment, and how the Veterans Honor Court Team can help you be successful in the program. He or she is the leader of Veterans Honor Court and the final decision-maker on conflicts between the Veterans Honor Court Team members. The Veterans Honor Court Judge also has the final say on awarding incentives, sanctions, phase advancements, completions, and terminations in the program.

The judge assigned as the Veterans Honor Court Judge is the Honorable Timothy N. Tepe.

Magistrate

When the Veterans Honor Court Judge is not available, the Magistrate fills in to preside over the Veterans Honor Court Treatment Team and your case. The Magistrate must be knowledgeable about your case, your treatment, and how to help you be a success in the program. In the absence of the Veterans Honor Court Judge, the Magistrate becomes the final decision-maker on conflicts between the Veterans Honor Court Treatment Team members, and awarding incentives, sanctions, and phase advancements. The Magistrate can accept you into the program, but he or she cannot terminate anyone from Veterans Honor Court. The Magistrate is not allowed to impose jail sanctions, and must otherwise comply with the rules that limit magistrate authority in the State of Ohio.

Veterans Honor Court Coordinator

The Veterans Honor Court Coordinator assists in the day-to-day operations of Veterans Honor Court. The coordinator performs assessments of individuals who have been referred to Veterans Honor Court and assists with deciding who should be accepted and rejected from the program. The coordinator is also responsible for maintaining the records of the program, and participating in discussions regarding incentives, sanctions, phase advancements, and completions from Veterans Honor Court.

Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist

The Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Specialist provides screening, assessments and treatment for

Veterans Honor Court and is appropriately licensed and trained to deliver services. They conduct an assessment to determine your eligibility for services through United States department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The VJO also assists in the development of your individualized plan/goals and monitors medication compliance. They attend and provide status reports for the treatment team meetings and status review hearings.

Peer Mentor Coordinator

The Peer Mentor Coordinator is responsible for recruiting prospective mentors, and screens and selects candidates. They educate the selected candidates about Veterans Honor Court and will conduct a semi-annual evaluation of each veteran peer mentor. They are also responsible for scheduling mentors to be present during court proceedings. The Peer Mentor Coordinator will coordinate all activities with the treatment team and Judge. Additionally, they develop specialized training projects and sustain and evolve the Peer Mentoring program.

Warren County Veterans Service Commission Representative

The Veterans Service Commission Representative meets with you at a scheduled time and will assist you in understanding and obtaining benefits available to you through VA, state and local veteran agencies. They assist with transportation to VA medical appointments, housing, education, employment, obtaining medical care, training, and applying for government assistance. They will attend treatment team meetings and status review hearings. Additionally, they participate in discussions regarding incentives, sanctions, phase advancement, successful completion and termination.

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

Veterans Honor Court uses a non-adversarial approach to its cases. Therefore, the Warren County Prosecutor's Office participates in Veterans Honor Court to advocate for public safety and victim's rights. The Prosecutor's Office also plays an active role in identifying eligible participants for Veterans Honor Court.

Defense Attorney

Veterans Honor Court uses a non-adversarial approach to its cases. Therefore, a public defender has been assigned as defense counsel for all participants in Veterans Honor Court who are indigent. This defense attorney participates in Veterans Honor Court to help preserve your constitutional rights, help explain the Veterans Honor Court rules to you, and help you advocate for yourself if you find yourself at a sanction or violation hearing.

You have the right to request the Veterans Honor Court defense attorney or a defense attorney of your choosing to attend treatment team meetings and status review hearings concerning you. If you wish to use this option, the defense attorney will comply with the requirements of the attorney-client relationship and will only share with the Veterans Honor Court Team that information which you agree to share. Otherwise, what you tell the defense attorney is private.

Probation Officer

You will form a close relationship with your probation officer (PO) during this program. Your PO will meet with you regularly to discuss your individualized program plan and goals, as well as your progress through Veterans Honor Court. Your PO will attend treatment team meetings and status review hearings, conduct home, office, and field visits, and monitor your compliance in the program. The PO will recommend incentives and sanctions for you based upon your conduct. The PO will also monitor your medication compliance and will conduct random drug and alcohol screens. Any time you are having an issue in Veterans Honor Court, your PO is the person you need to reach out to.

