

Brevard County Veterans Treatment Court Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of Florida



Participant Handbook

Office Location:

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Table of Contents

Pg. 2	Table of Contents
Pg. 3	Mission Statement
Pg. 4	Introduction
Pg. 5	What Are Our Goals?
Pg. 6	Program Description
Pg. 7	Transfer from Criminal Court to VTC
Pg. 8	VTC Court Manager and VJO
Pg. 9	VTC Team Roles and Responsibilities
Pg. 10	Confidentiality
Pg. 11	Code of Ethics
Pg. 11	Program Components
Pg. 12	Treatment Plan
Pg. 13	Treatment Phases
Pg. 14	Program Rules
Pg. 15	Sanction Schedule
Pg. 16	Drug Screening
Pg. 17	What Goes Into Your Body
Pg. 18	Court Participation Exceptions and Travel
Pg. 19	Tips for Success!!
Pg. 20	Important Phone Numbers
Pg. 21	Participation Notes
Pg. 22	Acknowledgement Form

Mission Statement

To help men and women who have served, or are serving, in our armed forces, as a U.S. Department of Defense contractor, or former military member of a foreign allied country to reclaim their lives by providing access to mental health, substance abuse and other types of treatment as an alternative to traditional criminal prosecution. The program includes extensive supervision, monitoring and support to veterans while protecting public safety.

Introduction

Welcome to the Brevard County Veterans' Treatment Court. To succeed in this program, it is imperative that you understand the rules and the commitment you are making. This handbook will answer your questions and give you helpful information about Veterans Treatment Court (VTC). To enter VTC, the State Attorney's Office must first make a finding that you either suffer from a military service-related mental illness, traumatic brain injury, substance abuse disorder, or psychological problem, including Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and/or the experience Military Sexual Trauma, after consulting with the Veterans Administration. Once that determination is made by the State Attorney's Office, the next step is for the State to determine if you should be allowed to enter the program.

Remember, that VTC is a voluntary program, and you are not required to participate, however if you choose to participate you will be held to a high level of accountability.

As a participant in the VTC, you are expected to comply with all conditions of supervision that the Court orders. You will also be expected to follow all program rules and complete the individualized treatment plan developed by you and your treatment team. You will also be accountable for all the information in this handbook.

For pre-trial defendants, VTC aims to help veterans get back on their feet after their military service and avoid some of the serious consequences of criminal convictions, such as post-conviction difficulty, finding a job or a lengthy jail term. This handbook details what is expected of you as a Brevard County VTC participant and reviews the general guidelines of the program.

For post adjudicatory defendants, VTC provides treatment for people with a history of criminal conduct for which VTC could provide the treatment needed so that the defendant can live a more productive life without the involvement of the criminal justice system.

Please read this manual carefully and completely. If you have any questions or concerns, discuss them with your attorney or the VTC Team.

What Are Our Goals?

There are various services available in our community and through the Veterans Administration (VA) that can help you identify and address the underlying problems that led to your criminal charges. The goal of this court is to help you access the treatment and support you need to repair your life and resolve your criminal charges.

Military service can impact the lives of veterans and their families in countless ways. We want to help you repair any damaged relationships and build a positive support system. We are committed to your future and wish to arm you with the tools you need to effectively manage or resolve your problems.

Please review **every** section of this handbook and refer to it often. Use this handbook to take notes and record your questions. Ask every question that arises, so you fully understand the program. You are required to bring this handbook to every court date so you can be successful in the program.

VTC is designed to help you reestablish your place in the community as a productive and responsible citizen. In short, VTC offers you a second chance. The Judge, court staff, and the treatment team will guide and assist you, but ultimately the responsibility lies with you. You must be committed to a better life.

OUR GOAL FOR YOU— DEPARTURE FROM THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM WITH A FRESH START AND THE RESOURCES YOU NEED TO AVOID REOFFENDING.

Program Description

Recognizing the need for an alternative to prosecution and incarceration for veterans, Brevard County implemented the Veterans Treatment Court in 2012. VTC offers access to continuum of treatment and behavioral alternatives for criminal offenders. The court proceedings are unique in that they are non-adversarial in nature with a dedicated Judge who oversees each participant's progress.

