

## History of Sioux Falls Veterans Court:

The first meeting to discuss a Veterans Treatment Court in Minnehaha County was on November 19, 2013. During, strategies were discussed regarding the requirement that the court ask criminal defendants whether they are serving or are veterans, and allowing the court to refer veterans to the VA for treatment when appropriate. The first actual meeting to start implementation of a Veterans Treatment Court was on February 25, 2014. At that time, a timeline was approved for implementation, agreement was made to apply for the VTCPI program through Justice for Vets, and members began making plans to visit and observe the Hennepin County Veterans Treatment Court in July 2013. Veterans Treatment Court in Sioux Falls held their first Court appearance on Tuesday, March 15, 2016.

**The Veterans Treatment Court Team invites you to open Court bi-weekly on Wednesdays at 9:00 AM in Courtroom 5C.**

## Team Members:

Judge Patrick Pardy  
Judge Eric Johnson  
Judge Patrick Schroeder  
Alli Fredericksen – Coordinator  
Sheila Kieso – Court Services Officer  
Neil Fossum – Public Defender  
Melissa Summers- Public Defender  
Audie Murphy – Prosecutor  
Crystal Johnson – Prosecutor  
Cpt. Terry Matia – Law Enforcement  
Cpt. Mike Walsh—Law Enforcement  
Rebecca Hess – VJO  
Kathy Richardson- county Veterans Service Office  
Nick Fischer – MH Treatment  
Mike Maske – Mentor Coordinator



## Second Judicial Circuit Veterans Treatment Court

### MISSION

The mission of the Veterans Treatment Court is to enhance public safety and help veterans in the criminal justice system become law abiding, productive citizens through rigorous supervised probation that includes mental health and substance abuse treatment, while holding the participants accountable for criminal behavior.

## What is Veterans Treatment Court?

Veterans Court is a voluntary program, which includes regular appearances before the Veterans Court Judge, frequent and random drug testing, substance abuse counseling in individual and group settings, mental health counseling, educational classes, a system of behavior modification based on incentives and sanctions, and community supervision by a Veterans Court Team. VTC requires participants to participate in community support groups. The program length is determined by each participant but is no less than fifteen months. The VTC program is broken into five phases. You must complete all five phases successfully to graduate.



## How Veterans Treatment Court Works:

- ✓ The veteran must serve or have served in the armed forces of the United States. If the veteran is no longer serving, the veteran must have received either an honorable or a general under honorable conditions discharge.
- ✓ The veteran must be charged with or have been convicted of a criminal offense in Minnehaha County, South Dakota.
- ✓ The veteran cannot have been charged with or convicted of any of the following: murder, rape, felony sexual contact or manslaughter, as defined by South Dakota State Law.
- ✓ The Veteran must have a treatable mental health or behavioral disorder, such as (but not limited to) post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and/or substance abuse or dependency.
- ✓ The veteran must pose no risk or danger due to uncontrollable behavioral problems.
- ✓ VTC is a voluntary program which includes: alcohol and drug testing, counseling, treatment and Court appearances.

## Benefits of Veterans Court:

- ✓ Reduce recidivism
- ✓ Facilitate participant sobriety
- ✓ Increase compliance with treatment and other court ordered conditions
- ✓ Improve access to Veterans Administration benefits and services
- ✓ Improve family relationships and social support connections
- ✓ Improve life stability

## How Can You Help?

- ✓ Volunteer to become a mentor to our participants
- ✓ Consider Veterans Treatment Court participants when hiring for your business