

Phases of Participation

As a participant in the Veteran Trauma Court program, you must complete the Phases of Participation. The amount of time you spend in the program depends upon the terms of your plea agreement and your progress in treatment. The phases are as follows:

Phase 1: Stabilization (a minimum of 60 days)

- Dog Tag: “Courage” – The courage to ask for help.

Phase 2: Engagement (a minimum of 90 days)

- Dog Tag: “Self-Aware” – Engaged and self-aware of needs.

Phase 3: Action (a minimum of 90 days)

- Dog Tag: “Taking Charge” – Taking charge and having personal leadership.

Phase 4: Maintenance (a minimum of 120 days)

- Dog Tag: “Commitment” – The commitment to a healthy sober life.

Just as a participant can progress through the phases of the program, they can also be regressed for violations in the program.

Strong Performers and Strong Starters

Strong Performer/Starter is an **incentive** for compliance. Not being a strong performer is not considered a sanction. This is measured between court reviews and does not always indicate overall program compliance. **Strong Performers (Phase 2-4)** get called first in court after any new member introductions and are eligible for the incentive drawing. **Strong Starters (Phase 1)** get called after strong performers. *You cannot be eligible for strong starter on your first court review.*

VETERAN TRAUMA COURT PHASES OF PARTICIPATION

Phase Guidelines:

Below is both your and the treatment team's road map to successfully completing the Veterans Trauma Court (VTC). You will notice some parts of the map are blank. That is because both you and the team still need to discover where we are headed. But this document will provide expectations. Read these carefully because this is how you move forward to each next step toward graduation.

How it Works:

One of your first goals upon entering the VTC is to work with your probation officer (PO) to develop a case plan. Your case plan will set *attainable*, short-term goals with clearly defined action steps. The VTC team will assist you in setting S.M.A.R.T goals: Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, and Time Oriented. Contact with your PO and treatment providers is based on initial assessments, your personal case plan and phase level guidelines. Each program phase has its own treatment and program goals and skill sets you are responsible for achieving. Your progress through the phases is based on your behavior and the recommendations of the treatment team.

Tips and Information:

- 1) Graduation is held once every 3 months; minimum time in the program is one year, but frequently longer. Graduation requires the treatment team to agree you are ready to graduate. The average length of the program is 18 months but could be significantly longer based on progress and legislatively mandated treatment.
- 2) VTC is part of your sentence, but not your *entire* sentence. Graduation is not the same as termination. Keep in mind that everyone's sentence is a little different. So, when you graduate VTC, it only means you completed VTC. It is then up to the team (Attorneys, Judge, Probation, and recommendations of treatment providers) **and** the conditions of your plea agreement to determine if it is appropriate to terminate or modify probation.
- 3) New Criminal Charges result in phase hold, and you cannot move phases until the pending case is resolved. If the new case is dismissed or you are found not guilty, the team will adjust phases as deemed necessary by the treatment team.
- 4) The team will help create phase goals and requirements based on individual needs.
- 5) As you progress through phases, you will be asked to write a Phase Advancement letter. This is not a punishment, but a chance for you to reflect on your accomplishments! Please type or neatly handwrite your letter, share it with your probation officer and be prepared to read it during your court appearance. Bring a copy to share with the Judge.

Phase 1:

(Minimum 60 days)

Phase 1 is where you will gain/sustain stability and become engaged in treatment. In Phase 1, the VTC team expects you to make all appointments and begin your treatment plan. Phase 1 could be considered the hardest part of the program, as it has the most appointments, most U.A.'s, and most court appearances. If we compared this program to building a house, Phase 1 is where we lay the foundation of the house.

Accountability

- Able to agree with and initial this statement: ***"I understand the rules, procedures, and expectations of the VTC and I am willing and ready to work this program."***

- At the end of Phase 1, review the conditions of Phase 2 and initial next to this statement: ***"I have read the Phase 2 guidelines and understand what is expected of me."***

Survival Needs

- Participant has **stable housing** or is **working with housing assistance program**.
Stable housing is housing that is not at immediate risk of loss. Proof of residence must be completed for probation (P.O. will provide guidance).
- *****Participant has financial security or started towards obtaining financial security.** This is completed by completing budget worksheet and submitting to P.O.
 - *****If Participant is able and has a need to work, participant will be required to job search and submit proof of job search.**
 - If employed, **provide proof of employment/school** (i.e. Paystub, school registration, etc.).
- *****Meet with Peer Mentor 1:1** to discuss expectations and roles and complete contact form & security packet
- **Has healthcare** in place such as Medicaid, Medicare, Tricare, or VA.
 - If VA, please find out who your PACT Social Worker is: _____