For all cases, the State Attorney's Office places the veterans in the program after consultation with the VTC Judge after a hearing. When all program objectives are satisfied, the Judge dismisses the charges against you if you are in the pretrial side of VTC. The Judge oversees the defendant's progress through reports by the Veteran's Justice Outreach Specialist (VJO), the Probation Officers and the members of the VTC team. There are also probation officers, one from the Department of Corrections for felony cases and one for misdemeanor cases from Professional Probations Services (PPS).

For post-adjudicatory cases, upon graduation, the defendant receives a satisfactory completion of probation and probation may be terminated.

VTC is a voluntary program of intensive supervision and treatment which is necessary for your rehabilitation and safety and for the safety of the public. If your case is a felony, you are supervised by the Department of Corrections (DOC). If your case is a criminal traffic or misdemeanor charge, you will be supervised by Professional Probation Services (PPS). Supervision continues until you have successfully completed the program. If you fail to comply, VTC will revoke your participation and direct your case back to criminal court. There are also sanctions available to the VTC Judge in the event you commit a new crime or are not complying with your other VTC conditions. You should also be aware that sanctions can include but is not limited to community service, jail time and or revocation from VTC.

Any treatment your treatment provider "recommends" to you must be treated as if it is a direct order from the VTC Judge. These may be suggestions from your treatment provider but for purposes of VTC they are direct orders and must not be disobeyed unless the VTC Judge, after consulting with the VTC Team, says otherwise.

Transfer From Criminal Court to VTC

You will be notified to appear in VTC for your case to be heard by the State Attorney's Office to be transferred from the criminal docket to VTC. You should confirm with your attorney or check your status at the Clerk of Court website by going to www.brevardclerk.us, "Court Case Search" and clicking on BECA – General Public Court Records Search or simply go directly to the following link:

https://vmatrix1.brevardclerk.us/beca/beca_splash.cfm

The VTC team includes the VTC Judge, Assistant State Attorney (ASA), Assistant Public Defender (PD), VJO, Probation Officers, VTC Coordinator, Benefits Director, and Mentor Coordinator. The VTC team meets before court to discuss each participant and their progress.

VTC hearings are held in a courtroom. In court, you will speak directly to the VTC Judge. Everything you say is heard by other participants, as well as VTC team members, court personnel and spectators. The proceedings are recorded.

You may speak freely with the VTC Judge. If you have any reservations or want to speak more privately, let your attorney, the VJO, court manager, or the Judge know about your concerns.

Attendance at VTC Hearings is MANDATORY . If you fail to appear in court, you may have a warrant issued for your arrest.

VTC Probation Officers and VJO

After your admission into VTC, you will be introduced to your probation officer, Veteran's Justice Outreach Specialist (VJO) and your Mentor too. At that time, you will receive a business card and instructions on how to arrange your first office meeting with your probation officer. Make sure you follow these instructions to the letter.

At your first office meeting with the probation officer, you will be assigned a reporting day (or range of days) to report for an office visit (or visits) each month. Make sure that you report as instructed. You must give them an updated phone number and email address and notify them of any changes to your address or any contact information and always maintain effective communication with your officer.

Your probation officer oversees your participation requirements and reports your progress to the other members of the VTC team.

The VJO serves as the link between the Court and the Veterans Administration (VA). The VJO helps verify eligibility for VA healthcare services and can continue to assist VTC participants as they navigate through the VA healthcare system. This is accomplished by linking veterans with appropriate resources and scheduling appointments for mental health and substance abuse as needed. The VJO submits a treatment status report to the VTC team and participates in VTC staffing sessions.

VTC Team Roles and Responsibilities

The VTC Team meets twice a month to review the progress of participants.

The Core Team consists of the VTC Judge, Assistant State Attorney, Assistant Public Defender, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist, (VJO), VTC Court Manager, Probation Officers, Benefits Director and Mentor Coordinator. Other interested parties may also attend the staff meeting if approved by the court.

The VTC Judge is the Team Leader. The VTC Judge oversees the entire program and the progress of each participant. The Judge gives input on who should be admitted into VTC to the ASA. The Judge also determines those ready to graduate or those 'revoked' from the program. The Judge may also reward participants for their achievements or impose sanctions for rule violations. The Judge speaks directly to individual participants at each hearing.

The VTC Case Manager is responsible for tracking all VTC cases. The VTC Coordinator is a core team member and meets with the Judge and other VTC members to discuss the participant's progress and make program recommendations.

