
Anchorage Veterans Court

What is the Anchorage Veterans Court?

The Anchorage Veterans Court is a specialized court designed to facilitate the rehabilitation of eligible veterans who are charged with criminal offenses. The court provides judicial monitoring coupled with alternative sentencing plea agreements to help eligible veterans succeed with their own rehabilitation and return to a productive law-abiding lifestyle, thereby reducing crime and its costs to society.

What are the objectives of the Anchorage Veterans Court?

- Promote public safety.
- Reduce incarceration of offenders who are veterans and promote their well being in the community.
- Reduce repeated contacts with the criminal justice system among our nations's veterans.
- Facilitate access to VA resources to aid the veteran with addressing problems that led to criminal justice contact.
- Promote treatment adherence for the veteran through ongoing judicial monitoring.

Who is eligible?

- The veteran must reside in the Municipality of Anchorage.
- The veteran must be eligible for VA services, as defined by federal law and confirmed by the Veterans Administration.
- The veteran must be charged with a criminal offense. A veteran charged with a felony offense will be considered on a case by case basis to ensure public safety. Considerations will include the seriousness and the class of the current offense, and offender's criminal history.
- The veteran must voluntarily agree to waive his or her right to a speedy trial while they participate in Anchorage Veterans Court.
- The veteran must have no other pending cases in district or superior court. All open cases must be heard at Anchorage Veterans Court hearings.
- The veteran must have a treatment need (related to the criminal conduct charged) that the VA can address through one of its programs in order to participate in the Veterans Court Program.

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Admission to the Anchorage Veterans Court is not automatic. The prosecutor's office, the VA, the veteran and the Veterans Court judge must all agree that you and your criminal case qualify.

How does the Anchorage Veterans Court work?

Collaboration

The Anchorage Veterans Court provides a single and consistent point of contact for eligible veterans in the criminal justice system. Together the court team and the VA behavioral health system work to create a therapeutic court process that promotes behavioral change for the veteran.

Treatment

Eligible veterans receive assistance in developing, coordinating and monitoring an individualized treatment plan through the Department of Veterans Affairs. The court then orders the plan as conditions of bail.

Alternative Sentencing

The veteran “opts-in” to the Anchorage Veterans Court by entering into a plea agreement. The veteran must agree to plead Guilty or No Contest to a least one charge, and agree to receive one of two sentences: a regular court sentence if the participant does not complete his or her VA treatment plan or a lesser sentence if the participant completes his or her treatment plan.

Monitoring by the Court

The court monitors the veteran’s treatment plan through regularly held status hearings during which reports are given by the VA, the prosecutor, the veteran’s attorney and the veteran.

The Anchorage Veterans Court is a cooperative effort of:

- The Alaska Court System
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- State of Alaska Public Defender Agency, Office of Public Advocacy
- Law firm of Denali Law Group (indigent defense contractor for the MOA)
- State of Alaska Department of Law
- Municipality of Anchorage Prosecutor’s Office (MOA)

For more information:

Anchorage Veterans Court
907-264-0466
dsang@courts.state.ak.us

Dept. of Veterans Affairs
907-257-4817

Public Defender Agency
907-334-4400

Denali Law Group
907-276-1942

Invitation

The Anchorage Veterans Court hearings are open to the public and are held on alternate Mondays, at 1:00 P.M. in the Boney Courthouse, courtroom #30, 303 K Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.



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Who Have Served
in Our Armed Forces**

Thank you for your service.

For more information about this publication, please call the
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