Licensed Treatment Provider as Needed

If you do not qualify for treatment services at the VA, you will be assigned a treatment provider. Veterans Honor Court currently uses the following treatment providers:

- Joseph House
- Solutions

Your treatment provider is responsible for screening and assessing you to determine the treatment plan and possible mental health plan that will most benefit you, and then provide you with that treatment. The provider is appropriately licensed and trained to deliver the type of treatment you need.

You will meet with your treatment provider regularly for group and individual meetings. They may also provide you with psychiatric care and medication assistance. A member of your treatment provider's staff will attend treatment team meetings and status review hearings to update Veterans Honor Court about your progress in treatment.

Employment Specialist Officer/Job Developer/Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor

Veterans Honor Court offers the assistance of an employment specialist officer (ESO), Job Developer and Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor to assist you in obtaining work. They provide assistance with résumés, interviews, job applications, finding job opportunities that fit your life, and building a career. They also assist in verifying your employment once you have found a job, and stick with you for assistance if things at work get tough.

Law Enforcement Officer

The law enforcement officer observes your behavior and interacts with you in the community. They may also assist with home and employment visits and serve as a liaison between Veterans Honor Court and the police department, sheriff's office, jail, and correctional system.

What are Status Review Hearings?

While in Veterans Honor Court, you must comply with all required appearances at status review hearings. As you progress, you will attend status review hearings less often, but you are always welcome to attend to support other program participants.

Status review hearings are court hearings scheduled for 10:00 am the second and fourth Wednesday in Courtroom 4 of the Warren County Common Pleas Courthouse.

During a status review hearing, the Veterans Honor Court Judge will review with each participant his or her progress in the program and provide incentives or sanctions where appropriate. The judge may ask you questions about your life, your treatment and your progress. This is your time to share your recent successes and challenges. You will be expected to converse with the judge and it is extremely important to be open and honest during these discussions. NEVER LIE!

To help assist everyone in Veterans Honor Court comply with the rules to be open and honest, you must agree to maintain confidentiality regarding the information shared during status review hearings and treatment sessions.

Remember, always arrive on time, and do not leave the courtroom without permission. Be prepared to submit to a drug or alcohol test before or after the status review hearing.

Failure to attend a scheduled review hearing may result in the imposition of additional sanctions or the issuance of a warrant for your arrest.

Disqualifying Behavior

Certain behavior may result in your immediate removal from a court proceeding and unsuccessful termination from Veterans Honor Court. That behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Violent conduct
- Threats of any kind
- Use and/or possession of drugs, alcohol, or paraphernalia
- Belligerent or disrespectful behavior
- Possession of any type of weapon
- Inappropriate sexual behavior or harassment

If you see any of this type of behavior from your fellow participants, you must report it to a member of the Veterans Honor Court Team as soon as possible. Veterans Honor Court is meant to be a safe, open, and healthy environment for staff and participants, and behavior otherwise will not be tolerated.

Dress Code

For all status review hearings, you must follow the below dress code:

- No shorts
- No miniskirts
- No spaghetti straps, tank tops, halter tops, or strapless tops or dresses
- No tops or dresses exposing any portion of the breast
- No skintight pants or skirts
- No see-through clothing
- No baggy pants
- No pajama pants
- No sexually suggestive clothing
- No clothing referring to illegal drugs, alcohol use, weapons or offensive language
- Hats must be removed for all indoor activities
- Pants must be pulled up to the waist

Any failure to comply with the Veterans Honor Court Dress Code may result in a sanction, and you may be asked to leave the courthouse.

Electronic Devices

There are to be no cell phones, tablets, or other electronic devices used during status review hearings. Please make sure your device is turned off.

Other Attendees

Feel free to bring family, friends, and/or your sober support person to status review hearings with you. Emotional support is important to your recovery.

If children are brought to court, they may be asked to watch the proceedings from a separate room to prevent disruption.

What Are the Requirements of Veterans Honor Court Treatment?

During your time with Veterans Honor Court, you will be required to attend a variety of programs and classes, including outpatient and inpatient treatment. These treatment sessions will include individual and group counseling, as well as aftercare. You must report as scheduled for treatment sessions and participate in all activities of the treatment program to successfully complete Veterans Honor Court.

All treatment sessions are confidential. However, treatment counselors must comply with the laws for mandated reporting of child abuse or neglect, elder abuse or neglect, and situations involving homicide or suicide.