VTC Probation Officers are responsible for enforcing the participant's VTC contract and/or orders and making sure program rules, applicable laws and treatment requirements are being followed by the participant. VTC Probation Officers are core team members and meet with the Judge and other members of the VTC team to discuss participation compliance and make recommendations.

The Veteran's Justice Outreach Specialist (VJO) is a Veterans Administration (VA) staff member and helps guide the participant through the VA system by assisting in coordinating evaluations and answering any questions. The VJO is a core member and meets with the Judge and other members of the VTC Team to discuss VA participation and progress with treatment recommendations.

The Assistant State Attorney (ASA) The Office of the State Attorney is a core member of the team and an advocate for the community, victims, and law enforcement. The State Attorney's Office also works with the VTC Team to help facilitate the mental health and sobriety of the participants of VTC and provide input to the Court.

Participant's Attorney may be an Assistant Public Defender (APD), or the participant may hire a private attorney. The APD is a core member and meets with the Judge and other members of the VTC team to discuss compliance. A private attorney is not a core member but may call or meet with any core member (except the Judge). A private attorney may attend staffing for their client. The participant's attorney is not required to appear in VTC unless notified by the Court to attend a hearing.

Benefits Director works with VTC participants to determine their eligibility to receive VA benefits.

The Mentors They may guide the participant to community services and encourage personal improvement. They are volunteers from the community who are independent from the VTC Team but an integral part of the program. These are excellent recourses, and you should contact them frequently. They are overseen by the Mentor Coordinator who is part of the core team and speaks on behalf of the other mentors in VTC.

Confidentiality

Your VTC treatment records are protected under federal regulations and cannot be disclosed to anyone without your consent. This means we cannot talk about your treatment to anyone who is not involved in the program without your permission.

There is a consent form you must sign which allows the team to share your information between team members only.

All core team members are directly involved in the program.

There may also be people indirectly involved with the program who require your information to provide appropriate assessments, reviews, and/or services.

Your consent is revocable. You may take back your consent at any time. However, this would mean you can no longer be in the VTC Program, and your case will then return to the criminal court.

Confidentiality in Therapy:

Confidentiality also exists between you and your counselor. In other words, what you share in therapy *stays in therapy*.

The main points shared with the Team are:

- Your attendance
- Your participation or lack of participation
- Your progress
- Further treatment recommendations

There are some other things that your counselor may need to disclose to the VTC Team:

- If you need medical treatment, or are having thoughts of suicide
- If you commit a crime against a staff member, another participant, or on the provider's property
- If you are threatened by another participant, or if you are threatening another participant
- If you are disruptive in group or individual sessions
- If you continue to commit crimes or otherwise violate your participation requirements
- Drug screen results and any admission of drug use or alcohol
- Any child abuse or child neglect allegations

If you have questions about confidentiality, ask your **Attorney** or **Treatment Provider**.

Code of Ethics

- We cannot and will not discriminate against any participant because of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation and/or disability.
- We cannot be personally involved with participants or their family members, nor have any sort of financial or business relationship with the participant, their immediate family members, or their close friends. We cannot ask participants for personal favors, nor can we do favors for them.
- We cannot give participants gifts or accept gifts from them, their family members, or their close friends.

Program Components

The VTC program is an intensive supervision and treatment program. It requires your serious effort to succeed. After you graduate from VTC you will have the tools to accomplish goals you set for yourself.

Screening and Assessment: When you enter the VTC program, you will complete various types of assessments. Other service and educational assessments may also be scheduled. You are required to cooperate and participate as directed. The assessments will help the VTC team create a plan based on the services you need.

Court Appearances: You are required to attend court at admission and otherwise as the court directs. You must attend in person and cannot appear virtually without express permission of the Judge. You are required to dress according to the dress code in this handbook whenever you appear in court.

Treatment Plans

Treatment is provided through the VA or other approved providers. In some cases, outside providers are permitted to ensure that the participant receives the best treatment available for their individual needs. It is extremely important to be aware that any treatment provider may only “recommend” a course of treatment to you but to remain in VTC, those recommendations are to be treated as direct orders from the VTC Judge that you must follow to be able to remain in VTC unless the VTC Judge states specifically otherwise.

Individual Therapy: This is one-on-one counseling involving you and a therapist.

