



Cherokee County Veterans Treatment Court

Participant Handbook





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Welcome and Introduction

If you are reading this Handbook, you have been accepted as a possible participant in the Cherokee County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) program. Welcome to the Court, and thank you for your service to our country. This handbook is designed to be an overview of what to expect in Veterans Treatment Court. It provides an outline of the program and is a resource to turn to for any questions you may have as you move through the program.

This is a voluntary program, which means that you can only be a Veterans Treatment Court participant if you **agree** to participate. You will be expected to follow the instructions given to you by the Judge and the Veterans Treatment Court Team. You will also be expected to follow all supervision and program rules and complete the treatment plan developed by you and your VTC Team. The Judge and the entire VTC team are present to guide and assist you, **but the final responsibility will be yours.**

We encourage you to share this handbook with your family, significant other, and clean and sober friends, all of whom are important parts of your recovery. They are also welcome to attend your scheduled court sessions with you. If you have additional questions, please ask your VTC Coordinator, Case Manager, treatment provider or your attorney for more details.

What Is Veterans Treatment Court?

A Veterans Treatment Court is a court-supervised program coupled with intensive treatment and supervision, directed at diverting individuals with prior military service from the traditional criminal justice framework. It is a hybrid of the current Drug and Mental Health Court models, serving veteran status individuals struggling with addiction, mental illness, trauma-related disorders such as PTSD, and/or co-occurring substance abuse and mental health disorders. This is a voluntary program that includes regular court appearances before the designated Veterans Treatment Court judge. It also involves drug and alcohol treatment, random drug testing, support group meetings, educational classes and community supervision.

History and Purpose

The Cherokee County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) was established by State Court Judge A. Dee Morris in May of 2017. It is a voluntary 4 phase program for adults with prior military service, who have been charged with one or more criminal offenses in the Cherokee County, and who are struggling with addiction, mental illness and/or trauma related disorders such as PTSD. It was developed to help participants achieve the following goals:

- abstinence from drugs and/or alcohol,
- access to mental health professionals and assistance with mental health issues related to service,

- diversion from prison or jail, and
- living a more satisfying sober and law-abiding life.

The Veterans Treatment Court is designed to reduce re-arrests, promote self-sufficiency through employment and education and to help you remain in the community as a productive and responsible member of society by diversion from prison or jail. The program is voluntary on your part. You must want to participate. The judge, court staff, supervision officers, treatment counselors and other team members will guide and assist you, **but the final responsibility is yours. You must be motivated to make these changes, and commit to a totally drug free life.**

The program involves working jointly with the Court, community supervision, treatment providers, the Veterans Administration, Veterans Benefit Administration, the VTC Team, and other key team members, all dedicated to your recovery. Our team will be working with you towards successful completion of the program, **but the choice and effort to become drug and alcohol free and not commit new crimes comes from you.**

It is important that you understand the long-term commitment required by this program. You will become involved with community support group meetings, attend substance abuse treatment, participate in mental health treatment (if indicated), be subject to strict community supervision, submit to random drug testing and make regular appearances in court.

Who Can Be a Part of Veterans Treatment Court?

Not everyone can be a part of the Veterans Treatment Court program. You must have served in the United States Armed Forces in some capacity. Your criminal history will be closely reviewed by the District Attorney or Solicitor General. You may also be scheduled for a substance abuse and/or mental health evaluation. The purpose of this assessment will be to determine whether or not you are drug and/or alcohol dependent or have any mental health issues. If the results of the evaluation(s) are appropriate, you will then be eligible for the Veterans Treatment Court.

Veterans Treatment Court Team

The Veterans Treatment Court Judge will make all final decisions regarding your participation in the VTC Program, with help from the VTC Team. In addition to the Judge, the VTC Team consists of the following:

- Veterans Treatment Court Judge- **A. Dee Morris**
- Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator- **Jenny Mehdikarimi**
- Veterans Treatment Court Case Manager-**Derek Grubb**
- Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist (VJO)- **Keesha Sledge**
- Public Defender- **Bill Whitaker**
- Peer Support Specialist- **DeVaughnte Askew**
- District Attorney and Solicitor General- **Ashley Snow, Emily Johnson**
- Compliance Officers- **Sgt Tim Downing**
- Probation Officers- **Marie Magee, Chevene Tumlin, Angelica Navarro-Alvarez**
- Treatment Providers- **Anthony Morgan, Emma Price, Grace Price**
- Volunteer Veteran Mentor- **Dick Hall**

Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist

One of the differences between a Veterans Treatment Court and other accountability courts, is the connection we have with the Veterans Administration. As part of that partnership, the Cherokee County Veterans Treatment Court has been assigned a Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist (VJO), who is part of our Court Team, is present during court staffing meetings and court sessions, and is available for assistance to our court participants. The purpose of the VJO Program is to avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among Veterans by ensuring that eligible justice-involved Veterans have timely access to VA services as clinically indicated. Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists are responsible for direct outreach, assessment, and case management for justice-involved Veterans.

As you progress through the Veterans Court program, you will meet with the VJO specialist, and begin to identify and then connect with the VA, including the Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) and Veterans Health Administration (VHA). Ultimately you will develop a plan for ongoing connection with the VA, based upon your particular circumstances.

Veteran Mentor

Another difference between a Veterans Treatment Court and other accountability courts, is the existence of the Veteran Mentor Program. Veteran Mentors are veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces who volunteer their time to assist participants in Veterans Treatment Court, providing advice, personal experiences, recommendations and guidance to participant. Our Veteran Mentors come from a variety of backgrounds and service experience. They share one important thing in common: all have demonstrated a commitment to helping fellow veterans.

