

Benefits of Participation

- Alternative sentencing options for eligible participants.
- Access to a comprehensive treatment plan through the VA service system and/or community providers.
- Vet-to-Vet peer mentor program.
- A team of support and case management to help reduce any barriers to the success of the participants success.
- Evidence-based programming including Seeking Safety and Moral Reconciliation Therapy.



The Veterans Treatment Calendar not only benefits veterans involved in the justice system, but taxpayers as well. In addition to significantly lower recidivism rates for participants who complete the program, taxpayers also save hundreds of thousands of dollars that would have otherwise been spent on incarceration. Moreover, this program contributes to the community by reducing the effects of criminal behaviors on the community well-being. The Veterans Treatment Calendar connects eligible participants to VA treatment services and resources, offsetting costs that would have been incurred by a local jurisdiction if participants were to be incarcerated and receive services through the traditional court system.



“Leave No Veteran Behind”

For further information, please contact our Veterans Treatment Calendar staff at (401) 822-004 or email vetscourt@courts.ri.gov.

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Rhode Island Veterans Treatment Calendar



The Honorable
Jeanne E. LaFazia
Chief Judge, District Court



Third District Court
Noel Judicial Complex,
222 Quaker Lane, Warwick
Rhode Island 02886



Overview

The Rhode Island Veterans Treatment Calendar (RIVTC) is a program designed to direct individuals who have served in the military and are presently diagnosed with a mental health and/or substance use disorder into a specialized calendar that integrates treatment and support with the judicial process.

In April 2011, Chief Judge Jeanne LaFazia directed the RIVTC to become a fully operational diversionary treatment program. Since the program's inception to present day, the program continues to offer justice involved veterans a treatment option that is judicially supervised and designed to divert offenders away from incarceration by providing effective rehabilitative alternatives.

The RIVTC is the only pre-plea/pre-sentence veterans calendar in New England. Cases may be transferred from other jurisdictions (Providence/Bristol, Washington, and Newport counties) throughout the state when directed by the judicial officer in the county of origin.

If a defendant agrees to be a participant in the RIVTC, the typical program duration is twelve (12) months or longer.

Mission

The program's mission is to effectively empower past and present United States military members with the treatment tools and skills necessary to address a veteran's unique challenges, to facilitate a successful

reintegration into society, maintain a productive, law-abiding lifestyle, and strengthen relationships with family members and the community, all while enhancing public safety and promoting individual accountability.

Objectives

1. To recognize and treat veteran-service related behavioral health issues.
2. Facilitate sobriety, abstinence, and improved behavioral health.
3. Promote public safety through treatment while assisting and supporting veterans and families through a coordinated response.
4. Assure veteran affairs (VA) benefits and services are fully accessed by participants.
5. To assist and support the participant in productively reintegrating into the community.
6. Reduce recidivism through effectively addressing criminogenic concerns.

Criteria for Participation

- An individual with military service must have a clinical diagnosis to be considered for participation in the RIVTC. The program targets those individuals that are high risk and high need (HR/HN) as well as those that are low risk and high need (LR/HN).
- Any individual with military service who is charged with a non-violent crime, has minimal criminal history, and is not a risk to public safety.



Access and Conditions

- Appropriate proof of military service must be provided.
- Veteran enters RIVTC voluntarily and is amenable and motivated to make lifestyle changes, including sobriety.
- Participant must waive thirty (30) day rule on driving under the influence (DUI) charges.
- Out-of-state defendants will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Participants must keep the peace and be of good behavior.
- Participants must remain in strict compliance with terms of contract, including compliance with all treatment programs, recommendations, and prescribed medications. Participants must strictly comply with discharge plan when discharged from any hospital or residential treatment program.
- Participants must agree to report to treatment provider as directed, execute appropriate releases, and return to court as ordered.
- Participants must abstain from drug and alcohol use for the duration of the RIVTC program, including the use of medicinal marijuana.