



HAMILTON COUNTY MENTORS 4 VETS

VETERAN TREATMENT COURT MENTOR HANDBOOK



Revision 4
18 July 2024



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Acknowledgements	3
Introduction to the Veteran Treatment Court Program	4
Why Veteran Treatment Court?	5
Veteran Treatment Court.....	5
Key Components of Veteran Treatment Court	6
Mentor Component	6
Mentor Coordinators	7
Role of Mentor Coordinators	7
Responsibilities of Mentor Coordinators	8
Requirements and Qualifications for Mentor Coordinators	8
Veteran Mentor.....	9
Role of Veteran Mentor.....	9
Responsibilities of Veteran Mentor	10
Requirements and Qualifications for Veteran Mentor	10
Veteran Mentor Desired Qualities.....	11
Veteran Mentor Recruitment	11
Inquiries	11
Eligibility	11
Knowledge of a Prospective Mentor Negative History.....	11
Screening	11
Training	12
Unacceptable Behavior	12
Recognition and Awards	12
Veteran Treatment Court Mentor Application	13
Mentor Agreement.....	14
Tennessee Veteran Treatment Court Mentor’s Creed.....	15
Frequently Asked Questions.....	16
Recognize the signs of suicide risk	17
Appendix A	



Acknowledgments

We would like to recognize the important efforts and collaboration of the Honorable Robert Russell in creating the first Veteran Treatment Court in Buffalo, New York. Their support, assistance, and guidance were invaluable. We also need to recognize the efforts of the Tennessee Supreme Court Administration of the Courts (AOC), Tennessee Representative and Chairman of the Military Caucus John Ragan, National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP), and its affiliates, Justice For Vets, in promoting the creation and training programs for VTC's throughout the U.S.

We are also grateful to Judge Boyd Patterson, Hamilton County Criminal Court, Judge Gary Starnes, Hamilton County General Sessions, and Veteran Treatment Court, for continuing the Veterans Courts following the AOC's Legislative report's recommendations and providing the Hamilton County Veteran Treatment Court.

Much of the content of this handbook was adopted from the Knox, Montgomery, and Rutherford County, Tennessee Veteran Treatment Court Mentoring Manual.

Hamilton County has established a Veterans Track and is transferring eligible Justice-Involved Veterans to Judge Boyd Patterson and Judge Gary Starnes Hamilton County Veteran Treatment Court. More are scheduled before the end of the year 2024.



Introduction to the Veteran Treatment Court Program

Based upon the success of the Buffalo, Montgomery, and Rutherford County Veteran Treatment Court and a pronounced need to address challenges unique to Veterans, the Veterans Court Program utilizes the same rigorous protocol of treatment and personal accountability to treat Veterans suffering from substance abuse and/or mental health disorder, while helping ensure public safety.

The Veterans Court Program offers coordinated substance abuse and mental health to Veterans in the criminal justice system. Each Veteran in Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is assigned a substance abuse counselor, who is a Veteran him(her)self. Veterans participants are provided veteran-specific sessions as well as access to the sessions provided by other recovery court participants.

Veteran Treatment Court provides these integrated services through partnerships with area organizations devoted to helping Veterans. Participants in this program have their treatment progress reports sent to the VTC regularly, receive support and guidance from Veteran mentors, are supervised by partnering probation officers, and receive treatment and support from the providers who provide services to the Veteran Participants. Issues to be addressed include but are not limited to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), military sexual trauma (MST), substance use disorder (SUD), traumatic brain injury (TBI), veteran homelessness, and suicide.

The veterans' court services provided to the Veterans in Tennessee Counties will allow fewer of these Veterans to languish in our already overcrowded corrections system with a greater goal of breaking the cycle of addiction that landed them in the legal system.

