

Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court



LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND

GRIFFIN JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

NAME: _____

Table of Contents

- CONTACT INFORMATION 4
- WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION 5
 - HISTORY AND MISSION STATEMENT 5
 - TEAM ROLES..... 5
 - JUDGE’S ROLE 6
 - COORDINATOR’S ROLE..... 6
 - PROSECUTOR’S ROLE 6
 - DEFENSE ATTORNEY’S ROLE 7
 - CASE MANAGER’S ROLE 7
 - TREATMENT PROVIDER’S ROLE..... 7
 - PROBATION’S ROLE..... 7
 - LAW ENFORCEMENT’S ROLE 7
- DRUG SCREENING 8
 - POLICY AND PROCEDURES 8
 - INSTRUCTIONS FOR TEST DAY SYSTEM 9
 - DRUG SCREENING HOURS 9
 - TARDINESS/MISSED DRUG SCREENS 10
 - CREATININE VIOLATIONS 10
 - SUBSTITUTION OR ADULTERATION..... 10
 - POSITIVE DRUG SCREEN..... 10
 - ADMITTING TO USE 11
 - DENYING USE 11
 - ZERO TOLERANCE ALCOHOL POLICY..... 11
 - ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES/VAPE DEVICES 11
 - SUPPLEMENTS 11
 - OTHER SUBSTANCES THAT ARE PROHIBITED WHILE IN THE PROGRAM. 12
 - VOLATILE SUBSTANCES/ANESTHETICS-INHALANTS 12
 - MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) 13
 - RETURNING TO USE..... 13
 - MEDICATIONS..... 13
 - POLYSUBSTANCE OVERVIEW 13
 - MEDICATION GUIDE-OBTAINING PERMISSION FOR MEDICATIONS 14
 - PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION 14
- RULES & EXPECTATIONS 14
 - TREATMENT CENTER RULES 14
 - GROUP RULES 15
 - COURTROOM BEHAVIOR & ETIQUETTE 16
 - CONFIDENTIALITY 17

GENERAL PROGRAM GUIDELINES	17
MATERIALS	17
FINANCE	17
LEAVE REQUESTS	18
MEDICAL LEAVE	18
MATERNITY LEAVE.....	19
AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY PHONE	19
ALCOHOL ESTABLISHMENTS	19
NEW ARRESTS OR NEW CITATIONS.....	20
EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS	20
JOB SEARCH.....	20
RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS.....	21
HOME VISITS.....	21
INCENTIVES.....	21
SANCTIONS	22
TREATMENT RESPONSES	23
PROGRESSIVE SANCTIONS	24
FRATERNIZATION	24
RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT	25
TERMINATION FROM THE DUI/DRUG PROGRAM.....	25
EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS	25
ATTENDANCE	26
COMMUNITY SUPPORT MEETINGS.....	26
PHASE MOVES	27
VETERANS TREATMENT COURT TRACKS.....	27
EARLY INTERVENTION TRACK	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
EARLY INTERVENTION CURRICULUM	27
EARLY INTERVENTION FEES	28
DEPENDENCY TRACK.....	29
DEPENDENCY TRACK CURRICULUM	29
DEPENDENCY TRACK FEES.....	30
GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL TRACKS.....	30
COMMUNITY RESOURCES.....	31
ORIENTATION AND PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK AGREEMENT	34

Contact Information

This handbook belongs to:

My Case Manager is:

Probation Officer is:

My Mentor is:

Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court

Phone: (770) 716-4328

Fax: (770) 716-4859

1 Center Drive

Fayetteville, Georgia 30214

Emergency Cell Phone Number: (678) 628-9162

Drug Screening Line: (770) 741-2068

TAP Line: 404-329-2222

Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator (VJO): Thindwia Cabiness 404-747-2725

These are the only numbers that should be used to contact Veterans Treatment Court staff. Contacting a staff member on his/her personal phone is prohibited.

Welcome and Introduction

History and Mission Statement

If you are reading this handbook, you have been accepted into the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court. Welcome to the program. This handbook is designed to be an overview of what to expect as a participant in the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court. It provides a basic outline of the program and is an information resource to use as you move through the program.

State Court Judge Jason B. Thompson established the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) in July 2019. 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. 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.

We encourage you to share this handbook with your family, significant other, and clean and sober friends, since all are important members of your recovery team. They are also welcome to attend your scheduled court sessions to support you.

Mission Statement and Program Goals

It is the mission of the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court to identify and educate Veterans through accountability and treatment to strengthen our community in a collaborative environment.

Veterans Treatment Court Team Roles

Judge's Role

The Veterans Treatment Court Judge has knowledge of the impact of substance abuse on the court system, the lives of participants, and the entire community, and is, therefore, committed to the program mission and goals and works as a lead partner to ensure its success. One way the Judge leads is by assisting the Veterans Treatment Court Team in developing protocols and procedures for the Program. In the courtroom, the Judge develops a personal working relationship with participants while monitoring their progress. He has many responsibilities beyond Veterans Treatment Court, and his time is very limited. He is not your Case Manager, personal attorney, or legal advisor. Should you need to get information to the Judge, you and your family must go through your Case Manager. The Judge attends non-court status-review meetings to discuss possible candidates for the Program and to determine appropriate and effective sanctions for program violations, as well as incentives for continued compliance. Such determinations are made using knowledge of substance abuse disorder, return to use, and other factors, such as criminal history, gender, age, and culture that may impact a participant's success. A further role of the Veterans Treatment Court Judge is to advocate for the Program by creating community interest and support to develop partnerships and identify community resources to assist participants in their treatment for long-term success.

Coordinator's Role

The Coordinator provides program oversight for the day-to-day operations of Treatment Court. They serve as the primary administrator of all Veterans Treatment Court operations and processes determining case flow, treatment planning, referrals, placements, program budget, grants, and participant progress, while also providing professional guidance and support to the Veterans Treatment Court staff. The Coordinator maintains program integrity and is responsible for ensuring long-term sustainability by presenting the benefits of the Program to partnering organizations and community stakeholders.

Prosecutor's Role

Without the Prosecutor's cooperation, you could not be offered the opportunity to participate in the Treatment Court Program. While in the courtroom, the Prosecutor ensures that each eligible offender is referred to Veterans Treatment Court and presents each case to the Judge. The Prosecutor works with the Defense Attorney to facilitate a participant's entry into the Program. Outside the courtroom, the Prosecutor attends status review meetings and joins the other members of the Team to discuss possible candidates for the Program, as well as helps determine appropriate sanctions and incentives for current participants. Additionally, the Prosecutor educates peers, colleagues, and the judiciary on the effectiveness of treatment courts. During your participation in the program, it is not appropriate to seek legal counsel from the staff of the Prosecutor's office. Should you need to speak with the Prosecutor, you must make an appointment to do so as Program court sessions are not appropriate for these types of discussions.

