

# VETERANS TREATMENT COURT



## PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
Specialty Courts Division  
200 Lewis Avenue, 14th Floor  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89155



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# Welcome to VTC

We have three basic principles in the program:

1 – **BE HONEST** – be truthful; this includes withholding information.

2 – **SHOW UP** – attend all treatment, Court appearances, meetings, drug testing (UAs), psych/medication provider appointments, and any other required appointments. Be on time, be respectful, and participate.

3 – **TRY YOUR BEST**– a sincere attempt and effort to do something. Put the work into recovery, program requirements, treatment, and any other required programming. Use the skills that have been learned.

## Mission Statement

The Eighth Judicial District Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) program is designed to help veterans treat substance abuse and mental health issues which contribute to criminal behavior. The VTC provides treatment to participants with Court oversight and community supervision with the goals of reducing re-entry into the justice system by improving stability and wellness, therefore improving public safety.

### **This program supports participants by providing:**

- Substance use disorder and/or mental health treatment
- Ongoing assessment of treatment needs
- “Status checks” with the Judge to update progress, celebrate successes, and work through challenges
- Employment assistance
- Financial advisory assistance
- Housing assistance

# Court

**TUESDAY 12:30p  
COURTROOM 14C**

Participants who have just started the program or who are having issues in the program will be required to attend more frequently. As a participant makes progress in phases, the Court may allow them to come to court less often. All participants will be present for Court at 12:30p. All Court appearances will be in-person unless an exception has been approved by the Court Coordinator for a virtual appearance. Virtual appearances may also be allowed when given as an incentive for progress in the program.

Court reminder cards will be provided in Court as a courtesy; it is the participants' responsibility to attend Court as scheduled. If participants lose the reminder card, please use this link to find the next Court date:

<https://www.clarkcountycourts.us/Portal/Home/Dashboard/29>

If participants are not present at his/her scheduled Court appearance, a Bench Warrant may be issued and/or a sanction may be imposed.

## **Court rules:**

- Be on time
- Dress appropriately (no revealing clothing, pajamas, or clothing with writing or pictures referencing violence, gang, drug/alcohol, or sexual matter)
- No coming/going out of Court room – participants are expected to be in Court when his/her name is called
- Phones must be turned off/on silent mode; no texting or playing on cell phones
- No children allowed unless granted permission prior to Court
- No swearing
- No eating, drinking, gum or tobacco chewing
- No sleeping

Let us know if you are hearing impaired - you will be provided an assistive hearing device.  
Let us know if you do not speak or understand English – you will be provided an interpreter.

## **Length of VTC Program**

The Veterans Treatment Court is an 18-month program. The length of the program may vary depending on how each participant progresses in treatment and following the rules of the program.

## DO NOT LOSE THIS BOOK

Participants are responsible for the knowing the information in this handbook. If there are questions, please ask a team member.

### Support Team Phone Numbers

Coordinator: Josephine Bonomo 702-671-3551; [bonomoj@clarkcountycourts.us](mailto:bonomoj@clarkcountycourts.us)

Probation Officers: Officer Lam Office: 702-637-8511 | Text: 760-537-0674

Treatment:

**VA:** -primary treatment provider with Court liaisons called Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinators (VJOs): Kyra 702-209-8442 or Willie 702-481-4625

**Vegas Stronger** –Mary - provides outpatient substance use and mental health treatment to veterans who are not eligible for services from the VA.: 702-202-6647

**Las Vegas Vet Center:** provides treatment groups, individual treatment, and marriage counseling to veterans: Kris Anderson 702-791-9170

Defense Attorney: Jeffrey Banks [bankslawltd@gmail.com](mailto:bankslawltd@gmail.com)

District Attorney: Jay Raman

### Team Members

**Judge/Hearing Master** –gets information from the treatment team and makes final decisions; recognizes participants’ accomplishments using incentives and holds participants accountable using sanctions

**Defense Attorney** – makes sure participants are treated fairly in court, advocates for participants and is available to explain participants’ rights and consequences if program rules are not followed

**District Attorney** – lets the team know of any new legal information, like new arrests, to balance the community’s needs; works with the team regarding consequences and rewards

**Coordinator** – does assessments on new applicants, makes treatment recommendations and is the main contact person for court and program-related questions

**Probation Officer** – supervises participants in the community at their home, work, or treatment locations. The P.O. may also do random drug tests. All requests for changes in housing, travel outside of the county and employment need to start with the P.O.

**Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator (VJO)** – makes all treatment referrals and helps participants navigate the VA system to obtain treatment. They regularly communicate with all members of the VTC team on how participants are doing.

**Treatment Providers** – provides assessments and treatment and reports about how participants are doing in treatment; recommends treatment options that best suits participants’ needs

**All members of the treatment team must be treated with respect.**

Every week a participant has a Court appearance, attend Court, the team meets prior to Court to review progress in the in the program. We work together to assess if the participant is on the right path and will discuss incentives, sanctions, or other interventions needed to reward progress and help the participant get back on track if needed.

## **Resources**

Suicide and crisis line (emotional and substance use support 24/7): 988 (call or text)

NA meetings: find a meeting: <https://www.drugstrategies.org/NA-Meetings/Nevada/Las-Vegas/> or call 702-329-9655

AA meetings: find a meeting: <https://lvcentraloffice.org/meetings/> or call 702-598-1888

## **Urinalyses (“UAs”)**

ATI (substance testing/call for “color”): 702-710-1229; 2400 W. Charleston Suite A: M-Sat 7:30a-9p and Sunday 10a-7 or 3320 Sunrise Av Suite 111: M-F 9a-5p. Note that these hours may change and it is the participants’ responsibility to note any holiday hours or change in general hours of operation.

# Participant Responsibilities

1. Participants will keep all appointments, including required UAs. Participants should make all attempts to avoid scheduling appointments that conflict with the participant's treatment appointments.
  - Protocol for missed appointments:
    - a. The participant is to inform the Court Coordinator and treatment provider within 24 hours of the miss
    - b. The participant is to provide the Court Coordinator with verifiable medical documentation, including medications that were given and/or prescribed, for possible excusal within 24 hours of receiving treatment
    - c. If a participant is admitted to the hospital, he/she is to reach out, at a minimum, to the Court Coordinator to provide information regarding the hospitalization. The participant is to provide discharge paperwork, including medications that were given and/or prescribed, to the Court Coordinator by the end of the day of discharge.
2. Participants will update and provide information needed for Court purposes and practice good communication with all team members.

Participants are required to have an email address and provide it to the Court Coordinator. The email address cannot have any inappropriate wording and it is preferable that it include the participant's name. Any changes in the email address must be provided to the Court Coordinator. Participants are responsible for regularly checking email for communication purposes.

- To the Court Coordinator:
  - a. Any documentation required at the next Court appearance (community support group attendance, community support group log, homework, essays, etc.)
  - b. Any questions regarding Court and/or any problems or incidents related to the program/treatment
- To the Probation Officer:
  - a. Any questions related to probation conditions, expiration, and probation rules.
  - b. Requests to move residence - note that these requests will be discussed with the team (Court Coordinator, VJOs, and treatment providers) to ensure team agreement
  - c. Any issues related to safety.
- To the VJOs:
  - a. Assistance with navigating VA services (such as treatment appointments, psychiatric appointments, housing and/or transportation assistance, possible job training).

- To the treatment provider(s):
    - a. Any substance use relapses, stressors, and disclosures necessary to make progress in treatment.
  - To the Defense Attorney:
    - a. Any questions related to the participant's case
3. Participants will pay all fees ordered by the Court. A total fee of **\$1,500** must be paid prior to graduation. (If restitution is owed, participants will either pay \$1500 for program fees or a combination of \$1500 for restitution and program fees. If restitution is owed in addition to Court fees, participants are expected to pay both restitution and program fees to the best of their ability. Financial counseling assistance will be provided as necessary. Restitution is paid through Parole and Probation.). ***All court fees are paid at the Clerk's Office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the RJC, over the phone at 702-671-0726, or via the Clerk's website at <https://payments.clarkcountycourts.us/>.***
- Additional Fees: In addition to the above fees, participants may be required to pay additional costs associated with services depending on the services the participant may need during the program. The participant may be required to pay fees associated with sober living home, GPS monitoring, or substance use monitoring.
    - Participants are encouraged to develop a payment schedule to regularly pay fees so they may graduate in a timely manner.
      - Estimates of examples of payment schedules:
      - \$20 a week for 18 months = \$1560
      - \$84 a month for 18 months = \$1512
      - \$300 at every phase = \$1500
4. Participants will take medication(s) as prescribed by a physician unless they are on the prohibited list of medications. A list of prescribed medications must be provided to the Court Coordinator in the first month of Phase 1. If there are changes to a participant's prescribed medications, an updates list must be provided to the Court Coordinator within 24 hours of the change.
5. Participants will obey all city, state, and federal laws. If a participant gets involved in any criminal act, the participant may be terminated from VTC. The participant will tell their Probation Officer immediately if they have any law enforcement contact within 24 hours of the contact.
6. Participants will sign all authorizations for release of information needed by the VTC, case manager, treatment provider(s) and other resource providers. If a participant chooses not to sign these authorizations, they may not be able to take part in the VTC program.
7. Participants understand that immediate action may be taken before the next Court