The distinctive elements, and the key to the success of the Veterans Court model, are the role of the Veteran mentors and the collaboration with the US Department of Veterans Affairs, Helen Ross McNabb Military Services Center, Volunteers of America, Hamilton County Veteran Treatment Court Judges, and other Veteran service agencies and state and community organizations. Veteran mentors, comprised of volunteers and Veterans share a vast array of common life experiences with participants. These common experiences allow Veteran mentors to effectively engage participants, act as a resource and guide to navigating the courts and VA system, help participants maintain focus on their treatment, assist in navigating the challenges of adjusting to a healthy and productive civilian lifestyle, and finally successfully graduating from Veteran Treatment Court. The contribution of the mentor to the success of the VTC is immeasurable.

In 2012, the Tennessee legislature adopted Public Chapter 943, which required the Administrative Office of the Courts ("AOC") to conduct a study regarding VTC programs. The study was completed after one year of research and was published with numerous recommendations and warnings on administering VTC. The Council and V2VT incorporated the AOC recommendation into the establishment of the Eastern Tennessee VTC.

On July 1, 2015, the TN SB711 Veterans – was enacted, enacting the "Criminal Justice Veterans Compensation Act of 2015" or the "CJVC Act." – Amends TCA Title 16; Title 39, Chapter 17 and Title 55, Chapter 10, Part effective July 1, 2015.



Why Veteran Treatment Courts?

Many of our country's Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans have returned home in hopes of finding comfort and rest among their loved ones and a civilian lifestyle. Unfortunately, they are still finding themselves engaged in a daunting battle against the effects of PTSD, Traumatic TBI, MST, SUD, homelessness, anxiety, depression, and suicide. Finding themselves entwined in the criminal justice system seems to be an increasingly common result.

Today's generation of combat Veterans may get into more trouble than their Vietnam counterparts. Interviews were conducted with men who fought in Vietnam by the National Vietnam Veterans Readjustment Study which revealed an estimate that half of all combat Veterans with PTSD resulting from the war in Vietnam had been arrested one or more times. Many of the combat Veterans from Vietnam experienced only a single deployment, and our Veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan have been exposed to three (3) or four (4) combat tours. This has led to a dramatic increase in PTSD and substance abuse diagnoses and veteran suicide.

So far, 247,243, nearly 30% of the 834,463 Iraq and Afghanistan War Veterans treated at the Department of Veterans Affairs hospitals and clinics, have been diagnosed with PTSD, which suggests at least 100,000 of them are suffering from the demons of PTSD and have become ensnared in the criminal justice system.

Approximately 50% of homeless Veterans have a history of encounters with the legal system. On average, these Veterans had five prior arrests, and 45% had served two (2) or more state prison sentences. Three (3) out of five (5) had substance dependency problems, and almost one (1) in three (3) had serious medical problems.

Some Veterans may face additional obstacles. Female Veterans may have experienced military sexual trauma and the challenges that come from leaving children at home during deployment. LGBT Veterans may struggle with ongoing stigma and prejudice.

Veteran Treatment Court

Realizing that Veterans have special needs that were not being adequately served, Hamilton County created the Veterans Treatment Court in September 2023 in collaboration with the Tennessee Supreme Court AOC, the Tennessee Veterans Affairs Department, the Knoxville Regional Mental Health Council, Vet to Vet Tennessee, and the Hamilton County Drug and Mental Courts. Beginning with, and then adapting, the structures of drug treatment courts and mental health courts, the Veteran Treatment Court identified some of the specific issues facing Veterans:

- The needs of many Veterans are related to their military service.
- Many Veterans use drugs as a way of numbing or decreasing their stress levels.
- Some illegal drug use may stem from the medicinal effect those drugs had on PTSD symptoms and other conditions while in the field.



Veteran Treatment Court or Veterans Track in some jurisdictions addresses these challenges in a forum that is conducive to Veterans' rehabilitation and recovery. Where available, Veterans Courts work with civilian healthcare providers, local Veterans agencies, the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, and accredited County Veteran Service Officers. They utilize Veteran mentors and mental health specialists to complement probation services and incorporate a therapeutic approach to afford Veterans opportunities to transition into civilian life and regain stability.

