

About the Veterans Court

The Anoka County Veterans Treatment Court, launched in 2012, takes a collaborative approach to addressing the specialized needs and challenges of veterans who find themselves in criminal court.

It is estimated that 10 to 30 percent of veterans who served in combat zones, including and since Vietnam, suffer from Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). PTSD may co-occur with or lead to other problems, such as mental illness or substance abuse.

Like other specialty problem-solving courts in Minnesota, Veterans Treatment Court is a voluntary program and relies on the defendant's active participation and commitment to program goals.

A team of partners – including judges, attorneys, mentors and veterans' advocates – work with program participants to ensure success. Defendants must plead guilty in order to participate in the program, and are required to maintain sobriety.

PARTNERS/CONTACTS

Anoka County Veteran Services

2100 3rd Ave., Suite 216
Anoka, MN 55303

763-324-4500

veterans@co.anoka.mn.us

anokacounty.us/veterans

Anoka County Sheriff's Office

13301 Hanson Blvd. N.W.

Andover, MN 55304

763-323-5000

anokacounty.us/sheriff

Anoka County Attorney's Office

2100 3rd Ave., Suite 720

Anoka, MN 55303

763-324-5550

anokacounty.us/attorney

Anoka County Court Administration

325 E. Main St.

Anoka, MN 55303

763-422-7350

anokacounty.us/courts

mncourts.gov/Find-Courts/Anoka.aspx

ANOKA COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

A GUIDE PROVIDED BY THE
ANOKA COUNTY
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE





“Veterans Court protects the public, while restoring honor to those who have sacrificed for our nation.”

– Anoka County District Judge Jenny Walker Jasper

OTHER RESOURCES

Veterans Crisis Line: 800-273-TALK (8255) or www.veteranscrisisline.net

Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans: 651-291-8756 or www.mac-v.org

Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs: 888-LinkVet (546-5838) or mn.gov/mdva

Beyond The Yellow Ribbon: www.btyr.org

Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development: 651-259-7114



BY THE NUMBERS

- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more than **22,000** veterans live in Anoka County and more than **355,000** in Minnesota.

- About **11 to 20 percent** of veterans who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom have suffered from PTSD, compared to **12 percent** of Gulf War veterans and up to **30 percent** of Vietnam veterans, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

- **Twenty-two** people have graduated from the Anoka County Veterans Treatment Court since 2012. There were **16** active participants as of July 2016.

- There are **six** veterans courts operating in Minnesota, covering **13** counties; others are in development.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Veterans from any branch of the U.S. military who have been charged with a non-violent crime may be considered for Veterans Treatment Court.

HOW IT WORKS

After acceptance to Veterans Treatment Court, defendants will proceed through four program phases:

- Phase one: Commitment
- Phase two: Stabilization
- Phase three: Maintenance
- Phase four: Successful life skills

Participants graduate from the program upon successful completion of all four phases and requirements. The program typically lasts 18 to 24 months.

SERVICES OFFERED

- Chemical dependency counseling
- Physical and/or mental health care, including PTSD therapy
- Peer mentorship and employment services
- VA disability claim assistance
- Housing assistance
- Financial counseling
- Other services as deemed necessary