appearance if they:

- Do not keep an appointment or submit a UA when their color is called (unexcused absence)
  - Do not follow instructions from treatment provider(s) or VTC team members
  - Receiving a positive UA test result which includes a low creatinine, Unable to Provide (UTP) a sample
  - Violate court orders, breaks the law, or there is a concern regarding safety and/or medication
8. Participants will not have in possession or use any controlled substance. Participants will not drink anything with alcohol in it nor enter any business where alcohol is the primary item for sale (like a bar or a liquor store).
9. Participants will not smoke, vape, or ingest items that are not theirs.

# Phases

Participants will work through five phases in order to complete VTC. Participants will be required to apply for phase promotion by completing paperwork (see Appendix) when they believe they have completed all criterion. The benchmarks for phase progression are as follows:

## Phase 1 (minimum 90 days)

- Enrollment and completing drug testing upon acceptance into the program
- Enrollment and attending treatment within two weeks upon acceptance into the program
- Re-establishment/establishment of VA benefits OR actively seeking a job in conjunction with FIT, EmployNV, or as evidenced by proof of job searches
- Open communication and honesty with all treatment team members
- Completion of phase-up paperwork

## Phase 2 (minimum 120 days)

- Attendance at minimum of 85% of treatment sessions and UAs
- Maintenance of sobriety for a minimum of 30 consecutive days (LCs, Unable to Provide “UTPs”, and missed tests will be counted as receiving a positive UA result)
- Compliance with all medication, if needed
- Open communication and honesty with all treatment team members
- Achievement of income source (benefits or employment)
- Make at least one payment toward Court fees (if there is difficulty paying fees, meet with financial advisor)
- Completion of phase-up paperwork
- \*note: you will be required to complete a VA suicide prevention class in order to eventually phase up to Phase 5. If a class is offered, we encourage you to attend.

## Phase 3 (minimum 90 days)

- Attendance at minimum of 90% of treatment sessions and UAs
- Maintenance of sobriety for a minimum of 45 consecutive days (LCs, Unable to Provide “UTPs”, and missed tests will be counted as receiving a positive UA result)
- Compliance with all medication, if needed
- Open communication and honesty with all treatment team members
- Make at least two payments toward Court fees (if there is difficulty paying fees, meet with financial advisor)
- Completion of phase-up paperwork
- \*note: you will be required to complete a VA suicide prevention class in order to eventually phase up to Phase 5. If a class is offered, we encourage you to attend.

Phase 4 (minimum 120 days)

- Attendance at minimum of 90% of treatment sessions and UAs
- Maintenance of sobriety for a minimum of 60 consecutive days (LCs, UTPs, and missed tests will be counted as receiving a positive UA result)
- Compliance with all medication, if needed
- Independent housing (including HUD VASH if funding approved)
- Open communication and honesty with all treatment team members
- Make at least three payments toward Court fees (if there is difficulty paying fees, meet with financial advisor)
- Have completed the VA suicide prevention class
- Completion of phase-up paperwork

Phase 5 (minimum 120 days)

- Attendance at minimum of 90% of treatment sessions and UAs
- Maintenance of sobriety for a minimum of 60 days (LCs, UTPs, and missed tests will be counted as receiving a positive UA result)
- Compliance with all medications, if needed
- Completion of Aftercare Plan (for treatment, medication management, supportive services)
- Maintenance of income source
- Open communication and honesty with all treatment team members
- Pay Court fees in full
- Completion of graduation paperwork