Key Components of a Veteran Treatment Court

Veteran Treatment Courts operate within the guidelines of the Ten Key Components of Drug Court, developed by a commission of drug court practitioners in 1995. Veterans Courts feature the following 10 key operational standards which are adapted from the Ten Key Components.

Veterans Courts:

- integrate alcohol, drug treatment, and mental health services with justice system case processing
- use a non-adversarial approach where prosecution and defense counsel promote public safety while
- protecting Veteran participants' due process rights
- identify eligible participants early and promptly place them in the Veterans Court program
- provide access to a continuum of alcohol, drug, mental health, and other related treatment and rehabilitation services
- monitor abstinence through frequent alcohol and another drug testing
- respond to Veteran participants' compliance through a coordinated strategy
- maintain essential, ongoing judicial interaction with each Veteran
- measure achievement of program goals and gauge program effectiveness through monitoring and ongoing evaluation
- continue interdisciplinary education and promote effective Veteran Treatment Court planning, implementation, and operations
- forge partnerships among Veteran Treatment Court, Veterans Administration, public agencies, and community-based organizations, generate local support, and enhance Veterans Treatment Court effectiveness

Mentor Component

An essential component of the Veteran Treatment Court program is the Mentor program where Veteran mentors act as peer support to Veteran participants. Veterans are better served by having a support system that includes Veterans, who understand combat experience and the different aspects of military service. Mentors participate in a supportive relationship with participants to increase the likelihood that they will remain in treatment, attain and manage sobriety, maintain law-abiding behavior, and successfully readjust to civilian life.

The mentor program consists of mentor coordinators and Veteran mentors. The roles and responsibilities, requirements, and qualifications are discussed in the following sections.



Mentor Coordinators

Role of Mentor Coordinators

Mentor coordinators ensure the efficient and successful operation of the mentor program in a Veteran Treatment Court. Mentor coordinators are volunteers that are responsible for assigning Veteran mentors to participants, supporting Veteran mentors in all aspects of their work, and managing mentor training programs and mentor assignments.

Mentor coordinators must be familiar with their local Veteran Treatment Court and Veteran services. Mentor coordinators are not required to be Veterans, though prior military service is preferable.

Mentor coordinators should:

1. Find appropriate mentors for the Veteran Treatment Court program.
 - This may require conducting presentations in the community regarding the Veterans Court.
 - Mentors cannot be active employees of the Unified Court System, active law enforcement, or a member of any other organization that may present a conflict with the mentor program. Consult with the VTC Judge and/or the District Attorney General if there are questions about the eligibility of a veteran mentor.
2. Match mentors with participants based on shared qualities and backgrounds to the greatest extent possible. Factors to consider may include:
 - branch of service
 - type of service (i.e., combat and location of service)
 - gender
 - general age group
3. Schedule the appropriate number of mentors needed for each court session.

Mentors should be present whenever the Veteran is required to appear before the VTC Judge to provide immediate support for participants appearing in court; if possible.
4. Act as a resource for the mentors by:
 - accommodating conflicts in a Veteran mentor's schedule
 - reviewing weekly the participant's progress in the Veteran Treatment Court with the Mentor Coordinator
 - placing mentors in touch with local accredited Hamilton County Veteran Service Officers who can help appropriate Veterans secure benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - these trained officers can be found in local government offices and local service organizations, such as The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), The Military Order of the Purple Heart, Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) and Vietnam Veterans of American (VVA), etc.



- Work with the Veteran Treatment Court staff to resolve issues and motivate participants through challenges.
- In some instances, mentors may bring concerns regarding a participant to the attention of their mentor coordinator. The mentor coordinator is then responsible for contacting the Veteran Treatment Court promptly to ensure that the participant receives appropriate support.
- If the mentor coordinator determines that mentors are not adequately fulfilling their responsibilities, the coordinator must contact the Veterans Court staff in a reasonable and timely manner and remove the mentors from the program.
- Maintain federal confidentiality standards.