Outpatient Treatment

You must attend at least 80% of all required outpatient treatment sessions to advance through the Veterans Honor Court program. If you fail to attend your treatment sessions, you may be sanctioned by the Veterans Honor Court Judge. Arriving late to treatment sessions may be considered an unexcused absence for which you may be sanctioned, so arrive on time.

Outpatient treatment will include the following stages:

- Preliminary Assessment
 - Prior to your official acceptance into Veterans Honor Court, you must undergo a risk assessment and investigation with the Warren County Court Services Division and a substance use disorder/mental health assessment by your assigned Veterans Honor Court Treatment Provider.
 - You will be required to complete a release of information for communication about confidential information, participation/progress in treatment, and compliance with the provision of relevant law, including the “Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996,” 42U.S.C. 300gg-42, as amended, and Sections 2151.421 and 2152.99 of the Ohio Revised Code and 42 CFR.
- Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP)
 - This is a program where you will go to group and individual treatment 3 days per week.
- Outpatient Program (OP)
- Relapse Prevention
- Medication Assisted Treatment and Mental Health
 - In appropriate cases, the Veterans Honor Court Team will work with your treatment provider to provide medically assisted treatment (MAT) (i.e., Suboxone, Subutex, Vivitrol, Methadone, Naltrexone, or Sublocade).
 - In appropriate cases, the Veterans Honor Court Team will work with your treatment provider to provide mental health treatment, including psychiatry, individual therapy, case management services and supported employment.

Residential Treatment

- You may be recommended for residential treatment during your time in Veterans Honor Court. This recommendation will be made by the Veterans Honor Court Team after a review of your current needs with your treatment provider.
- Residential treatment is designed to last from 3 to 6 months and will be followed by outpatient treatment, based upon the needs determined by your treatment provider.

- Residential treatment will be coordinated through the Cincinnati or Dayton VA Medical Centers, but if deemed necessary, you may be required to complete treatment at:
 - Women's Recovery
 - Joseph House
 - River City Correctional Center*
 - The MonDay Program*
 - The Community Correctional Center*
 - Turtlecreek Halfway House
 - Other facilities may be recommended by the Veterans Honor Court Team
- If you are ordered to attend residential treatment, the refusal to do so will result in your unsuccessful termination from Veterans Honor Court.
- If you are required to attend residential treatment at one of these starred facilities, you will receive jail time credit for your time.

What is the Plan for Life Requirement?

- The Plan for Life program consists of a two-day weekend retreat.
- The Plan for Life program shall aid you in developing new life skills crucial in your relationships, employment and community. The program addresses reentry to civilian life and provides a reintegration solution for you that relies on healthy relationships, integrated community and solid partnerships.
- Plan for Life is a requirement for all WCVHC participants.

How Will I Be Monitored for Substance Use?

Veterans Honor Court will monitor your substance use by random, frequent, and observed drug and alcohol testing. Drug and alcohol testing will be part of your individualized Veterans Honor Court plan, and you will be required to submit to these tests.

Testing Hotline

You will be required to call the OCSS Substance Test Check in System at 937-870-3422 daily between 6:00 AM and 2:00 PM to find out if you are required to submit to a drug or alcohol test.

If you have been selected to test that day, you will be required to report to the Warren County Court Services Department at 520 Justice Drive, Lebanon, Ohio, that same day between the hours of 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM.

Failing to call the voicemail line and/or failing to appear during the drug testing hours is not an excuse for missing a drug test, and you will be subject to sanctions for that miss as if you tested positive.

Types of Testing

Testing may include instant urinalysis screens, portable breathalyzers, or the use of other scientifically validated technology for ethyl alcohol or other substances that are deemed reliable by the Veterans Honor Court Team. Instant urinalysis screens will test for many substances, including your “drug of choice.”

All testing results shall be recorded and maintained for as long as you are in the Veterans Honor Court program.

What is a Positive Test?

If you fail to attend a required drug or alcohol test, your failure to test will be treated as a “positive test” and you will be sanctioned.

If you submit a test that is positive for an unauthorized substance and you admit to use, or a laboratory confirms the test is positive, the test will be treated as a “positive test”, and you will be sanctioned.

If you tamper with a test, submit an adulterated sample, submit the sample of another person, fail to submit a sufficient sample or to testing, dilute your sample, or in any other manner fail to provide a valid drug or alcohol test, your test will be treated as a “positive test”, and you will be immediately sanctioned.

