

# MULTNOMAH COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT VETERANS TREATMENT COURT PROGRAM



## WHAT

The Mission of the Multnomah County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) team is to enhance public safety and reduce recidivism by providing access to services and supports tailored to the individual needs of justice involved Veterans. The VTC team honors the sacrifice and service of justice involved veterans by providing early identification of eligibility, followed by a collaborative, judicially supervised treatment program that promotes accountability, empowerment, and recovery. VTC team members are committed to working collaboratively to provide effective court-based oversight to participants as they address their alcohol, drug and mental health needs and meet obligations to court and community.

## WHO

Judge: Honorable Christopher Ramras  
Program Coordinator: Jennifer Rivas  
Veterans Justice Outreach: Peggy Kuhn  
Deputy District Attorney: Chris Huettemeyer  
Metro Public Defenders: Grant Hartley, Joe Westover  
Multnomah Defenders Inc: Kim Davis, Charles Pierson

## WHERE

Multnomah County Courthouse  
Courtroom 10C

## WHEN

Every other Thursday afternoon.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The VTC Coordinator is available by email at [Jennifer.E.Rivas@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:Jennifer.E.Rivas@ojd.state.or.us)

Clients on this caseload can reach the VTC Coordinator by phone or email to schedule an appointment or check-in.

\*Please note the Court Coordinator works with specific clients who are assigned to their caseload.

## PRE-ENTRY MATERIALS

When contacting the VTC Coordinator, please be prepared to discuss/provide the following:

- ✓ VTC Release of Information
- ✓ VA Release of Information
- ✓ MCJRP Assessment (*if applicable*)
- ✓ VTC Intake Form (*to be completed with VTC Coordinator*)

## SCHEDULING & ENTRIES

All pleas to enter VTC *must* be heard by Judge Ramras to ensure all clients are eligible. All VTC pleas and hearings *must* be set by contacting the VTC team directly.

## ENTRY & INQUIRIES

For more information or to coordinate a VTC entry, email:

[Jennifer.E.Rivas@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:Jennifer.E.Rivas@ojd.state.or.us) and  
[Roxanne.Y.Taylor@ojd.state.or.us](mailto:Roxanne.Y.Taylor@ojd.state.or.us)

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*To balance treatment court best practices and community safety concerns, the VTC team has developed and implemented eligibility criteria for program eligibility and acceptance. The maximum population that the VTC Alpha Track can serve is 30 active participants.*

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### GENERAL BASIS FOR ELIGIBILITY

- ✓ Must live in Multnomah County
- ✓ Veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces is eligible for VA healthcare
- ✓ High clinical need for substance use disorder, mental health treatment, or other treatment needs\*
  - \* *Other treatment needs include:* domestic violence, responsible thinking, anger management, parenting classes, etc.
- ✓ Must have at least 18 months of supervision left on Multnomah County probation or ability to extend (if probation active)
- ✓ Must have at least 90 sanctioning units available. If the presumptive sanctioning units have been exhausted, defendant must sign a waiver agreeing to increase the available sanctioning units to at least 90
- ✓ Cannot currently be in another treatment court unless both judges willing to transfer supervision to VTC
- ✓ No pending out of county case(s) that are likely to result in prison sentences
- ✓ Defendant is not currently supervised on formal probation out of county
- ✓ If the defendant is going to enter VTC after a DOC sentence, the defendant must agree to release to Multnomah County
- ✓ No clinical disqualifiers

To be eligible for Veterans Treatment Court involving **formal supervision**, a defendant must meet the following criteria.

### DISQUALIFYING CRITERIA

Persons charged with the following crimes in the same indictment or on a separate pending case will **not** qualify for VTC:

- ✗ Homicide crimes
- ✗ Attempted Murder charges\*
  - \* *Caveat:* If the Attempted Murder charge(s) are no longer prosecutable, the remaining offenses may be considered for VTC if otherwise eligible
- ✗ Sex crimes / Sex offender conditions or treatment\*
  - \* *Caveat:* If the sex offense charge(s) are no longer prosecutable, the remaining offenses may be considered for VTC if otherwise eligible
  - \* *Caveat:* Defendants may be disqualified from VTC participation if sex offender conditions are required or there is a Level 3 designation (predatory)
- ✗ Compelling Prostitution or Promoting Prostitution offenses
- ✗ Kidnapping in the First Degree
- ✗ Arson in the First Degree (BM11)
- ✗ Any case prosecuted by the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT child abuse cases)