

# HAMILTON COUNTY VETERANS COURT

## Entrance Procedures

As of January 2023

### FOR: Attorneys and Offenders

Thank you for your inquiry. The procedures for entrance into Hamilton County Veterans Court Program are as follows:

1. Fill out a **“Request to Participate” form** (attached) and return it to **Superior Court 7**, where it will be **date stamped “Received”**. Also attach a copy of the offenders **DD Form 214** (record of military service). If that is not available, please attach a photocopy (**front and back**) of their VA or Military ID Card.
2. Provide the Presiding Judge of your case with a copy of the **“Request to Participate” form** and any attachments. The Presiding Judge will decide on, and coordinate any **“referral”** (not “transfer”) of the case to Veterans Court.
3. Veterans Court will then do the following: *(See Participant Handbook for details)*
  - A. Conduct **two screenings** (Prosecutor & VA) to determine your eligibility for Veterans Court
  - B. Conduct an **IRAS** (Indiana Risk Assessment System) on the offender (done by Probation)
  - C. Provide the offender with a detailed **Program Orientation**, including all program costs, rules, conditions of participation, programming information, client rights, program alternatives and consequences of participation compliance and non-compliance, along with other program details.
  - D. Have the Veterans Court Team do a **review and recommendation** to the Judge on Acceptance into the Program (**Attorneys are welcome to attend this decision-making session**)
  - E. If the defendant is deemed acceptable for the program, the Prosecutor, Defense Attorney and Offender must sign a Plea Agreement and **“Participation Agreement”, which are irrevocable.** *(See Appendix D of Handbook).*
  - F. Schedule the Offender before the Veterans Court Judge for final decision on acceptance into the program.
4. The Veterans Court Judge (Judge Murphy) will make the final decision on acceptance of the offender into Veterans Court. He will coordinate with the Judge of original jurisdiction, on the case’s disposition.
5. Upon acceptance into the Program, the Offender will begin the five Phases of Veterans Court:
  1. Phase 1 – Acute Stabilization
  2. Phase 2 – Clinical Stabilization
  3. Phase 3 – Pro-Social Habilitation
  4. Phase 4 – Adaptive Habilitation
  5. Phase 5 – Continuing Care

For additional information, contact:

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**Attachments:** 1. Request to Participate Form, 2. Participant Handbook