Defense Attorney's Role

The Veterans Treatment Court Defense Attorney represents each participant in the Program in status review meetings and court sessions. His/Her role is to evaluate the participant's legal situation and ensure the offender's legal rights are protected. Additionally, the Defense Attorney effectively advises offenders on their legal rights, legal options, treatment options, program conditions, and sentencing outcomes while developing a relationship with the participant's that promotes the participant's long-term best interest. It is not appropriate to seek legal counsel from the Veterans Treatment Court Defense Attorney regarding matters unrelated to Veterans Treatment Court. The Defense Attorney also monitors participant progress and ensures the appropriate provision of treatment and other rehabilitative services. The Defense Attorney joins the Team in determining appropriate sanctions and incentives for current participants based on their program compliance. Like the Prosecutor, the Defense Attorney also assists in educating peers, colleagues, and the judiciary on the benefits of the Program.

Case Manager's Role

The Case Manager is responsible for the tracking of participant progress, data collection, data dissemination, and maintenance of all spreadsheets. They are your initial go-to person regarding address changes, employment updates, fee payments, and community service hours worked, leave requests, and all other non-counseling related matters.

Treatment Provider's Role

The treatment provider is responsible for providing oversight for treatment groups and individual counseling, as well as providing weekly participant progress reports to the Veterans Treatment Court Team. The treatment provider also attends and participates in status review meeting, revocation hearings, and court reviews. Additionally, the treatment provider makes recommendations for incentives and sanctions.

Probation's Role

Probation Services will provide a representative to be a liaison between the probation department and the Veterans Treatment Court Team. The probation officer attends status review meetings and court reviews, schedules revocation hearings, and participates in making recommendations for incentives and sanctions. The probation officer will meet with participants before and after court sessions as needed.

Law Enforcement's Role

Law Enforcement provides accountability for program participants through their attendance at status review meetings and court sessions and by conducting random searches of participants' homes and person. For many, this will be the first positive interaction with law enforcement representatives, and one of the Program's goals is to build positive rapport between the Sheriff's Office and participants.

Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Specialist's Role

The Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Specialist acts as a liaison between Veterans Treatment Court and the Department of Veteran Affairs to link participants to exceptional care. The VJO assists in the entry process by identifying the veteran's eligibility status for benefits, as well as any medical, physiological, and/or psychological history. The VJO also maintains active contact with the Veterans Treatment Court staff to ensure continuity of care.

Veteran Mentor Coordinator's Role

The Mentor Coordinator is essential in maintaining the success of the veteran mentor program. The Mentor Coordinator is responsible for recruiting prospective mentors, screening candidates, selecting veteran mentors, training the selected candidates, and educating them about Veterans Treatment Court. The Mentor Coordinator is also responsible for individual and group supervision, as well as scheduling mentors to be present during court proceedings. In addition, the Mentor Coordinator works with Veterans Treatment Court staff to schedule program activities.

Veteran Mentors

The mission of the Veterans Mentor Program is to ensure that every participant receives the services he/she needs. Mentors are fellow veterans who volunteer to provide this service to participants. The mentor program benefits the overall success of Veterans Treatment Court by helping participants navigate the Department of Veteran Affairs system, acting as allies, and by advocating on the participants behalf.

Drug Screening

Policy and Procedures

As a participant in an accountability court in Fayette County, you are required to report for random drug testing at the location designated by the program Coordinator. Screening is random and can be up to seven times per week in all phases.

Your treatment provider and/or probation officer may also test you at any time or location outside of the regular screening window. It is a requirement that a participant submit a drug screen upon request of any staff member, or it will be considered a missed screen for sanctioning purposes.

- Participants must report prior to the cut-off time of the drug screening hours. Participants must be punctual and prepared to submit a urine specimen during the specified screenings windows.
- Only one participant is allowed in the testing area at a time. A staff member must always accompany you during drug testing.
- You must make sure that your name, date, and program are on your specimen bottle.
- You must indicate an admission or denial of alcohol or drug use and grant permission for confirmation of results if appropriate. If you admit to a use, it is your responsibility to fill out the admission form prior to drug testing. Honesty is a crucial component for recovery and participation in the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court Program. Self-disclosure

of use will be considered by the Court when sanctions are imposed.

- You will not be allowed to leave the testing area or to drink excessive fluids until a specimen is provided.
- A staff member of the same sex must always witness the sample being given.
- You may not carry purses, coats, bags, etc. into the testing area. 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.
- The test cup must contain a minimum of 1/3 level to be adequate for testing.
- Cell phones are not allowed in the building.
- Avoid eating, drinking, or smoking 10 minutes prior to reporting to screen.
- Avoid eating large portions of protein or engaging in rigorous exercise prior to testing.
- Any evidence of tampering, altering, or substitutions of your drug screen may result in termination from the program.

If you are required to be in an environment (school, work, training, etc.) that exposes you to or requires that you use or handle hygiene or other products with a high alcohol content, it is your responsibility to let us know immediately.

Instructions for Daily Testing System

For the duration of your participation in the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court Program, you are required to check either by telephone or app **DAILY** to see if you must report for a drug test. Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court utilizes a computerized telephone and app-based system for informing participants on whether they need to report for a drug screen. Participants are required to access the system daily between the hours of 5:00am-8:00am.

The phone number for drug testing information is **770-741-2068**. Screening information can also be accessed via Reconnect. You will be provided your username and PIN for Reconnect during orientation. **If for any reason, you cannot access this information by phone/app, you MUST report to the lab during scheduled drug testing hours.** If you test when not scheduled, you will be charged a testing fee of \$35.

Drug Screening Hours

Monday – Friday **8:00 am – 10:00am and 3:00pm-5:00pm**

Saturday, Sunday, & Holidays **8:00 am – 10:00 am**

Holiday Drug Screening Schedule

- New Year's Day
- Martin Luther King Day
- Memorial Day
- Independence Day
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day

Tardiness/Missed Drug Screens

You must be punctual and prepared to submit a specimen during the specified testing hours. Participants who arrive late will not be allowed to test and it will be considered a missed screen for sanctioning purposes. No exceptions will be made for late arrivals; therefore, it is advised that participants plan and build in extra time for traffic, etc. If, for any reason, you miss a drug screen or cannot provide a specimen on a day you are required it will be considered a positive test and will result in a sanction. Additionally, you must report for a drug screen the very next screening day during the morning testing time. Failure to report during the next morning testing time will result in another missed screen for sanction purposes.

Creatinine Violations

A specimen is a creatinine violation if the creatinine level is below 19 mg/dL or above 400 mg/dL. Creatinine violations (not medically explained) shall be treated as positive drug screen. The most common way for participants to attempt to beat a drug screen is by flushing their system with fluids. Almost all the substances that claim to help you beat screens require this and that is why we require that YOU be responsible for providing a valid specimen. A specimen is considered dilute and invalid if the creatinine level is below 19 mg/dL. The best way to avoid a dilute specimen is to drink a minimal amount of ANY type of fluid (including, but not limited to water, coffee, tea, soda, sport, and energy drinks, etc...) just prior to submitting a specimen. The recommended guideline is a maximum of eight ounces of fluid every 30 minutes for at least two hours prior to the screen. If you have questions or concerns regarding dilution and/or fluid intake, please contact your Coordinator or Case Manager to discuss.

Substitution or Adulteration

Any participant who brings in urine to a drug screen or possesses or distributes urine with intent to provide to another participant to substitute in a drug screen will be sanctioned. Adulteration of a drug screen will not be tolerated. If proven, tampering with a drug screen, or providing a replacement sample will result in a probation revocation and will likely include significant jail time and possible termination from Veterans Treatment Court.