# Probation

Participants on probation are required to follow any directions given by the Probation Officer. This includes checking in with the Probation Officer as often as the participant is directed to do so. If the participant has any law enforcement contact, they must tell their Probation Officer **immediately** (within 24 hours) about the contact. **The participant must first ask permission from their probation officer BEFORE doing any of the following activities:**

1. Traveling outside of Clark County
2. Making any changes in address or phone numbers
3. Obtaining or changing employment
4. Regularly associating with a certain individual (including family and girlfriends or boyfriends)

Home visits are a way for the Probation Officer to ensure the participant is abiding by the conditions of the probation agreement. Home visits can happen at any time of day or night. Participants are expected to open the door immediately for the Probation Officer. The Probation Officer will be professional, and will expect the participant to act appropriately during the home visit. Participants' person/home/vehicle/cell phone or any area under his/her control may be searched without a warrant for evidence of a crime or violation of the probation agreement. People living at the participants' home should know that the entire home can be searched. Sometimes the Officer that visits may not be the assigned Probation Officer, but may be another Probation Officer. Participants are expected to treat them as if they are the assigned officer.

# Drug Testing

Participants must agree to not use any illegal substances, alcohol, cannabis or mood-altering substances. Participants will be required to submit random UAs based on the following guidelines:

- ***Submission of Urine Samples:*** Receiving a positive drug test will not result in a new criminal charge, but a sanction could be imposed to help the participant get back on track. Not providing a urine sample when requested will be considered as receiving a positive result.
- ***False Urine Samples:*** Trying to falsify urine samples, tampering or attempting to tamper with urine samples (this includes using or trying to obtain someone else's urine) will result in being set for an immediate Order to Show Cause (OSC) hearing for possible termination from the program.

- ***Diluted Testing:*** If a urine sample cannot be tested for any reason (for example, there is too little or no urine provided, creatinine levels are too low), the urine test will be considered positive for substances. Participants should discuss low creatinine levels with their counselor, including how this may occur and how to avoid them.
- ***Compliance:*** Refusal to comply with a drug test may result in termination from the program. Participants must always leave a urine sample when asked. Participants may be asked to submit a UA by their treatment provider, by their P.O. or in court.

#### **Alcohol**

Participants are not allowed to drink alcohol. If a positive UA test is received for alcohol and/or its metabolite, it will be treated the same as a positive UA test being received for any other drug.

#### **Cannabis**

Participants are not allowed to use cannabis. “Medicinal” cannabis will not be allowed. If a positive UA test is received for cannabis and/or its metabolite, it will be treated the same as a positive UA test being received for any other drug.

#### **Energy Drinks**

Participants are not allowed to consume energy drinks or workout supplements while in the program as these could negatively impact urine drug screens.

#### **Prescription Medications**

All medications must be prescribed by a doctor and shown to the Court Coordinator. **Some medications are not allowed, even if they are prescribed by a medication provider. *It is the participant’s responsibility to tell their doctor that they are in the VTC program and to ask for a different medication if the doctor tries to prescribe any of the medications listed in the Appendix.*** See Appendix B for the list of medications not allowed and the letter the participant can provide to the prescriber.

#### **Over the Counter Medications**

Some over the counter (“OTC”) medications – medications not requiring a prescription – may negatively impact urine drug screens. **See Appendix B for the list of medications not allowed**

# Program Responses

## Incentives:

- The VTC Program recognizes the hard work that it takes in trying to change behaviors, choices, and lifestyles. Incentives encourage compliance and success.
- Incentives spotlight desired success and help to build trust between the participant and the VTC team. With that in mind, the VTC Program recognizes all markers of success even if in a small way. Examples of behaviors/accomplishments that lead to incentives are included below.

Behaviors/Accomplishments		Possible Incentives/Responses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-day sober</li> <li>• Kindness to others</li> <li>• Assisting others</li> <li>• Increased contact with child and/or family</li> <li>• Good progress in the program</li> <li>• Maintaining employment</li> <li>• Attendance of community events</li> <li>• Completion of MRT</li> <li>• Treatment adherence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Obtaining employment</li> <li>• Obtaining GED/degree</li> <li>• Outstanding accomplishment</li> <li>• Perfect attendance</li> <li>• Phase completion/advancement</li> <li>• Obtaining driver's license</li> <li>• Attending NAMI groups</li> <li>• No UA issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applause</li> <li>• Praise from judge</li> <li>• Pass to be called early in Court</li> <li>• Gift Card</li> <li>• Virtual Court attendance</li> <li>• Recognition certificate</li> <li>• Be called first in Court</li> <li>• Decreased court appearances</li> <li>• Bus pass</li> <li>• Small gifts (e.g. keychain, candy bars)</li> <li>• Travel privileges</li> </ul>