Responsibilities of Mentor Coordinators

The following responsibilities should be carried out by mentor coordinators:

- Completes VTC intake and initial recovery plan forms and submits the completed forms to the VTC District Attorney and treatment providers
- recruit, screen, and train new Veteran mentors
- collect and review mentor application forms
- ensure that mentors attend ongoing training programs
- pair mentors with participants
- inform mentors of their schedules
- manage the rotational schedule of mentors in the Veteran Treatment Court
- provide mentors with a list of Veteran resources
- be prepared to contact the appropriate authorities if participants require crisis intervention, increased court supervision, or immediate emergency care
- remove mentors who fail to adequately meet their responsibilities from the mentor program
- perform any additional duties as directed by the judge of the Veteran Treatment Court or the court staff
- identify appropriate Veterans services in the community
- update the local Veterans' resource guide
- maintain confidentiality
- attend appropriate training program

Requirements and Qualifications for Mentor Coordinators

Mentor Coordinators should:

- be familiar with the Veteran Treatment Court
- have strong leadership and organizational skills
- respect individual differences
- be able to devote time to the Veteran Treatment Court
- have prior military service (preferred, but not required)



Veteran Mentors

Role of Veteran Mentors

Veteran mentors are Veteran volunteers responsible for serving as supporters, guides, and confidants for Veteran participants. Mentors should provide support as participants progress through the Veteran Treatment Court and should feel comfortable working collaboratively to assist participants, and, where appropriate, their families, in completing the directives of the court.

Veteran Mentors act as a coach, guides, role models, advocates, and support for the Veteran participants. Mentors encourage, guide, and support each Veteran participant through the court process. This includes listening to the concerns of each Veteran participant and making general suggestions, assisting with determining needs and acting as a support.

Do not allow the Veteran to exchange information regarding any crimes he/she may have committed. The Mentor must refer the Veteran to their legal counsel.

Veteran mentors should:

- Communicate with participants to assist in resolving their issues.
- Each meeting/conversation/email or text should build on the participants' previous conversations
- Meetings should be conducted in person when necessary and in either the Veteran Treatment Court office or the Veteran Treatment Court.
- Refer participants to appropriate services
- Facilitate an understanding of courtroom procedures
- Work collaboratively with the other mentors and the mentor coordinator.
- Motivate participants utilizing a strengths-based approach by:
 - encouraging participants by highlighting their strengths, including, talents, skills, and knowledge
 - focusing on what has been successful
 - believing that participants have the potential to learn, grow and change
- Maintain federal confidentiality standards.
- Attend clinical and legal training programs supported or provided by the Veterans Court.
- Mentors should attend an initial training session where topics may include Veterans Court's policies and procedures, mentoring dos and don'ts, psychopharmacology, mental illness, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, and Traumatic Brain Injury.
- Communicate with their mentor coordinator to resolve any issues regarding time commitments, resistant participants, or unmanageable challenges.

If a mentor fears for the safety of a participant or is concerned about a participant's behavior, the mentor should report any concerns to their mentor coordinator immediately.
- Commit to a time, usually 12 to 18 months, to mentor in the Veteran Treatment Court.
- Provide a valid military service record (DD214 or DD215) and submit it to background verification.



Responsibilities of Veteran Mentors

The following responsibilities should be carried out by Veteran mentors:

- attend relevant training programs
- communicate with the mentor coordinator regarding any issues
- maintain confidentiality
- maintain appropriate boundaries with participants
- be respectful and always speak with a positive tone
- a good practice is to maintain a journal about each veteran

While communicating with participants, mentors must NOT:

- make clinical recommendations
- give legal advice
- provide psychotherapy
- utilize a stern approach
- inappropriately extend the boundaries of their relationship

Requirements and Qualifications for Veteran Mentors

Mentors should:

- Complete a mentor application form (attached).
- Provide a valid DD214 or DD215 (honorable discharge is required).
- Submit a background check.
- Commit to a minimum of one year of participation, or until the assigned Veteran graduates.
- Have a genuine concern for Veterans.
- Maintain good standing with the law.
- Be a Veteran of one of the branches of the US Armed Forces, including the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, or their corresponding Reserve and Guard branches, or a veteran advocate as an honorary mentor.
- Adhere to all of the Veteran Treatment Court policies and procedures.
- Complete the required initial training as specified by the Veterans Court before participation.
- Attend any additional training as required.
- Do not engage in any drug use, alcohol use, sexual activities, or any other unlawful activities with the Veteran participant.
- Notify the Mentor Coordinator if the Veteran participant becomes suicidal, homicidal, or engages in unlawful activities
- Be respectful of individual differences and maintain appropriate boundaries with participants
- Not be an active employee of the Unified Court System, an active member of law enforcement, or a member of any other organization that may present a conflict of interest with the mentor program



Veteran Mentor Desirable Qualities:

- ★ Active listener
- ★ Empathetic
- ★ Encouraging and supportive
- ★ Positive military service
- ★ Tolerant and respectful of individual differences
- ★ Knowledge of community resources and services

Veteran Mentor Recruitment

The Veteran Treatment Court Mentor and Resource Coordinator assume the majority of the responsibility for recruiting Veteran Mentors. The team, its collaborative partners, and current mentors are strongly encouraged to refer highly respectable and reputable Veterans to the Veterans Court Mentor Program. Additionally, team members and mentors are strongly encouraged to attend and host informational sessions and training for prospective mentors.

Inquiry:

All inquiries about participating as a Veteran Mentor will be directed to the Mentor and Resource Coordinator, who will respond to any prospective mentor inquiries within one week.

Eligibility:

Each Veteran Mentor must meet the eligibility criteria as outlined in the “Veteran Mentor Requirements” section. Extenuating circumstances may be reviewed at the discretion of the Veterans Court Mentor and Resource Coordinator.

Knowledge of a Prospective Mentor’s Negative History:

Current Veteran Mentors with knowledge of any prospective mentor’s history or background that may jeopardize the integrity of the program, the Veterans Court, or the Veteran participants, must communicate this knowledge and/or concerns to the Mentor and Resource Coordinator, the Program Director, or the Judge.

Screening:

Each prospective Veteran Mentor must complete a screening process. The decision to accept or deny an applicant will be made by the Veteran Treatment Court Coordinator and the Judge. The right to withhold or give feedback is solely at the discretion of the Mentor and Resource Coordinator, the Veteran Treatment Court Coordinator, the Program Director, and the Judges.

The screening process includes the completion and review of the following:

- Veteran Treatment Court Mentor Application Form (*see Page 13*)
- Personal interview
- A background check (*see Page 10*)
- Veteran Treatment Court Mentor Agreement form (*see Page 14*)



Training:

All prospective mentors must complete the required initial training to be eligible to begin mentoring. Training will include, but is not limited to:

- ★ Observation of one (1) court session and one (1) justice-involved veteran interview
- ★ Discussion of the experience of court observations
- ★ Completing the Veteran Treatment Court Online Training Program on the Justice for Vets - All Rise Online Learning System. <https://allrise.org/trainings/>.

Complete all four (4) of the VTC Lessons which include:

- ✓ Mental Illness, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Substance Abuse
 - ✓ How to Build a Mentoring Program for Your Veteran Treatment Court
 - ✓ Trauma-Informed Care - Strategies for the Clinician Working with the Veteran Population
 - ✓ Developing a Veteran Treatment Court
You can print out a certificate for each lesson when completed. Once you complete all four lessons, please print out a course certificate and email the course certificate to your Veteran Treatment Court Mentor Coordinator
- ★ Attend **Justice for Vets** Mentor Boot Camp when training is available.