Positive Drug Screen

Any positive sample may be sent off to an outside toxicology lab for confirmation. It is your responsibility to limit your exposure to products and substances that contain ethyl alcohol. It is your responsibility to read product labels, to know what is contained in the products before consumption and to stop and inspect these products BEFORE you use them. Use of products containing ethyl alcohol will NOT be allowed as an excuse for a positive test result. In the event a single urine sample tests positive for more than one prohibited substance, the results shall be considered as a single positive drug screen.

Admitting to Use

Any time you use alcohol and/or drugs (including prescription and non-prescription medication) you have the option to request an Admit to Use Form prior to screening. Additionally, it is imperative that you indicate the names of drug(s) used and date of last use. It is NOT sufficient to write "RX on file". It is important we have a clear list of all medications to check for cross-reaction. Admitting to use will be taken into consideration in regards to sanctions.

Denying Use

If you fail to admit using at the time of drug screening will be considered positive with denial. You can request for confirmation; the sanction is held until the team receives the results. If the sample is sent out for confirmation and is confirmed positive, you may be sanctioned up to 7 days and subject to a fine of \$35. If the sample is sent out for confirmation and is confirmed negative, you will not be sanctioned.

Zero Tolerance Alcohol Policy

No alcohol use is acceptable while participating in Treatment Court. If you test positive for alcohol, we are not going to try to figure out why or what caused the positive screen, as it is alcohol...period. None should be in your system at any time. Avoid the use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Please note that even the purchasing of or the possession of any type of alcohol while in this Program will result in a sanction.

Please read all labels for contents before using or ingesting them and avoid the following alcohol-based products:

After-Shave Lotion	Extracts
Hair Tonics	Medical Alcohol
Mouthwash/Toothpaste	Perfumes
Sterno	Wood Alcohol

Electronic Cigarettes/Vape Devices

Absolutely no electronic cigarettes/vape devices (refillable or non-refillable), e-juice or vaping accessories are allowed to be used by Treatment Court participants at any time! These devices are sanctioned as **drug paraphernalia**.

Supplements

No use of dietary supplements, homeopathic substances, herbal products, sports nutrition powders or creatine products without permission from the Accountability Court team. Veterans Treatment Court discourages the use of energy drinks or highly caffeinated beverages. Participants are ultimately responsible for the substances introduced into their bodies and will be responsible for any drug testing issues.

Other substances that are prohibited while in the program.

Volatile Substances/Anesthetics-Inhalants

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

Hallucinogens

Butotenine (Dimethylserotomin)	DET (Diethyltryptamine)	"68"
DMT	Grass (Roach, Joint, Mary Jane)	Hashies
Hashish	LSD (Lysergic acid, Diethylamide, Acid)	Marijuana (Pot, THC)
Mescaline	Pailocybin	Peyote
Psilocin	"STP" or "DOM" (4-methyl-2, 5,	Demethoxyamphetamine)
Ibogaine	Red Dawn	Blue Dawn
Salvia	Tenuate	K2
Spice	All Synthetic THC Herbal Incense	
Kratom	Mitragyna Speciosa	

Stimulants

Benzadrine (Bennies, whites)	Cylert	Desbutal (greens)
Desoxyn	Dexadrine (Dexies, hearts)	Dexamyl
Dexaspan	Didrex	Eskatrol
Fastin	Ionamin	Methamphetamine (Speed, Meth, Desoxyn, Methadrine)
Preludin, Prelu-2	Thorazine	Midrin
Reglan	Bontril	Nardil
Phentermine	Bath Salts	Synthetic Stimulants
Tianeptine	Or any gas station drug	ZaZa

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

For those participating in the Medication Assisted Treatment program: Any missed MAT appointments or failure to provide UDS at the physician appointment will result in a 24-hour jail sanction to be served immediately in court.

Returning to Use

Returning to use is a possibility no matter how long you have been clean and sober. A lapse is the process of returning to the use of alcohol and/or drugs after quitting. Once in recovery, most alcoholics and addicts notice stressors, patterns, triggers, or warning signs that lead to returning to use. A lapse warning signs involve your behavior, thinking patterns, attitude, feelings, or a combination of all four.

Those that suffer from substance abuse disorder tend to see returning to use as “letting their guard down” or “an impulsive act”. However, this is not true. Stress, coping skills, or the lack thereof, addictive thinking, and criminal thinking all play a pivotal role in returning to use behavior. A lapse is the result of a chain of events that starts days, weeks, or months in advance of an actual return to use. Thus, it is imperative for you to develop a recovery maintenance plan to address factors surrounding returning to use and triggers.

Medications

Polysubstance Overview

As you will learn in the Veterans Treatment Court Program, polysubstance use is real. Many participants were already using more than one substance when you started Veterans Treatment Court but only had one “favorite” substance. You will find it quite easy to change from one mood-altering substance to another and continue to suffer from substance abuse disorder. As long as you continue to manipulate your mood with a substance rather than *new* thoughts and *new* activities, you will remain cross-addicted and actively ill.

There are many reasons that you may continue to feel the need to use a variety of substances. *Insomnia (sleeplessness)* may occur, and you may be tempted to return to using sleeping medications within a short period of time because of poorly developed abilities to get yourself to sleep. (these skills can be developed: warm milk, reading, meditation, relaxation techniques, etc)

Pain is the second most common reason and if you choose to use mood-altering analgesics (painkillers), especially any of the narcotic drugs (Lortab, Percocet, Darvocet, Darvon, etc.), you are extremely likely to return to your drug of choice eventually because this will short-circuit your ability to control impulsive action. You must be very cautious when you become physically ill, even with respiratory diseases (colds, flu, or pneumonia) because many of the drugs used to treat these conditions cause mood changes and decreased ability to control impulses. There are many compounds that will cause you to crave a drink/drug...watch out for cough syrups.

Medication Guide-Obtaining Permission for Medications

It is difficult to remember which drugs to avoid. In addition to this handbook, you will be provided a Medication Guide. The Medication Guide has been prepared for you so you know what you can take and what you must avoid. ***You must take responsibility for all 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 the Coordinator. Unless it is a life-threatening or emergency, any drugs not listed in the Medication Guide as “safe to use” requires prior approval from the Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator. All prescription medications must be reported.

Prescription Medication

If you need a prescription to be filled outside of the normal business hours, call the emergency phone line for prior approval, and your call will be returned as soon as possible. Upon entering the Veterans Treatment Court Program, new participants will be informed of the doctor notification form process during the initial orientation. Participants are provided a form to be signed by the doctor or his/her assistant. If a participant fails to submit a doctor notification form, each time they go to the emergency room, Quick Care, or hospital, they will be sanctioned according to the positive/missed sanctioning guidelines. It is not necessary to have a form signed each visit if the participant goes to his/her regular physician and Veterans Treatment Court staff has a form on file in his/her chart.

Rules & Expectations

Treatment Center Rules

All Veterans Treatment Court activities and locations are an extension of The Fayette County State Court. Your behavior should reflect that always. This includes the treatment facility, parking lot, all contracted treatment locations, community service sites, special events, and any other function associated with Veterans Treatment Court activity. All violations of program rules may result in sanctions and/or new criminal charges. The staff members of the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court are officers of the Court, and you are expected to follow their instructions.