Group Counseling: This is face-to-face counseling in a group setting with a therapist and several other veterans. Programs include, but are not limited to, the Batterer’s Intervention Program (non-VA), Strength at Home, Anger Management, Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) or other group counseling sessions as determined by the Vet Court Team and/or recommended by a treatment provider.

Residential Treatment: If residential treatment is recommended, consult with your VJO or Court Manager for placement recommendations.

Strength at Home: If you were arrested for a crime of domestic violence or something reasonably close to it, you will be required to complete the Strength at Home class through the VA. If you are ineligible for that program, you will instead need to attend and complete the 26 Week Batterer’s Intervention Program but there is a significant cost involved in that program.

Driving Under the Influence: If you were arrested for DUI, you will be required to attend and complete the Driving Under the Influence course (Level 1 or 2) through the DHSMV. Generally, if they recommend treatment your treatment in VTC may suffice to satisfy DHSMV’s requirements. You will also be required to attend the Victim Awareness Program. You can get information about all these courses from your probation officer.

Veteran Treatment Court Phases

Phase One

Approximately 4 Months – Assessment and Stabilization

- ❑ Court every two weeks
- ❑ Schedule and complete substance abuse and mental health evaluations as soon as possible
- ❑ Engage with treatment providers, the VJO, your Probation Officer and your Mentor
- ❑ Develop and comply with case plan from your treatment providers
- ❑ Drug and or alcohol testing fortnightly (approximately once every 2 weeks) unless otherwise ordered
- ❑ Assess housing and begin to change people, places, things and address financial issues
- ❑ Begin peer recovery groups, as instructed
- ❑ You need to have at least 60 consecutive clean urine days in a row, be 60 days past completing both evaluations to advance to Phase 2 and have the recommendation of the VTC Team to be able to advance to Phase 2.

Phase Two

Approximately 3 months – Treatment

- ❑ Court approximately once a month
- ❑ Continue to engage with treatment/Probation Officer, the VJO and your Mentor
- ❑ Comply with supervision orders and suggestions
- ❑ Drug and or alcohol testing fortnightly unless otherwise ordered
- ❑ Complete DUI I or II and the VAP if you were arrested for DUI
- ❑ Complete the Strength at Home or the 26 Week BIP classes if you were arrested for domestic violence or any similar crime
- ❑ Continue peer recovery groups, as instructed
- ❑ Establish and maintain recovery support program
- ❑ Address ancillary services (i.e. parenting, family support)
- ❑ Demonstrate changing people, places, things
- ❑ From the start of Phase 2, you need to have at least 60 consecutive clean urine days in a row, complete your required classes and have the recommendation of the VTC Team to be able to advance to Phase 3.

Phase Three

Approximately 3 months – Aftercare

- ❑ Court approximately every 8 to 10 weeks
- ❑ Continue to engage with treatment/Probation Officer, the VJO and your Mentor
- ❑ Drug and or alcohol testing fortnightly, unless otherwise ordered
- ❑ Complete relapse prevention
- ❑ Demonstrate continuing care plan
- ❑ Continue recovery support network
- ❑ Demonstrate changing people, places, things
- ❑ From the start of Phase 3, you need to have at least 60 consecutive clean urine days in a row, pay all financial conditions and have the recommendation of the VTC Team to graduate.

Program Rules

Appropriate Dress: You must abide by dress code standards established by the Court. Participants are expected to dress appropriately for all activities. For example, undergarments, such as boxer shorts, must not be visible and short shorts should not be worn. All participants, male and female, must have their midriffs and shoulders covered. Any clothing displaying foul language, drug, alcohol, nudity, or gang symbols is prohibited. Hats are not to be worn during any program functions. Furthermore, clients may not wear flip flops to court. If you are not sure what is appropriate to wear, ask your probation officer. The above dress code applies for all court hearings. If you are granted special permission to appear by video for VTC by the Judge, you must follow all dress regulations as if you were physically present in court.

Language and Behavior: During all VTC activities, you are to refrain from the use of profanity. Do not use remarks considered racist, explicit, violent, or demeaning under any circumstances. You must maintain a controlled and civilized manner at all VTC functions. Abusive behavior in any form, including insulting language, physical gestures, aggression, or other intimidating acts, will not be tolerated.

Courtroom Behavior: The VTC Team expects you to show respect and courtesy to everyone in the courtroom including clients, staff, families, and other observers. It is expected that participants and their families abide by court rules. It is not permissible to bring babies or young children to court unless approved in advance by the Judge. Food and/or drinks are not permitted. Do not chew gum or chat in court. Turn off all electronic devices. You are expected to set a good example for others by displaying courtesy, respect, self-discipline, and a positive attitude.

Weapons: While participating in the VTC Program, you are not permitted to have access to any weapons, firearms or explosive devices at any time unless specifically approved by the VTC team. If you are found in possession AT ANY TIME, you may be subject to termination from VTC and may also face additional criminal charges.

Punctuality and Absences: You are required to be on time for all VTC activities including court dates, urine testing and probation appointments. Any unexcused absence and/or tardiness will be reported to the Court and is subject to sanction. Remember, early is on time, on time is late and late is unacceptable.

VTC Handbook: You are required to bring your VTC handbook with you to all court appearances.

Failure to abide by Program Rules: Failure to follow these orders will result in a sanction and may result in loss of clean time in a phase. It can also result in your revocation from VTC. The sanction or revocation will be based on the type of conduct and degree of which the rule is broken. The VTC Team, may in their discretion, adjust any sanctions as necessary.

Remember: Sanctions may include bench warrants, revocation from VTC resulting in your return to criminal court and a possible conviction. Possible sanctions may include community service, farm time, jail time and other sanctions as determined by the VTC Team, however you may reject any sanction. But rejection of any sanction will result in termination from VTC.

STAY IN THE PROGRAM!

VTC Sanction Schedule

POSITIVE DRUG/ALCOHOL SCREENS

- Loss of clean time in your phase and potential reversion to a previous phase.
- Potential increased treatment, including inpatient treatment, testing frequency.
- Potential community service hours, farm time, jail time, and or revocation.

MISSING AN UNEXCUSED SCREENING (VIEWED AS A POSITIVE SCREEN)

- All sanctions in “Positive Drug/Alcohol Screens” also apply (including loss of clean time)
- Additional sanctions will include:
 - First time: 8 hours of community service
 - Second time: 16 hours of community service
 - Third time: Review for revocation from VTC

PROVIDING A DILUTE SAMPLE (VIEWED AS A POSITIVE SCREEN)

- All sanctions from “Positive Drug/Alcohol Screens” apply (including loss of clean time)
- Note: you cannot drink fluids less than 1 hour before submitting a screen
- Additional sanctions will include:
 - First time: Verbal warning
 - Second time: 8 hours of community service, loss of clean time
 - Third time: 16 hours of community service, loss of clean time
 - Fourth time: Review for revocation from VTC

FAILURE TO PAY RESTITUTION, COURT COSTS OR COST OF SUPERVISION:

- Extension of time in VTC or potential revocation from VTC

UNEXCUSED COURT ABSENCES

- Any previously listed sanction is available.

DISRUPTIVE OR RUDE BEHAVIOR

- Any previously listed sanction is available.

TAMPERING WITH A DRUG TEST

- Automatic revocation from VTC and potential jail time.

REFUSAL OF ANY SANCTION

- Presumed revocation from VTC and potential jail time.

NEW ARREST

- An arrest on **any criminal charge** will be reviewed for your revocation on your pending case(s). Factors to be considered are, but not limited to; your previous criminal history, your progress in VTC, facts of your new arrest, status of the prosecution of your new arrest, and your danger to the community and yourself.
- If you are arrested for a new DUI, you will be **automatically revoked** from the VTC program if you are in VTC for a DUI and/or if you have a history of DUI offense(s).
- An arrest for any crime that is statutorily ineligible for VTC, or an arrest for any violent offense, means you are **presumed to be ineligible** for continued participation in VTC
- Revocation plus any other sanctions, including jail time, are available for **any** arrest.

Drug Screening

You are required to provide a fresh, clean, unadulterated, undiluted specimen of at least 1 oz (30 ml). You will be expected to provide the specimen in a minimal amount of time while you have minimal access to fluids. Any failure to provide an adequate specimen will be considered a failure to comply with program requirements and may result in sanctions.

Throughout your participation in VTC, you are required to participate in random drug and or alcohol screening. Alcohol screening is through “ETS / ETG” screens only. The purpose of these screenings are to help the Team understand whether you are improving and progressing well in your treatment. These are not free, and you should consult with your Probation Officer for details regarding payments.