At some point during your Orientation into the program, you will meet members of the Veteran Mentor Program. Experience has shown that veterans respond more favorably to other veterans who have served in the military and share similar experiences. Your veteran mentor will interact with you as a peer, rather than as an authority figure. It is our hope that this active and supportive relationship will increase the likelihood that you will remain in treatment, maintain sobriety, and improve your chances of success.

Your veteran mentor will act as a coach, a guide, a role model, an advocate, and a support for you as you progress through the court process. When able, your Mentor will attend court hearings with you. Their goal is to support you by listening to your concerns, making general suggestions, assisting you in determining your needs, and being a friend that you can depend on, especially during times when you may be feeling isolated.

Court Appearances

After your formal acceptance into the Veterans Treatment Court, you will be required to appear in Court on a regular basis. The number of times you must appear depends upon the phase of the VTC you are currently in. You will receive a Court Calendar from your VTC Coordinator/Case Manager. Generally, VTC meets twice a month. Failure to appear may result in a warrant being issued for your arrest, unless you have previously gotten

approval from the Court to be absent. When you progress through the program and reach Phase 4, you will only be required to attend court once a month, generally the first court date of each month.

Courtroom Etiquette

When you are in the courtroom, your behavior should reflect that you are, indeed, in court. You are expected to treat the Judge, VTC Team Members, Court Staff and other participants with respect.

Dress appropriately for court sessions. Wear clean, conservative attire. Clothing bearing sexist, racist, or drug or alcohol-related themes, is considered inappropriate. Additionally, shorts and flip flops should not be worn in court and hats should be removed before entering the courtroom. Do NOT chew gum in court. Turn cell phones, pagers, and other electronic devices off, or they will be confiscated. No food or drink is allowed in the courtroom. Do not have side conversations with others while court is in session. Do not make fun of other court participants. Listen to what is happening, and be prepared to applaud other participants for their achievements. Do not sleep in court, slouch at the podium, or curse. If you have any questions about your court appearances, you may contact your Court Coordinator or Case Manager.

Treatment

Substance abuse and mental health treatment are provided by state-funded treatment agencies or the federally funded Veterans Health Administration. The treatment agency to which you are assigned will coordinate your treatment and may refer you to additional treatment and/or mental health services if needed. After your intake session, you and your counselor will develop an individualized treatment plan that involves both group and individual counseling sessions. The schedule will be determined by the treatment agency, and attendance is required. You may be required to attend more groups or individual sessions depending upon your treatment plan. Each treatment plan is individualized to best meet your particular needs.

Substance abuse counseling is comprised of individual sessions and group sessions. As part of your treatment plan, you will be required to participate in both formats. Together they are designed to help you develop self-awareness, realize self-worth, practice self discipline, and thus improve your overall quality of life. The individual and group counseling sessions will include problem identification, alternative solutions, and medical and mental health maintenance and/or reintegration.

You are responsible for attending all scheduled appointments. Treatment misses must be excused by your treatment agency and/or the Judge, and made up later. Your attendance and level of participation at counseling sessions will be reported to the team as part of your weekly progress reports.

You must contact your case manager or your counselor if you are unable to attend or will be late to a scheduled session. Unexcused misses could result in sanctions.

Supervision

Compliance Visits: Following your acceptance into the Veterans Treatment Court program, you can expect regular visits from a Compliance Officer. The Compliance Officer will make random field and home visits to assess and observe your home and verify your job. Compliance Officers will check to make sure that you are living in a clean manner, free of alcohol and drugs. They may search your premises as they deem appropriate, and you are required to submit to any alcohol or drug test they may request. Any resident or visitor at your home must likewise submit to drug and alcohol testing if requested.

Case Management: Throughout the length of the program, you will be required to report for case management as directed to the Veterans Court Coordinator/Case Manager. The Coordinator will provide orientation information and will discuss the rules and conditions of the Veterans Court Program. Once you meet with your case manager, you will be given a case management plan. You must report on time and complete any assignments as directed. Case manager may make appropriate referrals for ancillary services such as employment assistance, education, transportation, and housing. Failure to comply with case management can result in low ratings, fees, and possible behavior contract.

Program Fees

All veterans' court participants are required to pay a program fee of **\$35.00 per week (due by the last business day of each month)** for each month a participant is in the Veterans Treatment Court program, a **one-time \$50 orientation fee and \$50 indigent defense fee**. In the event the participant does not graduate from the program and it is necessary to impose a sentence, the amount of fees owed by the participant at the time he/she is removed from the VTC program will be added to the sentence as restitution to the Veterans Court Program including any attorney fees less the amount paid, if any, if he/she was represented by an appointed attorney.

Late Payment Sanctions: 8 hours of community service work will be given for each week that is not paid in full.

Progress Reports

On the Monday of each week that Veterans Treatment Court is scheduled on the court calendar, the VTC Team Members meet and review your progress. This is called a staffing. This staffing will include information supplied by members of the team about your attendance, participation and cooperation in the treatment program, employment, community service, compliance officer visits, and/or other requirements. The Judge may ask questions about your progress and discuss any problems you may be having. If you are doing well, this will be discussed in court, and an incentive may be awarded. Excellent reports mean that you will progress through the program more quickly. If your report shows that you are not doing well, the Judge will discuss this with you in court and determine future action, which could include a court sanction. Court sanctions can include assignments, community service hours, behavior contracts, or possibly even jail time.

Failure to comply with any of the court requirements may delay your promotion or graduation.

Sanctions and Incentives

Sanctions are consequences that are imposed by the Court for failure to follow the rules of the court, treatment agency, or housing facility, and also when participants relapse, or violate the law. You are accountable for your behavior. The Cherokee County Veterans Treatment Court therefore utilizes a system of sanctions and incentives which you should be prepared to accept should you choose to participate in the program.