1. No alcohol, drugs, weapons, or pocketknives will be brought to the facility.
2. Groups will begin on time! You must be punctual and will not be let in if you are late. All tardiness will result in sanctions. You must attend and participate in the full session to receive credit.
3. Confidentiality is a must. What is said here stays here! There will be stiff consequences for any violation to this rule.
4. Free expression of your thoughts and feelings is encouraged; however, violence, threats, or intimidation will not be tolerated.
5. Use of profanity is not acceptable.

6. Leave group only in an emergency after notifying a Veterans Treatment Court staff member.
7. Cell phones should be turned off during group and court. Cell phones are not permitted in the Treatment Facility/Probation Office.
8. Dress code: No tank tops, low-cut blouses which expose cleavage, see-through shirts, sleeveless shirts, sunglasses, or short shorts (shorts higher than six inches above your knee) are allowed. Clothing must cover all undergarments. No clothing advertising alcohol or drugs is permitted. Remove hats while inside the building.
9. Children are not allowed in the Treatment Facility/Probation Office.
10. No visitors are allowed. You will be notified of scheduled exceptions to this rule. This includes children and pets.
11. No littering in the parking lot or in the building. You must be responsible for assisting in maintaining the cleanliness of the building.
12. Destroying or defacing any treatment center property will lead to sanctions.

Group Rules

Participation is crucial to recovery. Your behavior may influence other member's recovery process in either positive or negative ways. Due to the importance of this, being consistently disrespectful and distracting from the group process will lead to sanctions.

1. Maintain the confidentiality of everyone in the group. This cannot be emphasized enough. You can tell anyone what you say or do in group but not what others say or do.
2. Be respectful and attentive to peers.
3. Speak one at a time and listen when peers are sharing. "Side conversations" are prohibited.
4. No threats or intimidation at any level will be tolerated.
5. Do not get up during group. Use the restroom prior to group. It is disruptive to the group process and disrespectful to get up when someone else is sharing.
6. Maintain eye-to-eye contact.
7. No cell phones are allowed in the treatment center. They will be confiscated by staff if they are used or ring/beep during group.
8. Always maintain appropriate attire and hygiene.
9. Use "I" language when talking. When referring to yourself use "I" and when talking to someone else say "you" or their name.

10. Keep nothing in your hands or lap during group other than required group materials.
11. Get your own chair out and put it back where it belongs. No leaning back on two legs of the chair.
12. No food, gum, or drinks allowed in the group room.

Virtual Group Rules

All group rules listed above apply to virtual groups as well. Additional virtual group rules are as follows, and failure to comply will lead to sanctions.

1. You must be in a confidential setting, free from distractions and interruptions.
2. No driving or moving locations during session. This includes no walking around.
3. No laying in bed
4. Your face must be on the screen at all times, along with your background visible to the group leader. No distracting graphics as a background.
5. No TV or other noise in the background.

Courtroom Behavior & Etiquette

Your attendance in court is a critical requirement of your participation in the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court. Your behavior from the time you leave your automobile until you arrive in the courtroom should reflect positively on yourself and the Program. Your attire should not include short shorts/skirts/dresses, tank tops, halter tops, hats, sunglasses, see-through clothing, or excessive baggy clothing. You should not wear clothes displaying offensive language or advertising alcohol or other drugs. Additionally, loud, and boisterous behavior is unacceptable. Congregating in groups on the courthouse steps, lobby, or in the hallways is also unacceptable. When addressing the Judge, you should stand and respond respectfully. For example, “yes” and “no” or “yes, ma’am” and “no, sir” are appropriate responses. Speak clearly and directly to the Judge and remain in front of the Bench until the Judge dismisses you. If you receive a sanction for a program violation, you must stay until the end of court and remain seated until dismissed by the Judge. Failure to report for your scheduled court review session may result in a warrant being issued for your arrest.

General Courtroom Rules:

- 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, curse, or chew gum.

Confidentiality

The Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court has developed policies and procedures to guard your privacy. To participate in this treatment program, you will be required to sign Release of Information forms, which will include Consent for Disclosure of Confidential Substance Abuse Information for your treatment providers and the Judiciary. This disclosure of information is for the sole purpose of hearings and reports concerning your Veterans Treatment Court case and for collaboration with other providers regarding your treatment.

Confidentiality in Staffing: As described earlier in this handbook, the Fayette County 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 the details of 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 the program.

Confidentiality in Court: Please remember that the courtroom is a public place. Every effort will be made to limit discussion of treatment information during court sessions; however, there are times during proceedings that certain information may be submitted as evidence if a formal review or revocation hearing is being conducted.

Confidentiality in Treatment: Confidentiality also 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 everything shared in group is not mentioned outside the group. Therefore, to avoid hurting fellow group members, do not talk about what happened in group, whether in the coffee area/lounge, in other therapy sessions, or anywhere else. Also, by “gossiping” outside of group, a group member is deprived of comments and perspectives which could help him or her grow. So don’t gossip!

General Program Guidelines

Materials

During your participation in the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court, you will be required to purchase \$150.00 worth of substance abuse related materials and/or literature. It will be your responsibility to bring this material to treatment as required. All materials will be billed to your account. If you lose any of the workbooks that you are provided, you will be charged a \$25 replacement fee.

Finance

Throughout your attendance in the Veterans Treatment Court Program, you are required to contribute financially through program fees. Payment must be made with a money order made out to the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court Program. All payments must be received the first of the month to avoid possible community service sanctions. A receipt for your payment will be held in your electronic participant file. Additionally, as noted under Drug Screens, a fee will be

charged to your account if you deny use and your urine sample is confirmed positive by the lab. There will also be a fee charged for curfew and residence violations due to the personnel and mileage costs incurred by law enforcement officers. If you are having difficulty meeting your financial obligations to Veterans Treatment Court or if you are required to make payments for other obligations, such as probation fines, court costs, and child support payments, please see your Case Manager to be placed on a temporary payment plan. If your account balance is above \$500, you will be placed on a Fees Contract, which will require weekly payments. Failure to comply with the Fees Contract may result in progressive sanctions.

Leave Requests

Only legitimate requests will be considered at the discretion of the Accountability Courts Team. Each participant is allowed to request two non-emergency leaves while in the program under the following guidelines:

- A leave may not extend longer than five days at a time.
- Request must be submitted in writing 2 weeks in advance of leave.
- Requests must be at least 90 days apart.
- Participant must be in Phase 2 or higher.
- Participant must present written plan for makeup of any missed treatment and/or self-help meetings.

If your leave request is approved, you are required to discuss drug testing requirements with the Coordinator and/or Case Manager. You will be required to submit a urine drug screen before and submit to a comprehensive drug screen at your expense, upon your return. Leave request for work will be approved on a case-by-case basis. If you are approved to travel for work purposes, that time will be deducted from your standard leave of 10 days and must adhere to the standard leave request policy.

Medical Leave

A participant may be placed on medical leave if they provide medical documentation showing proof that they will be temporarily unable to fully participate in the Program due to medical reasons. During medical leave/maternity/paternity leave, participants' progress in the program stops. A participant must submit appropriate medical documentation and sign releases of information waivers with Treatment Court Staff and his/her doctor's office before medical leave is granted. The participant will need to provide a negative drug screen and provide documentation that they have been released from a doctor's care before they will be eligible to return to treatment.