Unacceptable Behavior:

Unacceptable behaviors will not be tolerated while a Veteran Mentor is participating in the program. Because of the direct impact a mentor has on a Veteran participant, behaviors that are not aligned with the mission, vision, goals, and values of Veteran Treatment Court are unacceptable and prohibited.

Recognition and Awards:

All mentors will be recognized for their role in the Veteran Treatment Court program. The Veteran Treatment Court Mentor Coordinator and Coordinator are responsible for planning and implementing recognition activities at least once per year.



Veteran Treatment Court Mentor Application

MENTORS MUST HAVE AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE AND SUBMIT TO A VETTING PROCESS

CONFIDENTIAL

(when completed)

Name: _____ DOB (MM/DD/YY): _____

Social Security #: _____ - _____ - _____ Driver's license: _____
State Issued & Number

Current Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Phone 1: _____ ☐ Home ☐ Work ☐ Cell

Phone 2: _____ ☐ Home ☐ Work ☐ Cell

Branch of Service:

☐ Army ☐ USMC ☐ Navy ☐ Air Force ☐ Space Force ☐ Coast Guard ☐ Guard ☐ Reserve

Length of Service: _____ Type of Discharge: _____

Occupation: _____ Place of Employment: _____

Availability: _____

What does serving as a mentor mean to you?

What skills and experiences do you bring to the mentoring program that will be helpful to you, the other mentors, or the veterans in the program?

What are you hoping to take away from volunteering with the Veteran's Court Program?

Comments:

Signature

Date



Send completed application to:

Hamilton County Mentors 4 Vets
C/o HC Mentor Coordinator
6860 Village Lake Cir
Chattanooga, TN 37412-4095
Phone: 423-488-5445
Email: asyler@epbfi.com

Mentor Agreement

I, _____, attest that I am a Veteran of one of the branches of the United States Armed Forces, including the Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force, Coast Guard, or their corresponding Reserve and Guard components.

To be a mentor in the Veteran Treatment Court, I agree:

1. To adhere to the Veteran Treatment Court Program's policies and procedures.
2. To commit to participation for at least one (1) year or until the Veteran Treatment Court Veteran participant graduates.
3. To complete the required initial training as specified by the Court before participation in the Veteran Treatment Court.
4. To participate in any additional training required by the Veteran Treatment Court.
5. To communicate with the Veteran Treatment Court Veteran participants at least weekly.
6. Not to engage in any drug use, alcohol use, sexual activities, or any other unlawful activities with the Veterans Court Veteran participant.
7. To notify the Veteran Treatment Court Mentor Coordinator if the Veteran participant becomes suicidal or wants to harm others or engages in unlawful activities.

MENTOR SIGNATURE

DATE

WITNESS SIGNATURE

DATE



Tennessee Veterans Court Mentor's Creed

"In the long and honored tradition of Tennessee Volunteers, knowing all we can do is help, this is my creed:

- ★ I humbly ask for God's help, realizing I am ever in need of His guidance in this work, praying for my Veteran's success.
- ★ In the spirit of "LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND," I will constantly encourage my fellow veterans to refuse to lose but to choose life, liberty, and service to others.
- ★ Should my veteran relapse, I will encourage him or her back on the path to recovery.
- ★ I will keep the confidence entrusted to me.
- ★ I will uphold the honor and dignity of the Court.
- ★ I will do my best to inspire my Veteran to the highest and best standards, and return to their rightful place of dignity, honor, and respect in our society.



Frequently Asked Questions

The Office of Policy and Planning serves as the technical assistance arm of the Tennessee Court System for problem-solving courts. The following are frequently asked questions regarding Veteran mentor programs.

Q: How many mentors will I need to start a mentor program?

A: The number of mentors needed in a Veteran Treatment Court will vary based on the court's caseload. To start a mentor program, it is helpful to have a diverse group of mentors available. At a minimum and if possible, include a combat Veteran, a female Veteran, and an Accredited Service Officer to navigate the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and assist in processing Veterans' claims.