## Treatment Responses:

- If the participant is completely honest about about any use of prohibited substance or fail to follow rules and/or expectations which the participant may not be fully capable of following, the participant will be responded to with therapeutic adjustments referred to as “treatment responses”. If the participant is not responding to treatment interventions, but are otherwise compliant with treatment and supervision requirements, punitive sanctions will not be imposed. Treatment responses that increase level of treatment are not sanctions. They are put in place to help participants learn how to make good choices and are designed to improve the overall effectiveness and response to the treatment.
- Treatment-oriented responses for substance use while in VTC are based on the recommendation of clinical treatment providers. Input from other team members will be permitted for thorough discussion with the ultimate recommendation being made by the treating providers. Examples of behaviors that lead to treatment responses are listed below. This is not a complete list and only represents possible treatment responses that may be recommended.

**Examples of Behaviors That Lead to Treatment Responses**

<b>Examples of Behaviors</b>	<b>Examples of Treatment Responses</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open and honest admission regarding use of drugs and/or alcohol</li> <li>• Open and honest admission regarding use of struggling/dealing with issues</li> <li>• Failing to meet treatment plan goals</li> <li>• UA test is positive for substances</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased sober-support meetings</li> <li>• Increased level of treatment</li> <li>• Increased drug testing</li> <li>• Educational homework assignments</li> <li>• Essay on topic related to infraction</li> <li>• Phase extension</li> <li>• Residential treatment</li> </ul>

**Sanctions:**

- If participants fail to comply with the VTC Program, the Judge may order one or more of the following sanctions. Sanctions are incremental and individualized. Sanctions are not negotiable and are ordered to encourage change in the participants' behavior. Sanctions are not intended to be fun and most times will consist of hard work.
- Sanctions and treatment responses are very different. Responses to substance use or mental health issues that increases the level of treatment are considered treatment responses and are ordered to help and not punish the participant. Sanctions are ordered to hold the participant accountable so that the participant learns to make better choices. While sanctions may be viewed as punitive, the intention is to teach or motivate changes in the participant's behavior. Sanctions are not given arbitrarily and are ordered after detailed discussion among the team and between the participant and the judge occurs. If the participant wishes, he/she may have a discussion with the defense attorney before the Court ultimately makes a decision on a sanction.
- Sanctions are ordered on an individual basis. Other participants in similar circumstances may receive different sanctions to what may appear to the participant to be the same behavior or broken rule. This is not unusual nor is it inappropriate. The participants are viewed as individuals and thus, individual progress, abilities, attendance, and history are all taken into account at each occurrence.
- If participants are given a sanction that requires any work outside of court, participants are expected to complete the requirements of that sanction prior to the participant's next scheduled court date unless otherwise indicated. Failure to have any sanction completed by the participant's next scheduled court date could result in additional sanctions.

<b>Examples of Infractions/Violations</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missing drug tests</li> <li>• Receiving diluted drug test result(s)</li> <li>• Lack of honesty regarding use of drugs and/or alcohol</li> <li>• Participant continues to use drugs and/or alcohol without using the tools they have learned</li> <li>• Non-compliance with approved medications</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missing treatment or intake appointments</li> <li>• Missing medication appointments</li> <li>• Missing probation appointments</li> <li>• Failing to attend scheduled events</li> <li>• Failing to engage in services</li> <li>• Tardiness and/or absence from treatment group sessions or other appointments</li> <li>• Tardiness to and/or absence from court</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failing to complete community service hours</li> <li>• Failing to submit proof of support group meeting</li> <li>• Poor/no communication with the team</li> <li>• Failing to follow Court instructions and/or orders</li> <li>• Failing to follow team members' instructions</li> <li>• Lying or deliberately omitting information to/from the Court</li> <li>• Behavioral issues (poor attitude and/or being disruptive)</li> <li>• Gambling</li> </ul>
<b>Examples of Serious Infractions/Violations (may result in immediate termination from VTC)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging in romantic/sexual relationship with any Clark County Treatment Court participant</li> <li>• New criminal arrest/offense</li> <li>• Tampering/removal of GPS device</li> <li>• Possession of weapon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possession and/or Use of synthetic and/or replacement drugs</li> <li>• Tampering/falsifying drug test</li> <li>• Refusal to do submit UAs</li> <li>• Submitting falsified documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Threats of violence or violent/aggressive behavior</li> <li>• Non-adherence to prescribed psychiatric medications</li> </ul>

<b>Examples of Possible Sanctions/Responses</b>		
<u>1<sup>st</sup> Occurrence:</u>	<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Occurrence</u>	<u>3<sup>rd</sup> and/or Multiple Occurrences:</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Service</li> <li>• Admonishment from judge</li> <li>• Curfew</li> <li>• Essay on topic related to infraction</li> <li>• Increased community support group meetings</li> <li>• Increased drug testing</li> <li>• Increased Court appearances</li> <li>• Keeping a calendar</li> <li>• Phase extension</li> <li>• Stay to the end of court</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Service</li> <li>• Admonishment from judge</li> <li>• Court observation days</li> <li>• Curfew/restriction</li> <li>• Educational workbooks</li> <li>• Essay on topic related to infractions</li> <li>• Suspended jail sentence or remand to jail</li> <li>• Increased Court appearances</li> <li>• Increased drug testing</li> <li>• Increased supervision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Service</li> <li>• Admonishment from judge</li> <li>• Incarceration</li> <li>• Increased court appearances</li> <li>• Increased drug testing and/or type of testing (e.g. patch)</li> <li>• Increased supervision (e.g. GPS monitoring)</li> <li>• Phase extension</li> <li>• Program termination</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Verbal and/or written apology</li><li>• Suspended jail sentence</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Observation of other Court sessions</li><li>• Phase extension</li></ul>	
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## APPENDIX A

## VTC PHASE UP TO PHASE 2 APPLICATION

(Phase 1 completion – minimum 90 days)

I am applying to advance to Phase 2.

❖ **I have completed the following criteria in Phase 1 (initial each criteria and provide details when indicated):**

1. Enrollment and completing drug testing upon acceptance into the program
2. Enrollment and attending treatment within two weeks upon acceptance into the program
3. Re-establishment/establishment of VA benefits OR actively seeking a job in conjunction with FIT, EmployNV, or as evidenced by proof of job searches

a. DETAILS:

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2. Demonstrated open communication and honesty with all team members
  - a. If any issues with this criteria, describe how you overcame and/or are working on them:

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❖ **Please answer the following questions in the space provided:**

1. What is the biggest challenge you overcame during this phase?

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2. Describe how you found the strength to overcome the challenge

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## VTC PHASE UP TO PHASE 3 APPLICATION

(Phase 2 completion – minimum 120 days)

I am applying to advance to Phase 3.

❖ **I have completed the following criteria in Phase 2 (initial each criteria and provide details when indicated):**

1. Attendance at minimum of 85% of treatment sessions and UAs
2. Maintenance of sobriety for a minimum of 30 consecutive days (LCs, Unable to Provide “UTPs”, and missed tests will be counted as receiving a positive UA result)
3. Compliance with all medication, if needed
4. Achievement of income source (benefits or employment)

b. DETAILS:

- 
3. Make at least one payment toward Court fees
  4. Continued to demonstrate open communication and honesty with all team members
    - a. If any issues with this criteria, describe how you overcame and/or are working on them:

❖ **Please answer the following questions in the space provided:**

1. What did you learn in this phase and how have you applied it to your life?

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2. What positive, pro-social activities are you currently engaged in?

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3. If you are on medication(s), describe the importance of taking the medication(s).

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## VTC PHASE UP TO PHASE 4 APPLICATION

(Phase 3 completion – minimum 90 days)

I am applying to advance to Phase 4.

❖ **I have completed the following criteria in Phase 3 (initial each criteria and provide details when indicated):**

1. Attendance at minimum of 90% of treatment sessions and UAs
2. Maintenance of sobriety for a minimum of 45 consecutive days (LCs, Unable to Provide “UTPs”, and missed tests will be counted as receiving a positive UA result)
3. Compliance with all medication, if needed
4. Make at least two payments toward Court fees
5. Continued to demonstrate open communication and honesty with all team members
  - a. If any issues with this criteria, describe how you overcame and/or are working on them:

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❖ **Please answer the following questions in the space provided:**

1. What personal goals have you accomplished in this phase and what goals would you like to work on in the next phase?

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2. What are at least two early warning signs (specific thoughts, behaviors, or feelings) that you need support?