You normally will begin at fortnightly testing intervals (unless the VTC Judge orders otherwise) which is approximately one screening every two weeks. Your screening intervals might change to weekly testing depending on your progress, or lack of progress in the program.

Additionally, you may be ordered to submit an additional urine sample at your probation office, or as ordered by the VTC Judge. Your treatment provider may also ask for screenings, but they cannot count towards VTC ordered screenings unless approved in advance by the VTC Team.

Missed Screenings: if you know in advance you cannot attend a screening, you will need to notify the testing facility and your probation officer as soon as possible in advance of missing the screening and await further instructions. If you are sick, or unable to attend for a medical reason you will be required to obtain a doctor’s note or proof of the medical issue as well. If you fail to take steps in advance for missing a screening you can expect there to be sanctions ordered by the VTC Judge. If you miss a screening for an unforeseen medical issue, obtain documentation as soon as possible, provide the documentation to your probation officer and await further instructions.

Alcohol Cases: If you have a previous diagnosis of alcohol abuse (or concerns from a treatment provider are known) or the allegations against you involve alcohol, you will be screened for alcohol with an ETG/ETS screening. There will also with laboratory confirmations as well. There is a cost associated with this testing however it is still minimal compared to what you would have to pay if you were convicted of the crimes you were arrested on.

Common Terms:

- **UA** Urine Analysis (urinalysis) - a test of a urine specimen.
- **Negative UA** Urine test does not indicate the donor’s prior use of alcohol or drugs.
- **Positive UA** Urine test indicates donor’s prior usage of drugs and/or alcohol.
- **Dilute** Consuming excess fluids to the point that you create an invalid sample
- **Tampering**
 - putting anything other than your own urine in the collection cup
 - trying to avoid or obstruct the observer’s view
 - failing to follow the observer’s directions
 - carrying anything else in your hands, or on your body, such as a balloon, tube, bottle, hose, or any other device

It is the sole responsibility of all VTC participants to pay lab fees in advance. If you are unable to pay lab fees, speak with your probation officer.

What Goes Into Your Body

What goes into your body is your responsibility and yours alone. Some use of drinks, over the counter medicines, prescribed medicines, and dietary supplements may result in a urine test showing positive for amphetamines, THC and/or alcohol. Some possibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Cold and flu medications such as Sudafed, Contact, Tylenol Cold Plus, etc.
- Allergy medications such as Claritin
- Cough medications such as Robitussin
- Cannabidiol (CBD) products
- Diet pills, diet drinks (other than diet soda)
- Herbs, herbal remedies, or herbal drinks
- Kombucha
- You must also refrain from eating any foods containing or made from poppy seeds which may cause a positive drug screen. Additionally, you shall not buy, smoke, ingest, possess, or sell any herbal or other organic or chemical product, legal or otherwise, which may result in mood, consciousness altering, or similar physical effects.
- You are not permitted to drink any fluids one hour before submitting a drug screen unless you have a valid medical reason that is documented ahead of time.

Play it safe: The recommended dosage of Aspirin, Acetaminophen (Tylenol), Naproxen (Aleve), or Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin) may be all you need for ordinary aches, pains, or headaches. Always follow the instructions on the label. You are responsible for what you put into your body and if you a new medication, you must use it as directed.

If you are using **anything at all**, you must tell your treatment provider and your probation officer before you test. The responsibility lies on your shoulders alone to communicate this information clearly and effectively before any test. When it doubt, talk it out.

Court Participation Exceptions

You must fully comply with all VTC requirements. An emergency may arise which prevents you from attending treatment, court hearings, or other activities. In the event of an emergency, do the following:

1. Hospital/ Emergency Room – Notify your probation officer promptly, if no one answers, leave a message on the voicemail. The message must include WHO, WHAT, WHEN WHERE and HOW. Emergency Room services will give you discharge papers. You will need to provide these papers as soon as possible. Are the date and the times correct? Is the diagnosis correct? Is your name correct? It is your responsibility to provide the discharge paperwork to your Court Manager within 24 hours of discharge.

2. Illness – Being sick will not excuse you from missing VTC activities. You may request an excusal by providing a doctor's note. If you are sick, you need to provide all the information to your Probation Officer.