Q: Where can mentor coordinators solicit Veterans to volunteer in the Veteran Treatment Court?

A: Mentor coordinators should utilize local Veteran groups such as local Vet Centers which are community-based Veteran centers operated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. They provide counseling services to Veterans and their families, focusing on post-war readjustment to civilian life. Mentor coordinators may also contact the Disabled American Veterans Chapters which are non-profit organizations assisting disabled Veterans. Also, VA Medical Centers have Veterans who are experienced with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Q: How often are mentors required to communicate with participants?

A: Once a week is recommended, but mentors must understand that every participant is different. The goal is to form a supportive relationship with the participant.

Q: Can mentors be effective without much knowledge of the law or courtroom proceedings?

A: Mentors do not need to have legal or criminal justice experience. Mentors must not provide legal advice.

Q: Should mentors use a "tough love" approach?

A: Although a mentor may believe it will better help a participant, this approach is counter-productive to a participant's recovery. A strengths-based approach that encourages and motivates participants is preferable.

Q: Can attorneys serve as Veteran mentors?

A: Attorneys who appear in Veterans Court should not become mentors. Attorneys, who do not represent litigants in Veterans Court, can be mentors, but they must not provide legal advice to participants.

Q: Why can't Unified Court System employees be mentors?

A: Unified Court System employees must avoid the appearance of impropriety. Court employees face a conflict of interest in serving as impartial mentors.



Recognize the signs of suicide risk

Thinking about hurting or killing yourself.

Looking for ways to kill yourself.

Talking about death, dying, or suicide.

Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse.

Weapons, etc.

The presence of these signs requires immediate attention.

Call if you experience any of these warning signs.

Hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out.

Feeling like there is no reason to live.

Rage or anger

Engaging in risky activities without thinking.

Increase alcohol or drug abuse

Withdrawing from family and friends.

Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings

**Suggest the Veteran contact the crisis line at:
VETERANS CRISIS LINE: 988 PRESS 1**

Chris Dooley

702-701-2858, ruffin19@gmail.com

Alan Syler

423-488-5445, asyler@epbfi.com



ATRIse



NO VETERAN LEFT BEHIND





Appendix A

How does a Mentor find information regarding an assigned mentee's court dates and previous encounters with General Sessions and Criminal Courts?

There are two ways to accomplish this task:

- ★ From your computer, Google “Hamilton County, TN General Sessions”
 - From the list, select “Hamilton County Government (.gov)”
 - Select “General Sessions Court”
 - The screen below will be displayed:

The screenshot shows the Hamilton County General Sessions Court website. At the top, it says "Hamilton County General Sessions Court" and "Case Dispositions, Future Court Dates, & Balance Payments". To the right, it lists the contact information for Vince Dean, Sessions Court Clerk: 102 Courts Building @600 Market St, Chattanooga, TN 37402, Phone: (423) 209-7600, Fax: (423) 209-7601, and Hours: Mon - Fri 8:00am-4:00pm except designated holidays. Below this, there is a link "For Criminal Court Click Here". The search interface includes fields for Last Name, First Name, Middle, and Suffix, with a "Search by Defendant" button. There is also a field for Case Number with a "Search by Case Number" button. Below these are fields for Begin Filing Date, End Filing Date, and Judge, with a "Search by Judge with Date" button. At the bottom, there are fields for Officer Last Name and Officer First Name, with a "Search by Officer with Date" button. A "Clear Search Criteria" button is also present. A checkbox for "Future Court Dates Only" is located next to the Officer First Name field.

- Enter the mentee's name in the spaces provided, then select “Search by Defendant”
 - You will be presented with a full listing of all the mentees' present and past encounters with **General Sessions**.
 - To view the mentees' encounters with the “Criminal Court,” select the blue text “**For Criminal Court Click Here**”
 - You will be presented with a full listing of all the mentees' present and past encounters with the **Criminal**.
- ★ From your smartphone the Mentor can scan the QR code below:



cjusgeneralsessions.hamiltontn.gov