Treatment Goals

- **Stable treatment attendance** for at least 30 days. Two (2) weeks without unexcused absences (Any absence that was not **approved by the Treatment Provider ahead of time** is unexcused).
- **If required, complete D.V. evaluation** and attend at least 2 consecutive weeks of groups prior to moving phases.
- **If needed,** meet with medication provider and **take medications as prescribed.** Provide medication list to P.O.
- Provide **30 consecutive days of compliant U.A. testing.** *Compliant testing means clean, non-dilute U.A. testing and no missed tests prior to moving phases. This includes 30 days without any residual THC levels. (For example, if you quit using THC prior to sentencing, but test positive for 2 weeks after your sentencing, your 30 days of clean tests start at the time of your first clean test.)*
- Enrolled in at least one weekly mental health therapy as recommended by treatment provider (individuals, co-occurring groups, etc.)

*****Completes Treatment Plan/Contract form**

My Individualized Goals (You must come up with at least one self-improvement goal should be set that is separate from court orders or other phase requirements (for example: go to weekly combat veteran support group; start coaching my child's soccer team, start exercising daily). Goals should be specific, verifiable, and achievable within about 60 days to prevent delay in phase movement. The team may place other goals in this section as well.)

Self-Set Goal _____

Self-Set Goal _____

Legal Requirements

Set up Payment Plan

Sign probation conditions, release of information, sentencing order, drug and alcohol policy, phase guidelines, U.A. Instructions.

No reliance on illegal acts, such as driving on revoked license, living/contacting with someone who is protected by a restraining order, etc.

Complete the following sentencing order(s): _____

Phase 2

(Minimum 90 days)

Phase 2 is about taking action. Phase 1 was about the foundation, now we start building the house's walls, electrical, plumbing, etc. In Phase 2, you will be expected to show understanding of the rules and willingness to comply, even if you don't agree with everything. Phase 2 comes with less frequent appointments; however, each new phase comes with more accountability.

Accountability

- **Begins to accept responsibility** for your role and your actions that led to the offense(s).
- At the end of Phase 2, review the condition of Phase 3 and **initial** next to this statement:
"I have read the Phase 3 guidelines and understand what is expected of me."

- If probation helped you to pay for treatment services (U.A., D.V., DUI, etc.) in Phase 1, you will begin to **self-pay** by the end of this phase. Have a **zero balance with all providers** to move phases.

Survival Needs

- Participant maintains **stable housing, healthcare and financial security**. In this phase, you will start to work toward long term sustainability goals and will be individualized with your probation officer:
- My Sustainability Goal - _____

Treatment Goals

- Shows **stable treatment attendance** for at least 30 days. At least two (2) weeks without unexcused absence* (Any absence that was not approved by the **Treatment Provider** ahead of time).
- If needed, meet with medication provider and **take medications as prescribed**. Provide updated list to probation officer.
- Provide **30 consecutive days of compliant U.A. testing**.

My Individualized Goals (See same guidelines as Phase 1)

- Self-Set Goal - _____
- Self-Set Goal - _____

Legal Requirements

- Abides by **payment plan** and makes at least first payment.
- **Register with Front Range Community Services**.
 - I will be completing my community service at _____
- Complete the following sentencing order(s): _____

Phase 3:

(Minimum 90 days)

Phase 3 is the second to last phase, so Phase 3 is about setting up where you want to be in the future. In our house analogy, a house without furniture, appliances, and dishes is just an empty building. In this phase, you will acquire the skills and tools so that you can live more comfortably. As before, this phase will likely result in less appointments, but a higher level of accountability.

Accountability

- **Accepts responsibility** for your role and your actions that led to the charge(s).
- At the end of Phase 3, review the condition of Phase 4 and initial next to this statement:
"I have read the Phase 4 guidelines and understand what is expected of me." _____

Survival Needs

- Maintains **stable housing, healthcare and financial security**. Continue work toward long term sustainability goals which will be individualized with your probation officer:
 - My Sustainability Goal -

- Positive relationships are part of survival. In this world, going it alone is not enough. You will set a goal with your probation officer for how you could find **new relationships, strengthen existing bonds, or repair an old one**.

Treatment Goals

- **Pays for and is current on treatment costs** (U.A.'s, D.V., DUI, etch). Probation may voucher for some services in the event of unexpected need, but you must have be current on all balances with all providers prior to moving phases.
- Shows **stable treatment** attendance for at least 30 days. At least two (2) weeks without unexcused absence (Any absence not approved by the Treatment Provider ahead of time).
- If needed, must meet with medication provider and **take medications as prescribed**. Provide updated list to probation officer.
- Provide **30 consecutive days of compliant U.A. testing**.

My Individualized Goals (See same guidelines as Phase 1)

- Self-Set Goal _____
- Self-Set Goal _____

Legal Requirements

- Abides by **payment plan** and makes monthly payments. Reminder - Deferred sentences must be paid in full prior to the charges beings dismissed and all cases must have restitution paid in full prior to terminating your sentence.

- Complete at least **half of your community services hours**: _____
- Complete the following sentencing order(s): _____

Phase 4:
(Minimum 120 days)

Phase 4 is the final phase! This phase shows the VTC team you will be ready for graduation. This phase is about maintaining everything you have accomplished. As a house, this is when you are routinely cleaning the house, taking care of yard work, and protect your home. In this phase, you will be held the highest standard but also given the most trust. You will be expected to act as a role model for other participants and help your other battle buddies who are not as far in the program.

Accountability

- **Accepts responsibility** for your role and your actions that led to the offense(s).

Survival Needs

- Maintains **stable housing, healthcare and financial security**. Continue toward long term sustainability goals which will be individualized with your probation officer:
- My Sustainability Goal - _____

- Positive relationships are part of survival. In our world, going it alone is not enough. You will set a goal with your probation officer for how you **could find new relationships, strengthen existing bonds, or repair an old one**.

Treatment Goals

- **Pays for and is current on treatment costs** (U.A.'s, D.V., DUI, etc). Probation may voucher for some services in the event of unexpected need, but you must have a clear balance with all providers prior to moving phases.
- Shows **stable treatment attendance** for at least 60 days. At least 30 days without unexcused absence (Any absence that was not approved by the **Treatment Provider** ahead of time).
- If needed, must meet with medication provider and take **medications as prescribed**. Provide updated list to probation officer.
- Provide **90 consecutive days of compliant U.A. testing**.
- 30 days prior to Graduation, you will be required to **discuss your treatment aftercare plan** with your primary therapist.
- Treatment team agrees you are ready to graduate based on treatment progress.

My Individualized Goals (See same guidelines as Phase 1)

- Self-Set Goal - _____
- Self-Set Goal _____

Legal Requirements

- Abides by **payment plan** and makes monthly payments. If deferred sentence, case must be paid in full.
- **Restitution must be paid in full** prior to termination of supervision.
- **All sentencing orders and community service must be completed.**
 - If charges are deferred, client must meet with VTC Coordinator to set up **VTC Aftercare Plan**.

Provisory Phase

Provisory Phase is a tool that may be utilized by the VTC team for participants with on-going or severe program violations. Provisory Phase is a set of strict guidelines to help those who are struggling with compliance. This phase sets out clear expectations for both the participant and the VTC team when previous interventions have failed. Provisory Phase is one tool the VTC team may use and **is not mandatory for unsuccessful termination of a participant's program.** (Participants may be terminated from VTC without moving through the provisory phase for reasons including, but not limited to, severity of violations, community and participant safety, or new charges.)

A client may be placed in the provisory phase under the following conditions:

- Any unsuccessful discharge from treatment
- 60+ days non-compliance (Phase 2-4)
- 6+ Months in Phase 1
- Discretion of VTC Team based on on-going violation behaviors, severity of violations, or failure to progress in treatment or program.

A client in Provisory Phase will have 4 strikes and will be required to attend weekly court appearances. Strikes will be implemented for any violation behavior (missed treatment, missed court, U.A. violation, etc.) If a client has multiple violations on one court review, the VTC team may implement multiple strikes or combine strikes on a case-by-case basis. Once sanctioned all 4 strikes, the defendant will be terminated from the VTC program. If terminated from VTC, the defendant will be in violation of their sentence and the probation department will file for a petition to revoke probation.

- Strike 1 – Minimum 1 days jail
- Strike 2 – Minimum 3 days jail
- Strike 3 – Minimum 5 days jail
- Strike 4 – Termination from VTC**

** Pending the severity of the violation, a client may be terminated from VTC before reaching their 4th Strike.

** Veterans may contest any jail sanction and be scheduled for a review hearing with legal representation appointed by the court.

To be removed from the Provisory Phase a client must complete each of the following:

- 60 days of no violations and no missed treatment.
- Evident Progress in Treatment based on reports from treatment and probation.
- Complies with all court orders and treatment recommendations.

The time in Provisory Phase does not count toward overall program progress. If graduated from Provisory Phase, the defendant will resume the program at the beginning of the phase they were in prior being placed in the Provisory Phase. If a client graduates Provisory Phase and resumes violation behaviors, probation may file a revocation petition.