Some examples of situations which could result in sanctions are dishonesty, alcohol or drug use, unexcused absences from Court or counseling sessions, missed drug screens, late payments, unacceptable personal relationships, or failure to follow treatment requirements. The VTC program uses a graduated system of sanctions in which the sanctions may increase in severity if the unwanted behavior continues. Sanctions are individualized to your situation and should not be compared against sanctions given to someone else.

Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, a reprimand from the Judge, an assigned essay on a topic appropriate to the violation, additional community service, imposition of an earlier curfew, jail time, behavior contracts, low ratings, or possibly even program termination. All sanctions and incentives will be linked to the individual participant's behavior, progress through the program, and will be discussed with the VTC Team. The Judge has the final say on all sanctions imposed.

Incentives, on the other hand, are consequences for great behavior, to applaud your achievements and successes. Some examples of situations which could result in incentives are displays of honesty in addressing your issues, maintaining periods of sobriety, remaining sanction free, outstanding performance in community service, or helping your fellow participants in the program. Incentives may include, but are not limited to, praise and applause, certificates of achievement, tokens, or items given in incentive gift basket. You should know that we are actively looking for your achievements and successes. **We want to "catch you" doing the right thing.**

Veterans Treatment Court Phases

The Cherokee County Veterans Treatment Court Program is a highly structured and supervised program using primarily outpatient treatment, divided into Court Phases. Your progress through the phases will depend upon your completion of treatment goals and compliance with drug testing and other program rules. Less sanctions often means faster promotions through the Phases. Participants must also make significant progress in treatment and other program requirements to be promoted. Each phase consists of specified treatment objectives, therapeutic and rehabilitative activities and specific requirements for "promotion" into the next phase.

The phases are Orientation Phase/Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3, Phase 4, and/or Phase 5. After the completion of Phase 4 you will be eligible for Graduation. Participant will remain in phase 5 until graduation. It takes a minimum of 18 months to complete all of the court

phases. There are only 4 graduations a year (January, April, July, and October). See Appendix A for a list of requirements for each Phase.

Medical Leave

If at any time a participant becomes medically unable to continue the program, the participant may be placed on a medical leave status until such time the individual becomes capable of continued participation. During medical leave, the participant may still be required to perform some portions of the program. Phase status shall be frozen while on medical leave status. In the event participant becomes permanently unable to continue the program, participant may be terminated.

Confidentiality

To participate in the Veterans Treatment Court program, you will be required to sign Release of Information forms, which will include your Consent for the Release of Confidential Information for Staffing and Open Court Hearings and Reviews. This disclosure of information is for the sole purpose of hearings and reports concerning your Veterans Treatment Court Program and Court case and for collaboration with substance abuse and mental health providers regarding your treatment.

Confidentiality in Staffing: As described earlier in this Handbook, the Veterans Treatment Court team will meet prior to Court to discuss your progress, at a meeting called a staffing. This does not mean that the Court personnel will learn about your private discussions during treatment sessions. Rather, the staffing team will learn more general information, such as whether you are participating, and/or progressing in your treatment.

Confidentiality in Court: The Courtroom is a public place, and Veterans Treatment Court is open to the public. Recognize that in an open and public courtroom, it is possible for an observer to connect you with the fact that you are in a treatment court. You have consented to this potential disclosure. However, as a general principle, you will not be asked in open court to disclose any mental health diagnosis, mental health medications, or personal information discussed in treatment groups.

Confidentiality in Treatment: Confidentiality is also part of your responsibility and means that what is said in group, stays in group. Obviously, people are not going to talk easily about themselves unless they feel safe and secure. One way to feel safe and secure is to make sure that everything shared in group is not mentioned outside the group. Therefore, to avoid hurting fellow group members, do not gossip about what happened in group. By "gossiping" outside of group, you make it harder for group members to feel safe sharing, and thus all group members end up being deprived of comments and perspectives which could help them grow.

If you have questions about how confidentiality applies in Veterans Treatment Court, please talk with your case manager or court coordinator. You can also review the confidentiality policies at your particular treatment provider(s).

Program Rules

As a Veterans Treatment Court participant, you will be required to follow the rules outlined in the Veterans Treatment Court Participant Contract. There is an unsigned copy of the Participant Contract at Appendix D of this Handbook, so you can refer to it at any time. When you enter the Court you will also get a signed copy of your Veterans Court Bond and/or sentence. From time to time, the Participant Contract and/or Handbook will be updated and copies provided to you. You will be required to follow any changes made to the rules, regulations, and/or policies of the VTC.

It is your responsibility to take the time to learn the rules of the VTC and the treatment provider, and it will be assumed that you are very familiar with them.

Inclement Weather Policy

In case of inclement weather, participants are to contact the Veterans Court Office at 678-493-6585 for important updates regarding court closings, testing hours, office hours, etc.

Fraternization Policy

Due to the sensitive nature of recovery, participants in the VTC in Cherokee County shall not establish an intimate or physical relationship with other participants in the program. Such relationships are prohibited and may result in sanctions or termination from the program. Participants should use caution when entering into a business relationship with other participants.

Social Networking/Personal Websites Policy

Participants of Veterans Treatment Court shall not use any social networking sites, such as Facebook, Instagram, SnapChat, TikTok, Twitter (X), LinkedIn, Youtube, or other medium of communication to post or broadcast any materials, which would adversely affect the efficiency, professionalism, integrity, or to discredit of the court. Participants are prohibited from utilizing the name of Veterans Treatment Court to solicit funds for individual compensation.

Termination from the Program

Warrants, new arrests or noncompliance could result in your being terminated from the Veterans Treatment Court Program. Some examples of noncompliance that could result in termination include, but are not limited to: consistently missing drug tests or testing positive, altering or attempting to alter a drug test, missing treatment or supervision appointments, missing court appearances, absconding, repeatedly breaking the program rules, and/or violence or threats of violence directed at other participants, treatment staff, or other VTC team members.