It is presumed that medical leave will not last more than 60 days. Treatment Court Staff reviews medical leave status every week. If the condition is not improving, the Treatment Court Team may grant an extension if longer than 60 days on medical leave is needed. Exceptions to this policy may be granted for specific conditions such as communicable diseases, physical disabilities, etc.

While on approved medical leave:

- All medical leave participants must screen when as usual (unless other arrangements have been approved through the Case Manager).
- All medical leave participants must be at their residence for 8 pm curfew.
- All medical leave participants will comply with Rx pill counts by Community Policing officers. All medical leave participants will have someone else drive them if Rx prohibits driving.
- All medical leave participants must bring in all refill prescriptions before getting them filled.

Maternity/Paternity Leave

Two weeks of maternity/paternity leave is granted for women who give birth/partners give birth while in the Veterans Treatment Court Program. The two weeks starts from the date of hospital discharge. Although rare, additional maternity leave may be granted on a case-by-case basis due to certain medical circumstances; therefore, it's important to discuss maternity leave with the Coordinator at least six weeks before your scheduled due date.

After-Hours Emergency Phone

Should you need to contact Treatment Court Staff outside of the Monday – Friday business hours of 8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., you can call the after-hours emergency phone line under the following situations:

- To get approval for prescription medications
- To report personal medical emergencies (after business hours only!)
- To report family emergencies that require permission to travel (A family emergency in this case is defined as hospitalization, critical care, or death of a spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandparent, or in-law only.)
- To report issues with court orders to be released from jail on the weekends when no court order is showing on file at the Sheriff's Office
- To report termination from a residential treatment facility
- To report emergencies that requires curfew extensions or approval to temporarily stay at an alternate residence.

If someone calls the after-hours line on your behalf, it will be treated as though you called the line. An appropriate sanction will be given at the Team's discretion for misusing this phone number. Leave your name and call-back number on the voicemail and your call will be returned as soon as possible, if appropriate.

Emergency On-Call Phone: 678-628-9162

Alcohol Establishments

Program participants shall not enter nor frequent bars or any other business where primary purpose in sales is alcoholic beverages.

New Arrests or New Citations

If you receive a new charge or citation or have contact with law enforcement, excluding home visits, you must report the new offense to your probation officer and/or Coordinator within 24 business hours. Leave a voicemail message, if necessary.

Although all new charges are taken seriously by the Veterans Treatment Court Team, driving on a Suspended License, DUIs, drug charges, and charges of a violent nature are significant matters of concern. This is the exact type of behavior the Veterans Treatment Court Program is attempting to address and correct; therefore, these types of offenses will likely result in a jail sanction.

Employment Requirements

You are required to maintain full-time employment (a minimum of 32 documented hours per week) while in the program. You may also be considered as a full-time student (12 credit hours per semester) and that will fulfill your employment requirements. If you are short on weekly hours, you are required to complete community service work to supplement the missing hours and this must be completed within the same week. If you are not employed at least 32+ hours per week, you are required to meet with your Case Manager one time per week for a job search after 14 days of independent job search. You must remain on Job Search until you provide proof of suitable employment on employing company letterhead. You are responsible for reporting within 24 hours to your Coordinator/Case Manager if you lose your job and need to be placed on Job Search. Failure to do so will result in a sanction. If you are not working, you must complete 32 hours of community service work weekly until employed.

Proof of hours worked will be verified by your check stub or payroll check with your working hours listed. No handwritten hours will be accepted without team approval. Working at an establishment that sells alcoholic beverages will be reviewed on a case by case basis. You are also not allowed to work for any family members or other Veterans Treatment Court participants. If you wish to work for family or another Veterans Treatment Court participant, you must submit a written proposal to your Case Manager. All self-employed participants must provide either a business license, business checking account, tax forms, and copies of checks received for services.

Job Search

If you are not employed at least 32+ hours per week, you are required to meet with your Case Manager one time per week for job search after 14 days of independent job search. Participants will have 2 weeks to provide proof of employment to their Case Manager. If the participant has not verified employment within 2 weeks, then they will be required to report to weekly job search until gainfully employed, but not to exceed 60 days. If participants still have not obtained employment by the end of the 60 days job search period, then they will be required to have a probation revocation hearing to determine program eligibility. You must remain on Job Search until you provide proof of suitable employment on employing company letterhead. It is your responsibility to report immediately to your Case Manager if you lose your job and need to be placed on Job Search. Failure to do so will result in a sanction.

Residence Requirements

Upon entering the Program, you are expected to have a Fayette/Pike County residence. If you do not live in Fayette/Pike County, you have 60 days to move into the County before receiving a sanction. You are also not allowed to live with any convicted felons or any other participants in the Veterans Treatment Court program. You may not possess any alcohol, drugs, drug paraphernalia (rolling papers, scales, etc.), weapons/firearms, or vape/vape materials in the home. You may not possess any security cameras or have any aggressive animals on your property. It is your responsibility to notify your Case Manager if there are any prescription medications belonging to someone else in the home. Failure to notify your Case Manager will result in a sanction. If you change your residence, you must notify your Case Manager within 24 hours, or you will receive a sanction. You must be home by your current phase curfew unless you have submitted an approved curfew extension. Please be advised that your person, residence, or vehicle is subject to search at any time by Community Policing officers. You must contact your Case Manager immediately if you have any curfew or residence violations. Honesty regarding violation of curfew will be considered for sanctioning purposes. Curfew Extensions must be submitted a week in advance to be approved. Curfew Extensions will only be considered for work schedules or outside Recovery Capital meetings. It is your responsibility to keep Veterans Treatment Court staff updated to any changes made to your residence or employment. You must also always provide staff with a working phone number. Failure to inform staff of any changes within 24 hours will result in a sanction. If CPT cannot establish your residence or you have multiple missed home visits, you can be placed on a temporary curfew until residence is verified.

Home Visits

You are subject to home visits throughout the Program by local Sheriff's Office employees. If your residence is gated, you must provide the Veterans Treatment Court Staff and Community Policing officers a key or gate code for entry. Should you be found to possess any illegal substance or drug paraphernalia, you may be sanctioned to jail time, unless law enforcement chooses to charge you with a new drug offense. Home visit violations will result in a \$40 fee to cover the cost of community policing.

Incentives

Program compliance and good behavior will be recognized by the Judge as an incentive to continue your recovery. The program's desire is to focus on the progress you are making in your recovery. The staff will attempt to be consistent and creative in recognizing your good behavior. Your input into additional ways that we can motivate you is very welcome and should be shared with your counselor.

Some incentives for participating in the Veterans Treatment Court Program are as follows:

- Participation in the Veterans Treatment Court Program may result in less jail time than if your case remained on the regular criminal calendar.
- A reduction in the number of sentenced community service hours
- A fine credit upon graduation

Some examples of incentives used in court session:

- Star Award
- Positive Incentive
- Zero Balance group

Risk Reduction/DUI School

If a participant is required to complete the Alcohol Risk Reduction/DUI School, they will receive credit for **50 hours of community service** with submission of the certificate to the participant's Case Manager and Court Coordinator. Alcohol Risk Reduction/DUI School completed prior to Phase 3, will qualify for a financial incentive. If applicable, Alcohol Risk Reduction/DUI School is to be completed prior to Phase 4

Victim Impact Panel

If a participant is required to complete the Victim Impact Panel, they will receive credit for **10 hours of community service** upon completion of the Panel.