3. Holidays – The Courthouse and other County and State offices are closed in observance of most State holidays. Remember that just because these offices may be closed DOES NOT mean that treatment stops. YOU must ask your counselors if they are open.

4. Schedule Conflicts – Sometimes you may be scheduled for treatment and court at the same time. If this occurs, let your probation officer know and await further instructions. Generally, VTC would rather you be at your treatment session rather than court, but you should get instructions from your probation officer first. If you must take a drug screen on the same day as court you should do both, test in the morning and come to court in the afternoon.

Travel

If you wish to leave Brevard County for the day or overnight, you must have pre-approval from your probation officer or approval from the Judge. If you have tested positive for drugs and/or recently have been noncompliant, approval for travel may not be granted or even revoked if previously given.

If you wish to leave the State, you will need approval from the Judge. Ask your probation officer to submit your request to the VTC team.

Job related out of county travel is routinely approved by your probation officer, who may also give blanket approval for jobs which require daily or frequent out of county travel.

Travel does not excuse you from drug/alcohol screens.

Remember travel permits are a privilege, not a right.

Tips for Success

- ✓ Remember, it is a PRIVILEGE to be in this program, not a right and you asked to participate.
- ✓ Remember “C.U.T” which stands for: Communicate, Urinalysis, and Treatment.
- ✓ Treatment recommendations by providers are orders from the Judge
- ✓ Check around your home and discard all paraphernalia, liquor bottles, and anything you may associate with destructive behaviors.
- ✓ You are not permitted to have access to any firearms, weapons, or explosive devices.
- ✓ Stay Sober. Avoid destructive relationships. If necessary, make lifestyle changes.
- ✓ Be proactive, admit your mistakes and ask for help how to proceed. If you miss an appointment, try to reschedule it immediately. Being passive is being irresponsible.
- ✓ Be honest! Treatment is difficult and perfection is not expected. But honesty is expected!
- ✓ Inform your VJO and Probation Officer of all life issues and concerns.
- ✓ Learn as much as you can. If you need more help, we will give it to you. Even after you have completed the program, we will support you.
- ✓ Pay attention in court, you will can learn a lot from your fellow veterans.
- ✓ Keep excellent records of your progress. If you give your probation officer proof of progress you should keep a copy for yourself too. This will demonstrate how dedicated you are.
- ✓ Check the court web site (http://vmatrix1.brevardclerk.us/beca/beca_splash.cfm) for information about your case, a copy of you Notice to Appear in court is posted to this site.
- ✓ Sign up for “e-Notify” from the Clerk of Cour to get automated reminders of court dates.
- ✓ Work hard, keep a good attitude and you will be successful.
- ✓ VTC is not a race, some vets finish before others, depending on many factors. This is a needs-based program and not a start date-based program.
- ✓ You are the key to your own success, use the tools given and reach out if you have questions.
- ✓ Everyone in VTC, including the other participants, want to see you succeed.

Important Phone Numbers

Lisa Mooty, Court Manager	Direct Line	(321) 637-5541
Lisa.mooty@flcourts18.org	Cell Phone	(321) 537-5315
	Fax	(321) 637-5387
Random Drug Test Line		(321) 821-3361
Probation Officers:	P.P.S	(321) 985-5691
	Mark Kingsley	(321) 749-1397
Veterans' Justice Outreach, VJO:	Vanessa Diaz	(321) 370-4721
Honorable Judge David Koenig		(321) 617-7262
State Attorney's Office, Criminal Division		(321) 617-7510
Public Defender's Office, Criminal Division		(321) 617-7373
Clerk of Courts		(321) 637-5413
Brevard County Detention Center (Jail)		(321) 690-1500
Department of Children & Families		(407) 317-7000
AA		(321) 633-0052
		(321) 724-2247
NA		(321) 631-4357
Detox		(321) 722-5200
Abuse Hotline		1-800-962-2873
Speak Out Hotline		1-800-226-7733
		1-800-423-TIPS (8477)
Veteran Crisis Line		988 and then Press 1
Viera VA		(321) 637-3788
Vet Center		(321) 254-3410
Community Help Line		211



I _____ acknowledge receiving a copy of the VTC participant Handbook. The VTC participant Handbook has been reviewed with me and I have been instructed to have the VTC handbook with me at all VTC functions. I have also been instructed to review the handbook on my own.

Veteran's Signature

Date

VTC Member / Defense Attorney

Date