Should it be necessary to consider you for termination, you will be scheduled for a Termination Hearing, at which time the Judge will make the final decision, based upon any facts presented by you, along with the input from the VTC Team. If the Judge decides that you are terminated from the VTC program, you will be removed from the Veterans

Court Bond, and you will face the traditional criminal justice process, which may include punishment for the charges that you pled into Veterans Treatment Court on. You are entitled to representation at any Termination Hearing. This representation can be by either private counsel or the public defender.

Drug and Alcohol Testing

All participants are given instructions on testing through the drug testing hotline upon entry to the program. For the duration of your participation in the Cherokee County Veterans Treatment Court, it is your responsibility to check daily to see if you are required to drug test that day. If selected, you must report to the Cherokee County Drug Lab between 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. The Drug Lab is located in the bottom of the Historic Courthouse at 100 North Street, Canton, GA 30114. Drug testing is performed on a random basis; however, a breath or urine specimen may be required at any time.

You must call the drug screen hotline each day after midnight. You will be prompted to enter your ID then given a message if you have to test or not to test. In the event that, for any reason, you cannot access this information by phone, it is your responsibility to report to the testing facility during scheduled drug testing hours. Random testing may occur at any place at any time.

You must be punctual and prepared to submit a specimen during the specified hours. Late arrivals will not be allowed to test and the failure to submit a specimen will be considered a positive screen. Tampering with or diluting a drug screen is grounds for termination from VTC. See dilute drug screen handout for more information regarding dilute tests.

Upon reporting for a drug screen:

1. A staff member must accompany you at all times during drug testing.
2. You must make sure that your name and the date is on your specimen bottle.
3. You must indicate an admission or denial of alcohol or drug use and grant permission for confirmation of results if appropriate. Honesty is a crucial component for recovery and participation in VTC. Self-disclosure of use before testing will earn imposition of one-half of the sanction otherwise imposed.
4. You will not be allowed to leave the testing area or to drink excessive fluids until a specimen is rendered.
5. A staff member must always witness the sample being given.
6. You may not carry purses, coats, bags, etc. into the testing area.
7. Shirt sleeves should be rolled up to the elbow and you may be requested to remove additional clothing to ensure the validity of a specimen.
8. The test cup must contain a minimum 1/3 level to be adequate for testing.

If a drug screen is positive and confirmation is requested, the specimen will be tested again at a qualified lab. A \$65 confirmation fee, paid within 72 hours of acknowledgement,

must be paid prior to sample being sent for confirmation. You may not be able to stop using drugs immediately and recovery may not occur overnight. However, all use of illegal drugs will be sanctioned. This is not intended as punishment but to encourage sobriety. Thus, the ultimate goal of drug testing is to provide accountability and confirmation of an individual's progress towards recovery.

Travel Policy

All travel requests must be submitted no later than two (2) weeks prior to the intended travel dates. No travel will be approved within the participants first 90 days in the program. Participants must be current on all program requirements, including attendance, testing, and treatment obligations. Participants must be current on all financial obligations for travel to be considered. Travel will not be approved on court dates or during program graduations. A maximum of four (4) total days of travel is permitted during Phases 1-4. In the event of an emergency, participants may contact the court office to request verbal permission to travel. Up to 48 hours of excused hotline call-ins may be approved for all types of travel.

Medication/Alcohol/Supplements

It is difficult to remember which drugs to avoid and so a list of medications/substances/products has been prepared for you at Appendix C of this Handbook. You have to take responsibility for all of your future drug use because not every physician, pharmacist, or dentist knows about the nature of your condition and what you have learned. If you have a particular problem, be sure and discuss it with your case manager/coordinator. No prescription drug of any kind is to be taken without prior notice approval from the Veterans Treatment Court. Copies of all prescription medications along with the completed Medical Provider Advisory Form are to be provided to the Court Office within 48 hours of the medication being prescribed.

It is YOUR responsibility to limit your exposure to the products and substances attached in Appendix D that may also contain ethyl alcohol. It is YOUR responsibility to read product labels, to know what is contained in the products you use and consume and to stop and inspect these products BEFORE you use them.

Supplements including herbal, pre-workout, protein, creatinine, etc. will not be approved to take while in the Veterans Treatment Court Program. Supplements may interfere with testing and will be subject to confirmation testing at your own expense. If you take any supplements while in the program it is at your own risk.

Self-Sufficiency

Recovery from substance addiction means developing self-sufficiency and becoming a productive and responsible member of the community. As you progress through the Veterans Court program, you will identify any gaps in your job skills, as well as any educational, financial and/or transportation issues you may have. You will work towards solutions to these issues, and ultimately develop a personalized plan, based upon your particular circumstances. Examples of solutions are job training, college or technical school degree, developing a budget, getting a driver's license or buying a car.

Graduation

When you have successfully completed all phases and requirements, you will be eligible for graduation. Eligibility for graduation is determined by the Judge, the court team, the Veterans Treatment Court team and treatment providers. You will be eligible when all treatment and program requirements are met and have had a minimum of 90 days of negative drug screens.

Graduate Volunteer Veteran Mentors

The Veterans Treatment Court Volunteer Mentor Program is a select group of individuals who have served our nation and desire to continue serving to assist their fellow veterans. Individuals who have successfully graduated from the Cherokee County Veterans Treatment Court will be asked to become Volunteer Veteran Mentors. We feel you are uniquely positioned to give advice and encouragement to current VTC participants, and to assist the VTC Team in refining aspects of the VTC program. Please give this important decision the amount of consideration it deserves. This is your chance to give back and help others travel the path that you just completed.

Conclusion

We hope this handbook has been helpful to you and answered most of your questions. If you have any additional questions or concerns about the Veterans Treatment Court program, please feel free to contact your Court Coordinator or Case Manager.

The goal of the Cherokee County Veterans Treatment Court is to help you find ways to avoid further problems with the law and lead a more fulfilling life. The Judge and the Veterans Treatment Court Team are here to guide you through the process and to assist you. **However, it is ultimately your choice whether to participate and your responsibility for success.** To succeed, you must be motivated to commit to Veterans Treatment Court treatment as a way to improve your life.

Good luck to you and, again, thank you for your service to our country!

Appendix A: Phase Requirement Checklists

PHASE I

(Length of Program – a minimum of 3 months or based on progress)

Tasks to be completed:

1. Stay clean and sober; **Do not drink alcohol or use drugs unless prescribed and confirmed on your treatment plan.**
2. Fees are current with Veterans Court.
3. Attend all appointments as assigned.
4. Take all medications as directed.
5. Attend on time and actively participate in all groups.
6. Complete all assignments on time.
7. Attend **bi-weekly** court sessions and group sessions per Phase requirements.
8. Meet with your mentor **weekly**.
9. Attend a **minimum of 2** 12-step or community-based self-help meetings a week.
10. Complete **24 hours** of Community Service Work.
11. Maintain safe and adequate housing.
12. Provide urine samples as required for drug screens.
13. Have a minimum of **30 days sobriety** and **30 days** without a jail sanction, immediately prior to meeting requirements to phase up to Phase 2.
14. Essay

Participant Signature

Date

Coordinator Signature

Date

PHASE II

(Track 1 minimum of 6 months and Track 2 minimum of 3 months or based on progress)

1. Stay clean and sober; Do not drink alcohol or use drugs unless prescribed and confirmed on your treatment plan.
2. Fees are current with Veterans Court.
3. Attend on time and actively participate in all groups as assigned.
4. Complete all assignments on time.
5. Take all medication as directed.
6. Attend bi-weekly court sessions and group sessions per Phase requirements.
7. Meet with your mentor weekly.
8. Attend a minimum of 2 12-step or community-based self-help meetings a week.
9. Complete 24 hours of Community Service Work.
10. Find employment, enroll full-time in college working to fulfill requirements of a degree producing program. If you are deemed unable to work, an appropriate application for assistance will be made and a productive use of your time will be established.
11. Maintain safe and adequate housing.
12. Provide urine samples as required for drug screens.
13. Have a minimum of 60 days sobriety and have a minimum of 30 days without a jail sanction prior to requesting phase up to Phase 3.
14. Essay

Participant Signature

Date

Coordinator Signature

Date

PHASE III

(Track 1 minimum of 6 months and Track 2 minimum of 3 months or based on progress)

1. Stay clean and sober; Do not drink alcohol or use drugs unless prescribed and confirmed on your treatment plan.
2. Fees are current with Veterans Court.
3. Attend on time and actively participate in all groups as directed.
4. Complete all assignments on time.
5. Take all medication as directed.
6. Attend bi-weekly court sessions and group sessions per Phase requirements.
7. Meet with your mentor weekly.
8. Attend a minimum of 2 12-step or community-based self-help meetings a week.
9. Complete 32 hours of Community Service Work.
10. Provide urine samples as required for drug screens.
11. Maintain consistent attendance at all medical appointments, treatment groups, and community meetings as directed.
12. Maintain safe and adequate housing.
13. Maintain employment or be enrolled/attending school.
14. Work on additional case management services as determined by the team.
15. Work toward achievement of individual life goals.
16. Have a minimum of 60 days of sobriety and a minimum of 60 days without a jail sanction immediately prior to request to phase up to Phase 4.
17. Essay

Participant Signature

Date

Coordinator Signature

Date

Phase IV

(Minimum of 3 months or based on progress)

1. Stay clean and sober; Do not drink alcohol or use illegal drugs.
2. Fees are current with Veterans Court.
3. Attend on time and actively participate in all groups as directed.
4. Complete all assignments on time.
5. Take all medication as directed.
6. Maintain consistent attendance at all medical appointments, treatment groups and community meetings as directed.
7. Attend monthly court sessions and group sessions per Phase requirements.
8. Meet with your mentor weekly.
9. Attend a minimum of 2 12-step or community-based self-help meetings a week.
10. Provide urine samples as required for drug screens.
11. Complete 32 hours of Community Service Work.
12. Complete other case management services as determined by the team.
13. Maintain safe and adequate housing.
14. Maintain predictable, and accountable schedule for 90 days through employment and/or school.
15. Have a minimum of 90 days sobriety; have a minimum of 90 days without a jail sanction prior to submitting request to graduate the VTC.
16. Schedule your Post Graduation Consult. Date: _____
17. Schedule your exit interview 1 month before the ceremony.
18. Submit to your last drug screen at 9am on completion day.
19. Remain in Phase 5 until graduation

Participant Signature

Date

Coordinator Signature

Date

Appendix B URINE ABSTINENCE TESTING AND INCIDENTAL DRUGS OF ABUSE EXPOSURE CONTRACT

Because the urine tests used for drugs of abuse testing are very sensitive, consumption of certain products can result in positive screens. In order to preserve the integrity of the testing program, it is necessary to restrict and/or advise persons scheduled for random tests regarding the use of certain products.

It is difficult to remember which drugs to avoid and so this list of medications has been prepared for you...what you can take and what you must avoid. You have to take responsibility for all drug use because not every physician, pharmacist, or dentist knows about the court-ordered testing requirement you are under. If you have a particular problem, be sure and discuss it with the Coordinator. No drug of any kind is to be taken without prior approval from the Coordinator. When you show up for testing you must always note on the paperwork you sign any prescription or over-the-counter medications you have taken.

LET YOUR PHYSICIANS, DENTISTS, PHARMICISTS, AND ALL OTHER PERSONS THAT WILL BE INVOLVED IN YOUR RECEIVING MEDICATIONS KNOW THAT YOU ARE RANDOMLY TESTED FOR DRUGS OF ABUSE. **THIS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AS A POSITIVE TEST WILL BE A VIOLATION OF YOUR PROBATION AND WILL RESULT IN YOUR INCARCERATION.**

DRUGS THAT CAN BE TAKEN *Do not use any amount beyond what is recommended.*

Advil (OTC)	Aleve	Aspirin	Clinoril
Clinoril (Rx)	Feldene (Rx)	Ibuprofen	Meclomen (Rx)
Tylenol (OTC)	Motrin	Nalfon	Naproxen
Toradol	Tessalon Perles		

Antihistamines that CAN be taken:

Actifed	Afrin	Alka-Seltzer Plus	Allerest	Benadryl
Comhist	Teldrin	Coricidin HBP	Triaminic	Polarmine
Dramamine	Dimetapp	Ornade		

The following are newer antihistamines and are safer (originals):

Claritin Hismonal Seldane Zyrtec Allegra

COUGH AND COLD

(take only as directed)

Mucinex	Theraflu
Sudafed PE (Phenylephrine HCL)	Alka-Seltzer Cold
Tylenol Cold	Advil Cold

STOMACH/ANTACIDS

(take only as directed)

Tums	Pepcid
Rolaids	Maalox/Mylanta
Tagamet	Imodium AD
Pepto Bismol	

It is **YOUR** responsibility to limit your exposure to the products and substances detailed below. It is **YOUR** responsibility to read product labels, to know what is contained in the products you use and consume and to stop and inspect these products **BEFORE** you use them. ***Use of the products detailed below in violation of this contract will NOT be allowed as an excuse for a positive test result. When in doubt...***

DO NOT USE, CONSUME OR APPLY

DRUGS THAT ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN

SLEEPING AIDS AND TRANQUILIZERS

Ambien	Ativan	Centrax	Compazine
Dalmane	Deprol	Equanil or Meprobamate	Halcion
Limbitrol	Miltown	Milpath	Restoril
Serax	Valium	Vistaril, Atarax	Xanax
Klonopin	Lunesta		

ANALGESICS

Darvocet N-100	Darvon Cpds.	Darvon	Equgesic
Fiorinal	Norflex	Norgesic	Parafon Forte
Robaxin	Robaxisal	Soma	Talwin
Wygesic	Ultram		

BARBITURATES

Amytal Na.	Brevital	Butobarbital	Butisol Na.	Donnatal	Eskobarb
Luminal	Mebaral	Nembutal	Pentothal	Phenobarbital	
Seconal	Surital	Tuinal			

DRUGS THAT ARE NOT TO BE TAKEN (CONTINUED)

ALCOHOL

After Shave Lotion	Extracts (Lemon, etc.)	Hair Tonics	Medical Alcohol
Mouth Wash	Perfumes	Sterno	Wood Alcohol

OTC-OVER THE COUNTER

OTC caffeine preparations---Nodoz, Vivarin, etc.

OTC diet aids---Dexatrim, etc.

OTC antihistamines---Dristan, Contac, Sominex, Nyquil, etc.

OTC decongestant- Dextromethorphan (DM)

ANTICHOLINERGICS/ANTISPASMODICS

Atropine	Belladonna & derivatives	Donnatal	Hyoscine
Kinesed	Levsin with phenobarbital	Librax	Pathibarnate
Pro-banthine	Scopolamine	Valpin	

MINOR TRANQUILIZERS

Ativan	Equinal	Librax	Libritabs	Librium	Meprobamate
Milpath	Miltown	Pathibamate	Paxipam	Serax	Trancopal
Tranxene	Valium	Versed	Vesprin	Xanax	Klonopin (clonazepam)

NON-AMPHETAMINES STIMULANTS

Adipex-P	Appedrine	Bontril	Control	Dexatrim	Efed 11	Fastin
Ionamin	Mazanor	Melfat	No-Doz	Plegine	Pondimin	Prela-2
Preludin	Prolamine	Ritalin	Sanorex	Tenuate		

SEDATIVES

Amytal	Carbital	Chloral Hydrate	Doriden	Methaqualone	
Nembutal	Noctec	Noludar	Parest	Placidyl	
Quaalude	Seconal	Sodium Phenobarbital	Sodium Luminal	Sopor	Veronal

STIMULANTS

Benzadrine	Cylert	Desbutal	Desoxyn	Dexadrine	Dexamyl
Dexaspan	Didrex	Eskatrol	Fastin	Ionamin	Methadrine
Methamphetamine		Preludin, Prelu-2		Vyvanse	Adderall

DRUGS THAT ARE *NOT* TO BE TAKEN (CONTINUED)

NARCOTICS/OPIATES/OPIOIDS

A.P.C. w/Demerol B & O Supp. Bancap HC Cocaine Codeine

Damason -P	Darvon	Darvocet	Demerol	Dilaudid
Dolophine	Dolene	Empirin #1,2,3,4	Empracet	
Fentanyl-Sublimaze	Fiorinal #1,2,3,4	Heroin	Hy-Phen	Hycodan
Hydrocodone	Innovar Inj.	Levo-Dromoran	Leritine	Lomotil
Lorcet	Lortab	Mepergan Forte	Methadone	Morphine
Nubain	Numorphan	Oxycodon	Pantopan	Paregoric
Pentazocine	Perco barbs	Percocet	Percodan	
Phenaphen #1,2,3,4	Phenzocine	Propoxyphene Hd	Roxicet	Roxicodone
Soma Cpd.	Stadol	Sublimaze	Synalgos-D	Talacin C
Talwin	Tic. Opium	Tylenol #1,2,3,4	Tussionex	Tylox
Ultram	Vicodin	Zydome	Zohydro	
Oxymorphone	Suboxone (Buprenorphine)			

BROMIDES

Bromo-quinine Miles Nervine

COUGH SYRUPS Those containing:

Codeine Hycodan Hydrocodone Oxycodone Tussinonex
Dextromethorphan

HYPNOTIC/SEDATIVES(sleeping pills)

Alurate	Ativan	B.A.C.	Butalbital	Butisol	Carbital
Chloral Hydrate		Compoz (OTC)		Dalmane	Doridan
Halcion	Nembutal	Noludar	Nytol (OTC)	Phenobarbital	Paraldehyde
Quaalude	Restoril	Seco Barbital		Sleepeze (OTC)	

HALLUCINOGENS

Butotenine (Dimethylserotonin) DET (Diethyltryptamine) "68" DMT

Hashies	Hashish	Ibogaine	LSD (Lysergic acid, Diethylamide, Acid)
Marijuana (THC)	Mescaline	Psilocybin	Peyote
“STP” or “DOM” (4-methyl-2, 5-Demethoxyamphetamine)			Ketamine

VOLATILE SUBSTANCES/ANESTHETICS-INHALANTS

Anesthetics	Amyl/butyl Nitrate	Banana Oil	Fluothane
Freon	Gasoline	Glue	Nitrous Oxide
Paint Thinners	Panthrane	Pentothane	Surital
Trilene			

DRUGS THAT ARE *NOT* TO BE TAKEN (CONTINUED)

SYNTHETICS

Synthetic Cannabinoids- synthetic marijuana, “K2”, or “Spice”

Synthetic Cathinones- methylenedioxypyrovalerone (MPV), mephedrone, ketamine, and methylone. “Bath salts,” “molly,” “glass cleaner,” or “plant food”

FOOD AND OTHER INGESTIBLE PRODUCTS

Poppy Seeds (Do not ingest anything containing poppy seeds)

Sure-Jell (Pectin)	Red Dawn
Kratom	E-cigarettes or vaporizer pens
Kava Kava	CBD Oil
Phenibut	Delta 8 and all additional variants

SUPPLEMENTS AND/OR NON PRESCRIBED STEROIDS

Non prescribed performance enhancing steroids are prohibited. Other supplements including herbal, pre-workout, protein, creatinine, etc. are prohibited while in the Veterans Treatment Court Program, without prior approval. Supplements may interfere with testing and will be subject to confirmation testing at your own expense. If you take any supplements while in the program it is at your own risk.

This is not an exhaustive list. There are numerous drugs hitting the market daily. Unless the drug is listed on the DRUGS THAT CAN BE TAKEN list, before ingesting any drugs notify your case manager. Be sure to indicate on your paperwork when testing **ALL** drugs, prescription or over-the counter medications that you have consumed. **Remember!**

When in doubt, don't use, consume or apply.

Appendix C URINE ABSTINENCE TESTING AND INCIDENTAL ALCOHOL EXPOSURE CONTRACT

Recent advances in the science of alcohol detection in urine have greatly increased the ability to detect even trace amounts of alcohol consumption. In addition, these tests are capable of detecting alcohol ingestion for significantly longer periods of time after a drinking episode. Because these tests are sensitive, in rare circumstances exposure to non-beverage alcohol sources can result in detectable levels of alcohol (or its breakdown products). In order to preserve the integrity of the Veterans Treatment Court testing program, it has become necessary for us to restrict and/or advise Veterans Treatment Court participants regarding the use of certain alcohol-containing products.

It is **YOUR** responsibility to limit your exposure to the products and substances detailed below that contain ethyl alcohol. It is **YOUR** responsibility to read product labels, to know what is contained in the products you use and consume and to stop and inspect these products **BEFORE** you use them. ***Use of products containing ethyl alcohol (ethanol) in violation of this contract will NOT be allowed as an excuse for a positive test result.***

When in doubt, don't use, consume or apply!

Cough syrups and other liquid medications: Veterans Treatment Court participants have always been prohibited from using alcohol-containing cough/cold syrups, such as Nyquil®. Other cough syrup brands and numerous other liquid medications, rely upon ethyl alcohol as a solvent. Veterans Treatment Court participants are required to read product labels carefully to determine if they contain ethyl alcohol (ethanol). All prescription and over-the-counter medications should be reviewed with your coordinator before use (and prescriptions should be reviewed with and approved by the coordinator before being filled by a pharmacist). Information on the composition of prescription medications should be available upon request from your pharmacist. Non-alcohol containing cough and cold remedies are readily available at most pharmacies and major retail stores.

Non-Alcoholic Beer and Wine: Although legally considered non-alcoholic, NA beers (e.g. O'Doul's®, Sharps®) do contain a residual amount of alcohol that may result in a positive test result for alcohol, if consumed. Veterans Treatment Court participants are **not** permitted to ingest NA beer or NA wine.

Food and Other Ingestible Products: There are numerous other consumable products that contain ethyl alcohol that could result in a positive test for alcohol. Fermented

products/fermented beverages (such as Kombucha) can have alcohol content percentages often above 0.5% and at higher unregulated levels which could result in a positive screen for alcohol. Flavoring extracts, such as vanilla or almond extract, and liquid herbal extracts (such as Ginko Biloba), could result in a positive screen for alcohol or its breakdown products. Communion wine, food cooked with wine, and flambé' dishes (alcohol poured over a food and ignited such as cherries jubilee, baked Alaska) must be avoided. Read carefully the labels on any liquid herbal or homeopathic remedy and do not ingest without approval from your coordinator.

Mouthwash and Breath Strips: Most mouthwashes (Listermint, Cepacol, etc.) and other breath cleansing products contain ethyl alcohol. The use of mouthwashes containing ethyl alcohol can produce a positive test result. Veterans Treatment Court participants are required to read product labels and educate themselves as to whether a mouthwash product contains ethyl alcohol. Use of ethyl alcohol-containing mouthwashes and breath strips by Veterans Treatment Court participants is not permitted. Non-alcohol mouthwashes are readily available and are an acceptable alternative. If you have questions about a particular product, bring it in to discuss with your coordinator.