Ignition Interlock Installation

50 hours of community service credit will be awarded upon the completed installation of the Ignition Interlock Device and proof of that installation has been shown to the Veterans Treatment Court.

Full License Reinstatement

Once the six (6) month temporary Interlock permit expires and a participant receives full license privileges from the Department of Driver's Services, they must bring a copy of their driver's license and documentation of interlock removal to the Veterans Treatment Court Office. Upon receipt of all documentation, **50 hours of community service credit** will be awarded.

Sanctions

Sanctions are consequences that are imposed by the Court for failure to follow the rules of the court, treatment agency, housing agency, and when participants return to use, violate the law. 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, or failure to follow treatment requirements. The 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, or possibly even program termination.

If jail time is required for your program violations, you must make sure that childcare is not an issue. Furthermore, please bring all current medications with you when you come to court. Vehicles are not to be left unattended while you are incarcerated. If you receive a sanction in court,

you are required to stay until dismissed by the Judge. If you are scheduled to drug test on a court day, and you are aware that you will be receiving a jail sanction, you are required to screen before court. Failure to do so will result in a missed screen and you will be sanctioned accordingly.

Participants are required to notify staff of ANY contact with law enforcement. If you receive a traffic citation, you must notify your Coordinator/Case Manger immediately and will receive a sanction during your court review. Failure to notify staff within 24 hours of contact will result in additional sanctions.

Admonishments can be used to avoid jail time for your first drug screening violation (does not apply to positive screens with denial), first curfew/residence violation, and first missed treatment session. Admonishments are forfeited if a participant goes AWOL.

Community Service Work (CSW) will be performed only at court-approved non-profit organizations. Your punctuality, attitude, appearance, and performance at your designated work site will be considered as a direct reflection of the Program and the Court. The highest standards of behavior are expected. All documented hours of completed community service are due by date and time indicated on your sanction receipt. Failure to report for community service will result in doubling the sanction and/or a jail sanction.

Any attempt to deceive the court by forging documentation and turning it in to the Court is completely unacceptable and will result in a felony forgery charge, 30-day jail sanction, and/or termination from the Program.

The goal, of course, is to not have any sanctions and the best way to go about achieving that goal is to pay attention to the program rules and expectations from the start. You will find that those participants who attempt to “play games” with the Program will eventually lose and losing has severe consequences in Treatment Court. Therefore it is far better to learn how to be successful rather than how much you can get away with. We hope that you will choose to embrace a new route of achievement and success.

Treatment Responses

Treatment responses are designed to target specific maladaptive behavior. It is possible to receive a sanction and a treatment response for non-compliant behavior. Sanctions are punitive consequences for non-compliant behavior. Treatment responses are designed to assist you in addressing the underlying reasons you are continuing to make poor choices.

Treatment responses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Intensive Outpatient Treatment, possibly at your expense
- Behavior specific treatment (for example, domestic violence or anger management classes, etc.) at your expense
- Increased drug screening, possibly at your expense
- Additional treatment assignments and/or groups
- Additional individual counseling, possibly at your expense
- Repeat of MRT Steps

- Increased Recovery Capital/Self-Help Meetings
- Other treatment responses deemed appropriate and approved by the Veterans Treatment Court team.

Progressive Sanctions

Beginning the Thursday following each participant's target date to transfer phases, there will be a 2-week grace period to complete any outstanding requirements. After that point, progressive sanctions will be imposed for the following 5 weeks.

- Week 1 will result in 8 hours of community service.
- Week 2 is 16 hours of community service.
- Week 3 is 8 hours in jail.
- Week 4 is 16 hours in jail.
- Week 5 is final one week grace period.

Participants are then given two weeks to make necessary progress. If requirements are not met, your continuance in the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court Program could be terminated.

Fraternization

It is commonly recommended in the recovery community to avoid romantic relationships for the first year of recovery. It is during this time that the primary focus should be learning about yourself, your emotions, and your own personal recovery journey. However, we understand that relationships and deeper connections have the potential to form between participants in treatment.

One mission of the program is to support healthy relationships among participants, including romantic ones, should the proper permissions be given by staff. Failure to receive permission to engage in a romantic relationship with another participant will result in increased sanctions, such as a transfer to an alternate Veterans Treatment Court, residential treatment, or termination from the program.

If a participant in Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court wishes to enter a romantic relationship with another participant of Veterans Treatment Court or any other Griffin Judicial Circuit Accountability Court, they must agree to the following conditions:

Participant must notify Case Manager or Coordinator prior to entering relationship. Participants agree to attend separate self-help groups in the community.

Both parties agree the general Release of Information covers communication between the various programs and that counselors will interact with one another to discuss any issues related to the relationship. (Ex. Veterans Treatment Court Case Manager will notify the Drug Treatment Court Case Manager if the Veterans Treatment Court participant in the relationship is in violation of the program, engaging in dangerous behaviors, etc.)

Participant may be required to attend additional counseling depending on relationship history or individual treatment circumstances. The additional counseling may be referred to an outside agency and will be a requirement of treatment plan.

Participants will not be allowed to complete community service or other sanctions together. Participants must attend a family planning appointment to receive education in sexual and reproductive health (i.e., Health Department or another approved agency).

Please be advised that, if at any time, Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court staff have reason to believe the romantic relationship is having a negative impact on the recovery of the two individuals or the program, the participants' relationship will no longer be approved. In other words, "NO DRAMA!" It is our hope that this new Fraternization Policy will encourage honesty and promote healthy behaviors in relationships.

Residential Treatment

If you have been ordered to go to a residential treatment facility, it is expected that you will successfully complete that program. If you are terminated from a residential treatment facility, you are to contact your Case Manager as soon as possible and report to the drug screening lab for a drug screen during the next available screening opportunity. If termination occurs after business hours, call the after-hours emergency phone line, and speak with the Staff person who is on-call. Failure to immediately contact Staff upon termination from the residential facility will result in a warrant issued for your arrest. If you are terminated from residential treatment, it is expected that you will pay off that outstanding balance before you will be eligible to enter another residential treatment program.

Termination from the Veterans Treatment Court Program

The Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court Program is committed to giving participants the opportunity to learn to become alcohol and drug free. However, continued participation in the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court Program is contingent upon compliance with ALL program guidelines and regulations. Non-compliance includes, but is not limited to:

1. Your inability to remain clean and sober.
2. Chronic failure to attend and participate in groups.
3. Threats or violence against peers or staff
4. Altering or tampering with drug screens
5. Obtaining a new DUI charge
6. An accumulation of program violations
7. Chronic failure to pay program fees.
8. Continued non-compliance to program guidelines.

We want every participant to succeed, and we consider termination the last resort. Our goal is to help you obtain and maintain a healthy lifestyle. However, we also understand that not everyone who enters the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court Program is capable of and/or committed to achieving sobriety. Our resources are limited, and the Court may determine that termination from the Program is necessary.