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3. List as many people as you can who can call to help you when you are having early warning signs that you need support

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## VTC PHASE UP TO PHASE 5 APPLICATION

(Phase 4 completion – minimum 120 days)

I am applying to advance to Phase 5.

❖ **I have completed the following criteria in Phase 4 (initial each criteria and provide details when indicated):**

1. Attendance at minimum of 90% of treatment sessions and UAs
2. Maintenance of sobriety for a minimum of 60 consecutive days (LCs, UTPs, and missed tests will be counted as receiving a positive UA result)
3. Completed VA suicide prevention class. Date: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Compliance with all medication, if needed
5. Independent housing (including HUD VASH if funding approved)  
DETAILS: \_\_\_\_\_
6. Make at least three payments toward Court fees
7. Continued to demonstrate open communication and honesty with all treatment team members
  - a. If any issues with this criteria, describe how you overcame and/or are working on them:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

❖ **Please answer the following questions in the space provided:**

1. What are at least two coping skills that help you get through challenging times and give an example of how you have used one during this phase.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. What is one positive thing you learned from others in the program so far?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. What is one concern/worry you have for your future and how are you addressing it?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# VTC GRADUATION APPLICATION

(Phase 5 completion – minimum 120 days)

I am applying to GRADUATE.

❖ **I have completed the following criteria in Phase 5 (initial each criteria and provide details when indicated):**

1. Attendance at minimum of 90% of treatment sessions and UAs
2. Maintenance of sobriety for a minimum of 60 days (LCs, UTPs, and missed tests will be counted as receiving a positive UA result)
3. Compliance with all medications, if needed
4. Completion of Aftercare Plan (for treatment, medication management, supportive services)
5. Maintenance of income source
6. Continued to demonstrate open communication and honesty with all team members
7. Pay Court fees in full

❖ Complete this aftercare graduation plan:

-income: \_\_\_\_\_

-housing: \_\_\_\_\_

-ongoing continued treatment, including psychiatric medication management:  
\_\_\_\_\_

-social support (support groups, sponsor, family, friends):  
\_\_\_\_\_

❖ Prepare graduation speech addressing each of the following questions:

1. What is the one thing you learned about yourself during the program and how will it help you continue to be successful?

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2. What are some challenges you faced during the program and what were the skills you used to overcome them?

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3. What are 3 pieces of advice you want to pass on to your fellow participants for their success in the program?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

## APPENDIX B

## Prohibited Medications/Substances

Examples of Prohibited Substances and Medication Classifications	Examples of substances prohibited in all Problem-Solving Court Programs are listed below. For medications, the brand name of the medication is referenced in "( )" if the generic name is also listed. Many over-the-counter medications are also listed. Examples of "street" names are also included below.
<b>Alcohol (In Any Form)</b>	Alcoholic beverages, alcohol based medications (e.g., cough syrups, Nyquil, Robitussin), alcohol based mouthwash (e.g., Colgate, Crest, Listerine), alcohol based energy drinks.
<b>Amphetamine</b>	Adderall, Adipost, Benzedrine, Dexedrine, Dexatrim, Didrex, Phentermine (Adipex), Preludin, Ritalin, , Speed, Vyvanse, White, All medications containing Pseudoephedrine (Alka-Seltzer Cold, Claritin-D, Comtrex Acute, Contac Cold Maximum, Dayquil / Nyquil, Dristan Maximum, Kolephrin, Maxiflu, Robitussin, Sinarest, Sudafed, Tavist Allergy, Tylenol Cold or Allergy. <i>Note: There are non-pseudoephedrine "D" versions available for most of these.</i>
<b>Barbiturate</b>	Allobarbitol, Barbital, Butalbital (Fiorinal), Phenobarbital (Luminal).
<b>Benzodiazepine</b>	Alprazolam (Xanax, Niravam), Clonazepam (Clonopin), Chlordiazepoxide (Librium), Diazepam (Valium), Flunirazepam (Rohypnol), Lorazepam (Ativan), Oxaprozin (Daypro), Oxazepam (Serax).
<b>Cocaine</b>	Examples of "street" names include, but are not limited to: Big C, Crack, Powder, Rock, Snow.
<b>Dextromethorphan "DM"</b>	Cold medications such as Alka Seltzer Cold, Coricidin, Dayquil, Dimetapp, Nyquil, Robitussin, Sudafed, Triaminic, Tylenol Cold, Vicks 44. <i>Note: There are non-dextromethorphan "DM" versions available for most of these.</i>
<b>Hallucinogens</b>	Dimethyltryptamine (DMT), Ecstasy, Ketamine, LSD, Mushrooms, PCP, Tryptamine.
<b>Methamphetamine</b>	Examples of "street" names include, but are not limited to Black Beauties, Chalk, Crank, Crystal, Glass, Ice, Meth, Tweak, Uppers.
<b>Miscellaneous Substances</b>	Appetite Suppressants -most are prohibited, Buprenorphine (Buprenex, Subutex, Suboxone), Caffeine Pills, Meperidine (Demerol), Fentanyl (Actiq, Duragesic), Inhalants, Kratom, Methadone, Propoxyphene (Darvocet, Darvon), Steroids, Soma, All Synthetic Substances, Xyrem (GHB), Poppy Seeds. <i>Note: This list includes anything labeled "Not for Human Consumption".</i>
<b>Opiate</b>	Codeine (Cough meds, Tylenol 3), Heroin, Hydrocodone (Lortab, Loracet, Norco, Vicodin, Vicoprofen), Hydromorphone (Dilaudid), Morphine.
<b>Oxycodone</b>	Oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percodan, Percocet, Roxicet, Roxycodone).