What Happens If I Test Positive?

Veterans Honor Court uses drug and alcohol testing that allows for laboratory confirmation. Upon a positive test result, you will be notified of the result and given the opportunity to either sign an admission form or contest the positive test.

If you contest a positive test, the test shall be sent to a certified laboratory for confirmation. While waiting for confirmation, you will not be sanctioned. However, if the laboratory confirms that your test was positive for an illicit substance, then you will be sanctioned for a positive test, and your sanction may be more severe for failing to be honest and open with the Veterans Honor Court Team.

If you test positive or admit to a positive test or a confirmed positive test is returned from the laboratory, the Veterans Honor Court Team will be notified of the relapse, and you will be ordered to appear at the next status review hearing. The Veterans Honor Court Team will discuss the positive test result and address treatment guidelines and sanctions, when appropriate, that are enforced and reinforced by the Veterans Honor Court Judge.

You may be charged the laboratory fee for a confirmed positive test. Costs are waived if you are deemed indigent.

Taking Prescribed Medication

Veterans Honor Court requires that you report all your prescribed medication to your probation officer, and treatment provider when you enter the program and at any time when you are prescribed a new medication.

You must agree to provide verification of any prescriptions from your doctor, including signing a release for the Veterans Honor Court Team to contact your doctor(s) and anyone who prescribes you a medication.

You must agree to take all approved medications strictly as prescribed.

You must agree to confer with a pharmacist or medical professional to ensure that any medication you want to take, whether prescribed or over-the-counter, is not mood altering or addictive, and that it does not contain alcohol.

Medications that are generally **not** permitted in Veterans Honor Court include:

- Opiates (Lortabs, Vicodin, OxyContin, Oxycodone, Tylenol 3, Percocet, Darvon, Darvocet, etc.)
- Amphetamines (Adderall, Ritalin, etc.)
- Benzodiazepines (Klonopin, Xanax, Diazepam, Valium, etc.)
- Marijuana (including medical Marijuana)

If a doctor believes that it is absolutely necessary to prescribe you medications that will yield a positive drug or alcohol screen, you must submit a letter to the Veterans Honor Court Team from the doctor stating that he or she is aware of your status as a recovering person, that you are participating in Veterans Honor Court, and that you are subject to random, frequent, and observed drug and alcohol tests. The letter must also state why the need for you to take this medication outweighs the possible risks to your status as a recovering person. If you test positive and do not have a letter from your doctor, you will be subject to sanctions, including termination from Veterans Honor Court.

Other Requirements

Prohibited Everyday Items: Based upon the types of tests Veterans Honor Court uses; you will not be allowed to use the following everyday items. Mistakenly using these items will not be an excuse for a positive drug or alcohol test.

- No alcohol-based mouthwash
- No alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- No over-the-counter medicine that contains alcohol
- No poppy seeds
- Non-alcoholic beer or wine
- No substances containing CBD, including CBD oil

Notification Prior to Taking New Meds: There are other substances that may create a false positive drug or alcohol test. Therefore, prior to taking any new over the counter or prescribed medication, you will be required to notify your probation officer about this substance to determine if it could cause issues with your treatment and/or drug tests.

Bars, Liquor Stores, Casinos Prohibited: You may not enter any establishment that has a primary function of selling alcohol or gambling. Casinos, grocery store liquor sections, packaged liquor stores, and bars are off limits to you during your duration in Veterans Honor Court.

What Are the Different Phases of Veterans Honor Court?

Phases are the steps in which your performance and progress through Veterans Honor Court are monitored. Each advancement between the phases brings a new level of independence for yourself, so that you are prepared for life after Veterans Honor Court and community control. Each phase has certain guidelines that must be followed, but these guidelines can be modified to meet your specific needs. The Veterans Honor Court Team and the Veterans Honor Court Judge have the ultimate say over what requirements you must meet during each phase of Veterans Honor Court. Factors that will go into each phase advancement include your sobriety, mental health, progress in treatment, attendance at appointments, compliance with court orders, payment of court costs, and team recommendations. Your progress through each phase will be monitored by the Veterans Honor Court Team, including your probation officer, and the Veterans Honor Court Coordinator.