Hand sanitizers: Hand sanitizers (e.g. Purell, Germex, etc.) and other antiseptic gels and foams used to disinfect hands contain up to 70% ethyl alcohol. Excessive, unnecessary or repeated use of these products could result in a positive urine test. Hand washing with soap and water is just as effective for killing germs.

Hygiene Products: Aftershave and colognes, hair sprays and mousse, astringents, insecticides (bug sprays such as Off[®]) and some body washes contain ethyl alcohol. While it is unlikely that limited use of these products would result in a positive test for alcohol (or its breakdown products) excessive, unnecessary or repeated use of these products could affect test results. Participants must use such products sparingly to avoid reaching detection levels. Just as the court required Veterans Treatment Court participants to regulate their fluid intake to avoid dilute urine samples, it is likewise incumbent upon each participant to limit their use of topically applied (on the skin) products containing ethyl alcohol.

Solvents and Lacquers: Many solvents, lacquers and surface preparation products used in industry, construction, and the home, contain ethyl alcohol. Both excessive inhalation of vapors, and topical exposure to such products, can potentially cause a positive test result for alcohol. As with the products noted above, Veterans Treatment Court participants must educate themselves as to the ingredients in the products they are using. There are alternatives to nearly any item containing ethyl alcohol. Frequency of use and duration of exposure to such products should be kept to a minimum. A positive

test result will not be excused by reference to use of an alcohol-based solvent. If you are in employment where contact with such products cannot be avoided, *you need to discuss this with your Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator*. Do not wait for a positive test result to do so.

Remember! When in doubt, don't use, consume or apply.

Community Resources

Hospitals

Veteran Affairs
1670 Clairmont Rd
Decatur, GA 30033
[\(404\) 321-6111](tel:(404)321-6111)

Northside Hospital Cherokee
450 Northside Cherokee Blvd
Canton, GA 30115
770-224-1000

Piedmont Mountainside Hospital
1266 Highway 515 South
Jasper, GA 30143
706-434-4567

Ridgeview Institute- Substance Abuse
3995 South Cobb Drive
Smyrna, GA
770-434-4567

Bethesda Community Clinic
111 Mountain Brook Dr
Canton, GA 30115
678-880-9654

Basic Needs

Canter Housing Authority	770-479-4969
CATS (transportation)	770-345-6238
Highland Rivers	770-704-1600
Cherokee DFCS	706-272-2834
Cherokee Family Violence Center	770-479-1804
Georgia Highlands Center	770-704-1603
Cherokee Health Department	770-928-0133
Salvation Army	770-720-4316
United Way	770-428-8344
MUST Ministries	770-479-5397

Crisis Lines

BHL Crisis Stabilization Line	1-800-715-4225
Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-334-2836

Child Protective Services	1-855-422-4453
Crisis Stabilization Unit	1-800-493-1932
National Suicide Hotline	1-800-273-8255
Veterans Crisis Line	1-800-273-8255 Press 1/ Text 838255

Substance Abuse

Alcoholics Anonymous Atlanta	404-525-3178
Drug Help Line	1-800-662-4357
CMANS/Drug Tip Line	770-345-7920
Narcotics Anonymous Atlanta	404-362-8484

Community Service Board

Highland Rivers Behavioral Health @ Cherokee
 191 Lamar Haley Parkway
 Canton GA 30114

Ancillary Services

The following services are available through referral from the VA. VJO will assess participant to define need:

- Audiology (hearing)
- Blind and Vision Rehabilitation
- Chiropractic Services
- Dental
- Diagnostic Laboratory
- Nutrition and Food Service
- Nuclear Medicine (imaging)
- Occupational Therapy
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Prosthetics (artificial limbs, equipment, devices)
- Radiology (x-rays and imaging)
- Radiation Oncology (cancer care)
- Recreation and Creative Arts Therapies (music, art, dance and drama)
- Respiratory Therapy
- Social Work (housing, discharge planning, family support)
- Speech/Language Pathology (speech, language, voice, fluency, cognition, and swallowing)
- Traumatic Brain Injury

Emory Healthcare: Veterans Program
 888-514-5345

Services: Intensive Outpatient Program (2-week Program), Traditional Outpatient program

Marietta Vet Center

40 Dodd St SE Suite 700, Marietta, GA 30060

(404) 327-4954

Services: Individual and group counseling for Veterans, Service members, and their families, Family counseling for military related issues, Bereavement counseling for families who experience an active duty death, Military sexual trauma counseling and referral

- Outreach and education including Post-Deployment Health Re-Assessment (PDHRA), community events, etc., Substance abuse assessment and referral, Employment assessment & referral, VBA benefits explanation and referral, Screening & referral for medical issues including TBI, depression, etc

Georgia Department of Veterans Services

220 Brown Industrial Pkwy Suite 150, Canton, GA 30114

(770) 720-3538

Services: Benefits assistance, appeals support, education and training, nursing homes, memorial cemeteries, women veterans

Georgia Department of Labor

465 Big Shanty Road, Marietta, GA 30066-3303

(770) 528-6100

Services: Career and employment counseling, Direct job referrals, Job developments with potential employers, Labor market information, Job search workshops, Résumé / application and cover letter assistance, Eligibility determination for special programs, Referral to training and/or supportive services, Information on veteran's employment benefits, rights and preferences, Resources for changing careers or transitioning from the military to civilian employment

Chattahoochee Tech- Veteran Services

980 South Cobb Drive, Marietta, GA 30060, Building B, Room 138

770-528-3491

Services: Academic success and career exploration, dedicated computers, counseling services, local resources

Must Ministries

111 Brown Industrial Pkwy, Canton, GA 30114

770-479-5397

Services: Food, housing programs, workforce development and clothing