Note that this list is not exhaustive and any questions should be brought to the Court Coordinator. Also note that using and/or being in possession of any alternative or "replacement" drugs such as Methadone and/or Suboxone is prohibited unless prescribed by a medical professional. Any and all "designer drugs" that can be purchased legally or illegally are prohibited. Any and all "smoking mixtures" are prohibited. Any and all products sold/marketed under false pretenses with the warning of "not for human consumption" are prohibited. Examples included but not limited to are: Kratom, Spice, bath salts, salvia, any natural or designer drugs, and substances containing ma huang, ephedrine, weight lifting/workout supplements, energy drinks, or foods containing a large amount of poppy seeds.

Letter for your medication provider

**I am a participant in a Court treatment program. I am prohibited from using any narcotics or medications that would test positive on a UA for illicit substances unless medically indicated for emergencies and/or surgical procedures. Below are medications that are prohibited in my program.**

Note: I am allowed to be prescribed Medically Assisted Treatment for narcotic dependence, such as Suboxone or Vivitrol.

**Prohibited medications/ingredients to include but not limited to:**

1. Alcohol – in any form including in cough suppressants or syrups or mouthwash.
2. Amphetamine – Adderall, Adipost, Benzedrine, Dexedrine, Dexatrim, Didrex, Phentermine (Adipex), Preludin, Ritalin, Vyvanse, all medications containing pseudoephedrine
3. Barbiturate – Allobarbitol, Barbitol, Butalbital (Fiorinal), Phenobarbitol (Luminal).
4. Benzodiazepine – Alprazolam (Xanax, Niravam), Clonazepam (Clonopin), Chlordiazepoxide (Librium), Diazepam (Valium), Flunirazepam (Rohypnol), Lorazepam (Ativan), Oxaprozin (Dypro), Oxazepam (Serax)
5. Dextromethorphan “DM” – Coricidin, Dayquil, Nyquil, Robitussin, Sudafed
6. Hallucinogens – Dimethyltryptamine (DMT), Ketamine, LSD, Mushrooms, PCP, Tryptamine
7. Miscellaneous – Demerol, Darvocet, Darvon, Soma, Ambien
8. Opiates – Hydrocodone (Lortab, Loracet, Norco, Vicodin, Vicoprofen, Dilaudid, Morphine, Oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percodan, Percocet, Roxicet, Roxycodone), Codeine

**Program Handbook Receipt - Disclosure of Responsibility**

I understand that I am responsible for knowing the rules and regulations to participate in the District Court Veterans Court Program. I certify that a participant handbook has been provided to me.

I understand that by signing this agreement, I am committed to reading and knowing the policies and procedures of the District Court Veterans Court Program.

I agree to comply with the policies and procedures of the District Court Veterans Court Program and that I have read and understand my responsibilities detailed in this participant handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Witness                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Interpreter if present                      Date