



West Michigan Regional Veterans' Treatment Court Volunteer Mentor Program

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What is the West Michigan Regional Veterans' Treatment Court?

The West Michigan Regional Veterans' Treatment Court (WMRVTC) is one of the first regional veteran treatment courts (VTC). For service members who become involved in the Allegan or Van Buren County criminal justice system, this court will address the needs of those whose involvement stems from issues arising during their military service. Since the population of these respective counties does not create a volume of cases to justify a veterans' court in each, the court is established to provide the access to justice and assistance needed and deserved by these men and women that served our nation in the armed forces.

Volunteer Mentor Role Description

The role of the Volunteer Veteran Mentor is to act as a coach, a guide, a role model, an advocate, and a support for the individuals s/he is working with. The mentor is intended to encourage, guide, and support the mentee as s/he progresses through the court process. This will include listening to the concerns of the veteran and making general suggestions, assisting the veteran determine what their needs are, and acting as a support for the veteran at a time when they may feel alone in a way that only another veteran can understand.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Attend court sessions when scheduled (review sessions are every 1st and 3rd Friday of each month)
- Participate in and lead mentoring sessions with veterans when assigned by the Judge.
- Be supportive and understanding of the difficulties veterans face.
- Assist the veterans as much as possible to resolve their concerns around the court procedures as well as interactions with the Veteran's Administration system.
- Be supportive and helpful to the other mentors within the program.

Requirements:

- Be a veteran of one of the branches of the United States Military, including the Army, Marine Corp, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, or their corresponding Reserve or Guard branches
- Adhere to all of the WMRVTC policies and procedures
- Commit to program participation for a minimum of six months
- Complete the required training procedures
- Participate in additional trainings throughout time of service as may be required

Useful Links:

- www.justiceforvets.org
- <http://courts.mi.gov/administration/admin/op/problem-solving-courts/pages/veterans-treatment-court.aspx>