Educational Requirements

Recovery from substance use disorder means developing self-sufficiency and becoming a productive and responsible member of the community. As you progress through the Veterans

Treatment 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 circumstances. Examples of solutions are job training, going back to school or GED, college, or technical school degree, developing a budget, learning the bus schedule, getting a driver's license, or buying a car. All graduates will be required to provide proof of a GED, High School Diploma, or Higher Education before moving to Phase 4. For participants who are concerned they will be unable to obtain GED prior to graduation: Prior to moving to Phase 4, you must have taken the GED Pre-Test. Upon entry into Phase 4, you must provide proof of attending GED classes for 2 hours per week for a total of 6 months. If you have not obtained your GED following 6 months of effort, the Team will consider your graduation eligibility.

Attendance

As a participant in the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court, you are required to attend all meetings as assigned. You are responsible for your own transportation and will appear **ON TIME** for all requirements. Lack of transportation is **NOT** an acceptable excuse to miss or be late to any Program related requirements. Late or failure to attend group and individual counseling, court sessions, assigned community service hours, etc. will result in sanctions. If you arrive late, you will not be allowed in. Special requests to be excused from meetings must be approved by your Coordinator/Case Manager and/or the Veterans Treatment Court Team in advance of those requested dates. Disrespectful and rude behavior is not tolerated. If you are presenting as disrespectful you will be asked to leave and it will count as an unexcused missed.

Certain groups require homework. You will be expected to complete your assigned homework and submit at the beginning of the next session. Failure to complete assigned homework disrupts the progress of the group and will result in sanctions. If you miss a required treatment session, it is your responsibility to meet with your counselor within one week to make-up the session. If you fail/forget to get your completed group session signed, you will not receive credit for it.

All Phases are required to attend Veterans Treatment Court graduations.

Recovery Capital Meetings

You are required to attend 2 recovery capital meetings (on separate days) per week, in addition to your scheduled treatment groups. Weeks run from Monday-Sunday and these can be virtually or in person. Examples of these meetings are NA, AA, Celebrate Recovery, SMART Recovery, and religious meetings; additional options with prior approval by the Coordinator/Case Manager include education classes and volunteer work at a local 501(3)C. If you would like to attend a recovery capital meeting that is not listed above, please submit a well-written proposal as to why this event would benefit your recovery. You are required to obtain signatures from the group discussion leader for each meeting, and you must document these signatures on a meeting sheet. Virtual meetings require the website and name of meeting on the signature line. Your meeting sheets are due each Monday by 5:00 p.m. Failure to submit your required meetings will result in

sanctions, such as the meetings being doubled or being required to log a meeting per day for certain period designated by the Team.

Phase Moves

At the beginning of each phase, participants must meet with their Counselor to develop treatment goals for that phase. Prior to their scheduled phase progression date, participants must update their treatment plan with their Counselor and establish goals for the next phase. Participants will complete a phase up request form with their Counselor and turn it into the Case Manager a min. 2 weeks prior to phase up. Participants are not eligible for phase up for 2 weeks following approval of the phase up request.

Veterans Treatment Court Tracks

Veterans Treatment Court is a **minimum** 18-month program consisting of 5 Phases:

Phase 1: Orientation/Treatment Plan Development (minimum of 3 months)

Phase 2: Early Recovery- Introduction & Acceptance (minimum of 4 months)

Phase 3: Active Recovery – Establishing & Achieving Goals (minimum of 4 months)

Phase 4: Sustaining Recovery – Solidifying Achievements (minimum of 4 months)

Phase 5: A New Beginning – Preparing for Graduation (minimum of 3 months)

Early Intervention Track

A. Phase 1 – min of 3 months

- a. Daily Curfew from 9pm – 5am
- b. Compliance with mentor program
- c. Attend a minimum of one therapeutic group session per week for 2 hours.
- d. Attend weekly individual counseling sessions per month.
- e. Complete a Biopsychosocial assessment within the first 14 days.
- f. Develop an individual treatment plan within the first 30 days.
- g. Complete an LS/CMI within the first 14 days.
- h. Complete a mental health assessment and follow all recommended treatment.
- i. Medication management as outlined by staff to include pill counts.
- j. Establish rapport with mentor and meet as required.
- k. Court appearances twice per month
- l. Check-in with Case manager weekly for 60 days
- m. Meet with VJO within 60 days.

B. Phase 2 – min of 4 months

- a. Daily Curfew from 10pm-5am
- b. Court appearances twice per month
- c. Compliance with mentor program
- d. Attend a minimum of one therapeutic group session per week for hours 2 hours.
- e. Attend bi-weekly individual counseling sessions per month.
- f. Review and update treatment plan prior to phase move date
- g. Medication management as outlined by staff to include pill counts.

C. Phase 3 – min of 4 months

- a. Daily Curfew of 11pm – 5am
- b. Court appearances one time per month
- c. Compliance with mentor program
- d. Attend one individual counseling session per month.
- e. Medication management as outlined by staff to include pill counts.

D. Phase 4 – min of 4 months

- a. Daily Curfew of 12am-5am
- b. Court appearances one time per month
- c. Compliance with mentor program
- d. Attend one individual counseling session per month.
- e. Attend one therapeutic group session as required.
- f. Medication management as outlined by staff to include pill counts.

E. Phase 5 – min of 3 months

- a. No curfew
- b. Court appearances one time per month
- c. Medication management as outlined by staff to include pill counts.
- d. Compliance with mentor program
- e. Attend one individual counseling session per month.
- f. Attend one therapeutic group session per month.
- g. Complete request for graduation packet
- h. Develop a continuum of care plan prior to graduation.
- i. Complete an LS/CMI prior to graduation.

Early Intervention Curriculum

Early Intervention Track curriculum can include Seeking Safety, Trauma Recovery Empowerment Model (TREM), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT) and Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) may be assigned based on individual treatment needs. It is your responsibility to maintain your group signature sheets to receive credit for your groups. If you miss a group session, you must meet your counselor individually to get caught up on the material.

Early Intervention Fees

You will be charged \$80 per week and a one-time charge of \$150.00 will cover your curriculum books and materials. The \$150.00 is charged upon orientation along with any pro-rated fees accrued for your first month of treatment.

Failure to keep your account under \$500 will result in community service until your account is caught up (\$500 or less). Community service hours will continue to accrue until your balance is below \$500. It is expected that your account will be paid in full monthly. If your fees are in arrearage, it is your responsibility to attend every court session.

Not moving phases on time for non-compliance with the program can result in additional monthly billing. The chronic inability to meet your financial obligations will hinder your ability to move successfully through the Program in a timely fashion. This behavior can result in progressive

sanctions and eventual termination. If you cannot meet your financial obligations, it is your responsibility to discuss your situation with your Case Manager and develop a solution.

Dependency Track

A. Phase 1 – min of 3 months

- a. Daily curfew from 9pm-5am
- b. Court appearances twice per month
- c. Attend a minimum of two therapeutic group session per week for 2 hours.
- d. Attend two community support meetings per week.
- e. Attend weekly individual counseling sessions per month.
- f. Complete a mental health assessment and follow all recommended treatment.
- g. Medication management as outlined by staff to include pill counts.
- h. Complete a Biopsychosocial assessment within the first 14 days.
- i. Develop an individual treatment plan within the first 30 days.
- j. Complete an LS/CMI within the first 14 days.
- k. Check-in with Case manager weekly for 60 days
- l. Meet with VJO within 60 days.
- m. Establish rapport with mentor and meet as required.

