

Veterans Treatment Court facts

- Nationwide, for every \$1.00 invested in Veterans Treatment Courts, taxpayers save as much as \$3.36 in avoided criminal justice costs.
- FACT: When considering other cost offsets such as savings from reduced victimization and healthcare service utilization, studies have shown that cost saving benefits range up to \$27 for every \$1 invested.
- FACT: Veterans Courts produce cost savings ranging from \$3,000 to \$13,000 per client. These cost savings reflect reduced prison costs, reduced revolving-door arrests and trials, reduced hospital stays and reduced victimization.
- FACT: 29% of Idaho's prison population has a qualifying diagnosis of serious and persistent mental illness.

Veterans Court Team

- Judge
- Veterans Court Coordinator
- Prosecuting Attorney
- Defense Attorney
- Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- Proactive Behavioral Health
- IDOC Felony Probation & Parole
- Idaho Division of Veterans Services
- Twin Falls County Magistrate Probation
- Twin Falls City Police Dept.

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www.5thjudicialdistrict.com



VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

The Veterans Treatment Court mission is to promote public safety by integrating community based services and court supervised treatment empowering veterans to be productive members of the community.



History

The 5th Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court program began in October 2015 in Twin Falls by the Honorable G. Richard Bevan.

As of October 2024, 35 participants have successfully graduated from the 5th Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court program.

Currently there are 7 Veterans court programs throughout the State of Idaho.

Veterans Court eligibility criteria

- Primary diagnosis for substance abuse and/or mental health disorder
- 180 days consecutive military service
- Crimes of violence are allowed on a case by case basis
- Reside in Twin Falls City limits (at courts discretion)

Veterans Treatment Court goals

- Ensure community safety
- Reduce illicit drug use
- Reduce psychiatric hospitalization
- Reduce crime
- Save tax payers money
- Reunite families
- Save and restore lives

What Veterans Treatment Courts do:

- Address criminogenic needs
- Address functional deficits
- Use trauma informed care
- Use evidence-based cognitive behavioral interventions
- Address participant motivation and engagement
- Includes peer support
- Includes referrals of family members to services as needed
- Address family and parenting issues
- Applies evidence based services for co-occurring disorders
- Are responsive to individual needs and characteristics
- Assesses for and provides medication assistance

Veterans Treatment Court process

- Defendant is charged with felony crime
- Defendant enters a guilty plea
- Defendant voluntarily makes application for Veterans Court via defense council
- Eligibility is determined via mental health screening and substance use evaluation
- Defendant is sentenced to probation and ordered to successfully complete the program
- Incentives are given reward adherence to the program rules / Non-adherence may be sanctioned
- Veterans Treatment Court graduates may have their criminal case dismissed and/or amended per Idaho Code 19-2604

Veterans Court participant requirements

- Minimum 12 month commitment
- Attend treatment court on a regular basis
- Submit random urinalysis testing
- Complete treatment and programming
- Comply with medication recommendations
- Pay on court ordered financial obligations fines, fees, victim restitution
- Maintain employment
- Participation in recovery support groups

What Veterans Treatment Courts need

Efforts made towards education and awareness will help break the stigma of SUD/MH disorder.

Many people with mental illness are homeless. Access to affordable housing is crucial in order to achieve stability.

People with mental illness often times require public benefits- access to Medicaid, Social Security Insurance, Social Security Disability Insurance help ensure their treatment and subsistence.