



WEST MICHIGAN REGIONAL VETERANS TREATMENT COURT PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK



Welcome and Introduction

Welcome to the West Michigan Regional Veterans Treatment Court. This handbook is designed to be an overview of what to expect as a participant in the West Michigan Regional Veterans Treatment Court (WMRVTC). It provides a basic outline of the program and is a resource to turn to for the many questions you may have as you move through the program.

As a participant of the West Michigan Regional Veterans Treatment Court you will be expected to follow the instructions given to you by Judge William Baillargeon and the WMRVTC Team. You will also be expected to follow all supervision and program rules and complete the treatment plan developed by you and your assigned treatment agency.

We encourage you to share this handbook with your family; significant other; and clean and sober friends, who are an important part of your recovery. They are also welcome to attend your scheduled court sessions with you.

If you have additional questions, please ask your supervision officer, treatment provider or your WMRVTC coordinator for more details.

History and Purpose

The West Michigan Regional Veterans Treatment Court program began in January 2014, and was developed to help participants achieve total abstinence from drugs and/or alcohol, be diverted from prison or jail, and to have a more satisfying law-abiding life. The West Michigan Regional 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 Regional West Michigan Regional Veterans Treatment Court program is voluntary on your part. You must want to participate in this program. The judge, case manager/coordinator, 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 Health Administration, Veterans Benefit Administration, veterans employment representatives, veterans service organizations, service officers, and other key team members, all dedicated to your recovery for a minimum of 18 months. **You will not be sent to prison or back to jail if you comply with the conditions of the program and graduate.** 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.**