Phase I-Basic Training

60 Days Minimum

Phase I is the orientation phase of Veterans Honor Court. During this phase, you will be expected to do the following:

- Attend orientation with the Veterans Honor Court Coordinator or PO.
- Complete assessment and sign any necessary releases of information and other documentation.
- Attend treatment sessions as required.
- Complete a mental health assessment, if required.
- Complete case plan, safety plan and budget with Probation Officer.
- Meet your VJO and Veteran Peer Mentor.
- Attend status review hearings twice per month or as otherwise required.
- Attend all required meetings and follow all rules of supervision with Veterans Honor Court and community control.
- Visit your local Veteran Services building to determine services available to you and produce DD214.
- Comply with your court-ordered GPS monitoring, if applicable, and abide by 8pm curfew (unless otherwise approved by PO).
- Submit to random drug and alcohol testing at least twice a week. No positive screens,

dilutions or no shows.

- Cooperate with random home visits.
- Abide by all the rules of your community control, Veterans Honor Court and all the laws of the State of Ohio.
- Remain otherwise law abiding.
- No pending sanctions or new criminal offenses.
- Follow any and all recommendations made by the Court and/or Warren County Veterans Honor Court Treatment Team.
- Write a letter to the court to move to Phase II.

You will be in Phase I of Veterans Honor Court for approximately 60 days. To advance to Phase II, you must have a minimum of 14 consecutive days sober and no major infractions/sanctions. Movement through this phase is based upon your compliance and progress.

Phase II-Technical Training/AIT

90 Days Minimum

During Phase II, you shall begin to develop skills to address identified criminogenic needs, improve family relationships and develop employment, vocation, or educational goals. In order to meet the requirements for Phase II, you will be required to do the following:

- Attend status review hearings twice a month or as otherwise required.
- Attend treatment sessions as required. (No unexcused absences for 30 days prior to phase up).
- Attend all required meetings and follow all rules of supervision with Veterans Honor Court and community control.
- Attend at least one peer support group and report back to PO.
- Complete employment screening with Employment Services Officer with treatment team approval.
- Comply with your court-ordered GPS monitoring, if applicable. Curfew 9pm (unless otherwise approved by PO).
- Submit to random drug and alcohol testing at least twice a week.
- No positive screens, dilutions or no shows for 30 days.
- Follow any and all recommendations made by the Court and/or Warren County Veterans Honor Court Treatment Team.
- Cooperate with random home visits.
- Complete at least two objectives on case plan.
- No pending sanctions or new criminal offenses.
- Write a letter to the court to move to Phase III.

You will be in Phase II of Veterans Honor Court for approximately 90 days. To advance to Phase III, you must have a minimum of 30 consecutive days sober and no major infractions/sanctions. Movement through this phase is based upon your compliance and progress.

Phase III-Active Duty Station

120 Days Minimum

In Phase III, you will begin to utilize skills learned in treatment and programming to implement goals previously identified. You will continue to improve family relationships and begin to develop long-term employment and housing plans. This phase is important as you put into practice the ability to demonstrate on-going stability. In order to meet the requirements for Phase III, you will be required to do the following:

- Regular attendance of treatment (no unexcused absences for 30 days prior to phase up).
- Attend monthly status review hearings or as otherwise required.
- Curfew 10pm (unless otherwise approved by PO).
- Review case plan.
- Attend all required meetings and follow all rules of supervision with Veterans Honor Court and community control.
- Submit to random drug and alcohol testing at least once a week. No positive screens, dilutions or no shows for 45 days.
- If referred, complete a T4C or MRT class.
- Cooperate with random home visits.
- Begin making payments on court costs, fines, fees, and restitution, if applicable or begin community service. Costs will be waived if you are deemed indigent.
- Following any and all recommendations made by the Court and/or Warren County Veterans Honor Court Treatment Team.
- Schedule Plan for Life weekend retreat.
- Remain otherwise law abiding.
- No pending sanctions or new criminal offenses.
- Write a letter to the court to move to Phase IV.

You will be in Phase III of Veterans Honor Court for approximately 120 days. To advance to Phase IV, you must have a minimum of 45 consecutive days sober and no major infractions/sanctions. Movement through this phase is based upon your compliance and progress.

Phase IV-Excelling at Mission

120 Days Minimum

Phase IV is designed to assist the participant in maintaining structure and stability. The participant shall continue to improve family relationships and implement long-term employment and housing plans. This phase allows the participant the ability to demonstrate on-going stability and prepare for life after the Warren County Veterans Honor Court program. In order to meet the requirements for Phase IV, you will be required to do the following:

- Attend status review hearings once a month or as otherwise required.
- Attend treatment sessions as required (no unexcused absences for 30 days prior to phase up).
- Remove from curfew.
- Review case plan and safety plan.

- Follow any and all recommendations made by the Court and/or Warren County Veterans Honor Court Treatment Team.
- Attend all required meetings and follow all rules of supervision with Veterans Honor Court and community control.
- Implement long-term housing, educational, vocational, and employment goals.
- Submit to weekly random drug and alcohol testing. No positive screens, dilutions or no shows for 60 days.
- Cooperate with random home visits.
- Complete Plan for Life weekend retreat (low risk docket).
- Create a plan for service project for graduation.
- Continue to pay down court costs, fines, program fees, and restitution, if applicable or continue community service. Costs will be waived if you are deemed indigent.
- Remain otherwise law abiding.
- No pending sanctions or new criminal offenses.
- Write a letter to the court to move to Phase V.

You will be in Phase IV of Veterans Honor Court for approximately 120 days. To successfully complete Veterans Honor Court, you must have a minimum of 90 consecutive days sober and no major infractions/sanctions. Movement through this phase is based upon your compliance and progress.

Phase V Continuum of Operation

120 Days Minimum

- Finish treatment.
- Complete plan of sober support.
- Monthly visits with PO.
- Monthly court appearances.
- Comply with random home visits.
- Drug testing minimum of twice monthly.
- Review case plan for completion.
- Finish paying off court costs (costs waived if you are deemed indigent).
- No positive screens, dilutions or no shows for 90 days.
- Complete Plan for Life weekend retreat.
- No pending sanctions or new criminal offenses.
- Follow any and all recommendations made by the Court and/or Warren County Veterans Honor Court Treatment Team.
- Present service project for graduation to judge and peers.

Graduation

Near the end of your time in Phase V (phase IV for low risk docket), a review of compliant behavior, and of your accomplishments, will be made by the treatment team. Upon successful completion of Veterans Honor Court, you shall attend a graduation ceremony hosted by the court and receive a Certificate of Completion. If your case is that of Intervention in Lieu of

Conviction, and you have complied with all requirements under R.C. 2951.041, then the indictment against you may be dismissed. To make this determination, the Veterans Honor Court Team will review the following factors:

- Whether you have demonstrated a period of abstinence from drugs and alcohol evidenced by negative drug screens for at least 90 days.
- Whether you have completed all required community service hours.
- Whether you have completed your service project.
- Whether you have attended sober support meetings.
- Whether you have connected with a veteran peer mentor.
- Whether you have regularly been open and honest during status review hearings.
- Whether you have complied with all rules of Veterans Honor Court and community control.
- Whether you have displayed a change in thinking, attitude, and beliefs.
- Whether you have demonstrated the ability to identify and eliminate criminal thinking patterns.
- Whether you have completed your Plan for Life weekend retreat.
- Whether you have met your housing, educational, vocational, and employment goals.
- Whether you have made payments toward your court costs, fines, program fees, and restitution, if applicable. Costs will be waived if you are deemed indigent.
- Whether you have completed all Veterans Honor Court required paperwork.

The Veterans Honor Court Judge has final discretion to decide whether you will be terminated from Veterans Honor Court, successfully complete Veterans Honor Court, and whether you will additionally be terminated from probation or ILC in accordance with written eligibility criteria.

What Are the Incentives Used in Veterans Honor Court?

The goal of Veterans Honor Court is to encourage success and discourage failure. With that objective, Veterans Honor Court uses incentives as an important component in making lasting changes in behavior. Incentives demonstrate acknowledgment of the difficult changes you are making in your life. Positive changes and compliance with Veterans Honor Court requirements will be rewarded.

Some of the positive changes and behaviors that may be rewarded include:

- Attending all status review hearings
- Attending all treatment sessions and/or appointments
- Attending all appointments with your probation officer, employment services officer, and/or Veterans Honor Court Coordinator
- Abstaining from drugs and alcohol, as evidenced by negative test results
- Engaging in vocational and educational activities
- Obtaining a driver's license or reinstatement
- Obtaining verified employment

- Securing stable housing
- Advancing in the Veterans Honor Court phases
- Accomplishing any other milestone identified by the Veterans Honor Court Team

Incentives are used by the Veterans Honor Court Team on a case-by-case basis and are distributed by the Veterans Honor Court Judge or Veterans Honor Court Coordinator.

There are many types of incentives available that may include, but are not limited to:

- Encouragement and praise from the Veterans Honor Court Judge
- Certificates of progress
- Advancement in the Veterans Honor Court phases
- Decreasing court appearances and supervision contacts
- Decreasing time on GPS monitor
- Increasing or expanding privileges
- Reducing fines or fees
- Gift cards
- Reducing jail days
- Successful completion of Veterans Honor Court

What Are the Sanctions Used in Veterans Honor Court?

Just as it is important to recognize progress, it is also important to respond swiftly to problems and noncompliant behavior. By imposing sanctions, a participant who is not compliant with the requirements of the phases will learn that there are consequences for that behavior. The objective is not only to reprimand noncompliance, but to re-engage and encourage you to continue to work through the recovery and treatment process.

Sanctions are issued according to the seriousness of the violation. Serious violations could result in termination from the program. Sanctions are used on a case-by-case basis by the Veterans Honor Court Judge.

Some of the behaviors that may result in sanctions include:

- Failure to attend status review hearings
- Failure to attend treatment sessions
- Failure to attend meetings with members of the Veterans Honor Court Team including probation officer, and Veterans Honor Court Coordinator
- Failure to respond in a timely manner to a voicemail message left from your probation officer or other member of the Veterans Honor Court team
- Failure to call in or report for drug testing in the allotted time
- Failure to attend required sober support meetings
- Noncompliance with random drug and alcohol screens
- Testing positive for drugs or alcohol

- Adulterating or attempting to adulterate a drug or alcohol test
- Noncompliance with any Veterans Honor Court requirement
- Failure to improve troublesome behaviors
- Lying

Graduated sanctions are used to address noncompliant behaviors. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Warnings and admonishment from the Veterans Honor Court Judge
- Community service work
- Writing essays or reading books
- Electronically monitored house arrest or curfew
- Use of TAD monitor or Soberlink device
- Increased frequency of drug or alcohol testing
- Increased frequency of court appearances
- Increased supervision contacts
- Increased frequency of attending status review hearings
- Refusing requests for permission to travel
- Reducing expanded privileges or rescinding privileges previously granted
- Issuing a no contact order with specific individual(s)
- Filing probation or ILC violation
- Imposition of jail days
- Unsuccessful termination from Veterans Honor Court

Sanctions are not only used as a form of consequences for inappropriate choices, but also a way to reevaluate your commitment to recovery and to complete Veterans Honor Court.

Increased treatment requirements shall never be used as a sanction but may accompany a sanction when the Veterans Honor Court Team determines that a change in your treatment plan may assist in adjusting your behavior and re-engaging you in appropriate behavior.

If you are in jeopardy of receiving a jail sanction, you will be provided with notice, a hearing, and the right to be represented by an attorney. You may waive your right to a hearing after consulting with or being given the opportunity to consult with an attorney, and only if the court finds your waiver is made knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily.

What Happens if the Courthouse Closes?

You will be expected to comply with all Veterans Honor Court requirements listed in this Handbook and the Participation Agreement. If you are required to report to the Courthouse (500/520 Justice Drive, Lebanon, Ohio 45036) for a drug screen, you must do so during regular drug testing hours. If you are required to report to the Courthouse for any other reason, you must do so during regular business hours or at a time specified by your probation officer, or Veterans Honor Court Judge.

In the event the courthouse closes or restricts public access due to fire, flood, tornado, pandemic, or other catastrophic event, you will be given instructions on how to continue satisfying your Veterans Honor Court requirements. These instructions may include drug testing at a different location, completing online sober support meetings, and attending treatment sessions, office visits, classes, or status review hearings electronically. You will receive 48 hours notice of any modifications to your Veterans Honor Court requirements due to courthouse closure before those modifications go into effect. After 48 hours, the failure to comply with any of your modified Veterans Honor Court requirements shall result in sanctions.

Initial:	2.22.18
Revised:	3.15.19/4.16.20 (2)/7.6.21/2.24.23/10.23.24/2.3.25