B. Phase 2 – min of 4 months

- a. Daily curfew from 10pm-5am
- b. Court appearances twice per month
- c. Attend a minimum of two therapeutic group session per week for hours 2 hours.
- d. Attend two community support meetings per week.
- e. Attend bi-weekly individual counseling sessions per month.
- f. Review and update treatment plan prior to phase move date
- g. Medication management as outlined by staff to include pill counts.
- h. Meet with mentor as required.

C. Phase 3 – min of 4 months

- a. Daily curfew from 11pm-5am
- b. Court appearances twice per month
- c. Attend a minimum of one therapeutic treatment group per week for 2 hours.
- d. Attend two community support meetings per week.
- e. Attend one individual counseling session per month.
- f. Medication management as outlined by staff to include pill counts.
- g. Meet with mentor as required.

D. Phase 4 – min of 4 months

- a. Daily curfew of 12am-5am
- b. Court appearances twice per month
- c. Attend two community support meetings per week.
- d. Attend one individual counseling session monthly.
- e. Attend one therapeutic group session as directed.
- f. Meet with mentor as directed.
- g. Medication management as outlined by staff to include pill counts.
- h. Develop a continuum of care plan prior to phase move date.

E. Phase 5 – min of 3 months

- a. Daily curfew of 12am-5am
- b. Court appearances one time per month
- c. Attend two community support meetings per week.
- d. Attend individual counseling session as needed.
- e. Meet with mentor as directed.
- f. Medication management as outlined by staff to include pill counts.
- g. Develop a continuum of care plan prior to graduation.
- h. Complete an LS/CMI prior to graduation.

F. Complete a request for graduation Dependency Track Curriculum

Dependency Track Curriculum

Dependency Track curriculum includes DBT-12 Step, Criminal and Addictive Thinking, Seeking Safety, Matrix, and Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT). It is your responsibility to maintain your group signature sheets to receive credit for your groups. If you miss a group session, you must meet your counselor individually to get caught up on the material.

Dependency Track Fees

You will be charged \$80 per week and a one-time administration \$150.00 will cover your curriculum books and materials. The \$150.00 is charged upon orientation along with any pro-rated fees accrued for your first month of treatment.

Failure to keep your account under \$500 will result in community service until your account is caught up (\$500 or less). Community service hours will continue to accrue until your balance is below \$500. It is expected that your account will be paid in full monthly. If your fees are in arrearage, it is your responsibility to attend every court session.

Not moving phases on time for non-compliance with the program can result in additional monthly billing. The chronic inability to meet your financial obligations will hinder your ability to move successfully through the Program in a timely fashion. This behavior can result in progressive sanctions and eventual termination. If you cannot meet your financial obligations, it is your responsibility to discuss your situation with your Case Manager and develop a solution.

Graduation Requirements for All Tracks

Upon completion of Phase 4, you will be eligible for Commencement. This process will be facilitated by the Prosecutor's office and will be granted by the Veterans Treatment Court Judge. We are all looking forward to this event.

To graduate from the Veterans Treatment Court Program, participants must have no positive screens for at least 3 months prior to their graduation date, no jail sanctions for at least 3 months prior to their graduation date and be employed fulltime. You will also need to provide proof of a GED/diploma before you will be eligible to graduate. Additionally, participants will be required to complete a request for graduation packet and complete an exit interview.

Our hope is that you will have established a healthy and productive lifestyle. Remember, your recovery is an ongoing process. At this point in your treatment, you will have made a very strong beginning to this lifelong endeavor and are invited to continue as a mentor for those starting out in the Veterans Treatment Court Program. This is a way for you to maintain contact with us and remember what it was like for you when you first entered the program. You may be very surprised by the progress you have made during your time here.

Community Resources

Fayette County is very fortunate to have a strong recovery community. The following is a list of local resources.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT CONTACT INFORMATION

Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator..... 770-716-4328
Judicial Correction Services, Inc. (Probation) 770-716-0434

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Alcoholics Anonymous of Georgia404-525-3178
Cocaine Anonymous 404-255-7787
Drug Helpline 1-800-378-4435
Alcohol AA Treatment Center 24-Hour Help1-800-950-7226
Narcotics Anonymous Atlanta 404-362-8484

CRISIS

HELP LINE 770-534-0617
GEORGIA COUNSEL ON CHILD ABUSE 1-800-532-3208
RAPE RESPONSE..... 770-503-7273

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS CENTRAL OFFICE

Provides referrals for those in need of AA assistance 404- 525-3178
127 Peachtree St. Suite 1310 fax 404-525-0047
Atlanta, GA 30303
<http://www.alcoholics-anonymous.org/index.cfm>

BASIC NEEDS

Adult Education (GED/ESL/Literacy)770-515-7601
Dept. of Drivers Services 1-866-754-3687

HOUSING AND SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES

Promise Place (Domestic Violence Shelter) 770-460-1604
Income Based Housing
www.lowincomehousing.us/cty/ga-Fayette
St Vincent De Paul (Temporary Assistance with Bills).....770-477-2388
HSD Helping the Needy (Georgia) www.homelesshelterdirectory.org
Real Life Center.....770-631-9334

HEALTH

Fayette County Health Department.....770-305-5416
Fayette Care Clinic..... 770-719-4620
Peachtree City Physicians Group..... 770-632-8909

EMPLOYMENT

Georgia Department of Labor www.dol.georgia.gov
A Better Way770-631-6202

Recovery Meetings

Fayette New Beginning Group
114 Hickory Road. Fayetteville, GA, 30214
Weekly Meeting Schedule
Saturday, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Tuesday, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Happy Hour East Lanier Avenue
170 East Lanier Avenue, Fayetteville, GA, 30214
Weekly Meeting Schedule
Friday, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

New Freedom Fayetteville
135 Antioch Road, Fayetteville, GA, 30214
Weekly Meeting Schedule
Friday, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Online Support Groups

<http://www.virtual-na.org>

<http://www.intherooms.com>

http://www.aa.org/pages/en_US/online-intergroup

<https://www.12step.org/social/online-meetings/>

<https://www.stepchat.com>

<https://www.smartrecovery.org>

Visit www.findrecovery.com or www.aa.org to find a local meeting.

Veteran's Pledge

I recognize that my sobriety and mental health must be my first priority, every day.

I will be honest with myself and others.

I will be accountable for my actions.

I will respect the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court team, county staff, volunteer mentors and all of the veterans including myself.

I will be willing to ask for help.

I will be willing to learn.

I will not give up.

I am a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States, and I will succeed.

Veteran's Signature/Date

Case Manager's Signature/Date

Orientation and Participant Handbook Agreement

I, _____, have, on this date, reviewed with the Fayette County State Veterans Treatment Court staff the contents of the Participant Handbook. I hereby attest that I understand the conditions set forth in my handbook. I further understand that it is my responsibility to familiarize myself with and remain current on all rules and updates to the Fayette County Veterans Treatment Court. If I have any questions about the program, it is my responsibility to discuss them with my Case Manager for clarification. I understand that I am responsible for my Participant Handbook for the duration of my program.

Name (Printed)

Signature

Date

Veterans Treatment Court Team Member

Date

Notes: