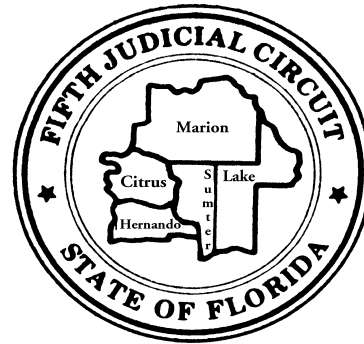


Who is Eligible?

A defendant can only be accepted into the MCVTC as follows [generally stated]:

- must be a Eligible Veteran (EVD)
- EVD status must be established by a DD-214
- Suffering from a military service-related mental illness, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injury (TBI) , substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem.
- must have been arrested for, or charged with and/or sentenced on one or more crimes alleged to have been committed in Marion County.
- must be represented by an attorney.
- must meet **residency requirement** [generally 30 days in Marion County prior to application].
- must enter a guilty or no contest plea to each charge pending—sentencing may be deferred.
- must have ability to comprehend and conform to MCVTC program.

Participation in the MCVTC is optional and gives the qualified defendant an opportunity to become stabilized while starting to build a more successful life within our community.



Marion County Veteran's Treatment Court (MCVTC)

Marion County Judicial Center
110 NW First Avenue
Room 1-1057
Ocala, Florida 34475

Telephone: 352-401-6728
Fax: 352-401-8160
rlewis@circuit5.org
www.circuit5.org

The Marion County Veteran's Treatment Court does not discriminate against qualified applicants and on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, age, national origin, marital status, handicap (disability) or veteran status or as otherwise prohibited by federal, state or local law.

Marion County Veteran's Treatment Court (MCVTC)

A guide for Defendants



Our mission is to promote public safety while supporting eligible veterans and their families through a coordinated effort among veterans services, community services and the Court to leave no veteran behind.

What is the Marion County Veteran's Treatment Court?

The Marion County Veteran's Treatment Court [MCVTC] is a special division of the Marion County Court system. It is a Court-supervised program for those arrested in Marion County who have a mental illness and/or substance abuse, who need treatment and other services, and who choose to participate in the MCVTC instead of having their case proceed through the regular court process. The Marion County VTC is a problem - solving and hybrid court meaning it will handle misdemeanor cases, felony cases, cases in pre-trial diversion and cases in which sentences have been imposed.

There is a particularly high prevalence of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and Major Depressive Disorder among combat veterans. VTC's recognize the unique challenges facing veterans with PTSD and TBI and help link the veterans to services.

What do I have to do?

The VTC Team will prepare an individualized treatment plan for you based on an assessment of your needs for mental health, substance abuse and/or alcohol treatment, case management services, housing and employment. In order to participate in the MCVTC, you must agree to comply with your treatment plan.

How long will I be involved in the MCVTC?

Veteran's Treatment Court is a Three Phase program. The amount of time you actually spend in Veteran's Treatment Court is determined by your participation and by your progress. While you are participating in Veteran's Treatment Court, the Judge and the Veteran's Treatment Court Treatment Team will monitor your participation and progress in treatment and the program.

What's in it for me?

Opportunity: The MCVTC offers you a chance to avoid jail on your current charge and to move forward in your life. Remember that there are many people who make up the MCVTC Treatment Team and they all want to see you succeed. If you take advantage of the assistance offered, you can discover many ways to make a better life for yourself.

Services: The MCVTC will help you coordinate case management services, mental health treatment, and if your treatment plan calls for it, substance abuse or alcohol treatment and supported housing.

Recognition of progress: As you progress through the phases of your treatment plan, the MCVTC Judge will recognize your achievements and you will receive certificates or awards to acknowledge your accomplishments.

Outcome of Case ?

When you graduate from Veteran's Treatment Court, **your case may be dismissed, withhold of adjudication, and/or avoid jail time.**

What do I need to do to participate?

Be Honest: The Marion County Veteran's Treatment Court Treatment Team is here to help you in your recovery process. We recognize that recovery is not an easy path and we want to help you continue your progress around any obstacles that you may encounter. If you are not honest with the Team we will be unable to help you appropriately.

Waiver of Confidentiality

Consent: To participate in Veteran's Treatment Court you must sign a waiver of confidentiality among Veteran's Treatment Team members. This means that your doctor, social workers and other Team members are free to share amongst the members appropriate information about your treatment program and your progress.

If you are interested in participating in the Marion County Veteran's Treatment Court Program, notify your Attorney.