



Cobb Veterans Accountability and Treatment Court Program



**Cobb County
Veterans Accountability
and Treatment Court**
Judge Reuben Green
Cobb Superior Court
70 Haynes Street
Marietta, GA 30090-9642
770-528-1860

Mentor Application Requirements

1. Honorably discharged veteran of the US Military, National Guard, whether Active Duty or Reservist
2. Complete volunteer mentor application
3. Provide a copy of your DD 214
4. Have no felony convictions
5. Pass a criminal background check
6. Attend two court sessions prior to receiving your veteran mentee

Mail the application and DD 214 to the following address:

Cobb County Veterans Accountability and Treatment Court
ATTN: Judge Reuben Green
Cobb Superior Court
70 Haynes Street
Marietta, Georgia 30090-9642

Judge Reuben M. Green

Judge Reuben Green presides over the Veterans Accountability and Treatment Court in Cobb Superior Court. Judge Green is a former enlisted United States Marine.

District Attorney D. Victor Reynolds

Vic Reynolds serves as the elected District Attorney for the Cobb County Judicial Circuit. For information on or an application for Veterans Court, contact the District Attorney's Director of Accountability Courts at 770-528-3080 or visit www.cobbda.com

Mentor Coordinator contact information:

Bill Howerton
emerald052661@yahoo.com
678-232-3737

Introduction

Cobb County Veterans Accountability and Treatment Court (VTC) seeks to divert eligible veteran defendants with substance dependency and/or mental illness that are charged with felony criminal offenses, to a specialized criminal court. The court substitutes a treatment problem solving model for traditional court processing. Veteran participants are identified through evidence based screening and assessments. The veterans voluntarily participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan that a team of court staff, veteran health care professionals, veteran peer mentors, and health care professionals develop with the veteran. At regular status hearings, treatment plans and other conditions are reviewed for appropriateness, incentives are offered to reward adherence to court conditions, and sanctions are imposed for non-adherence to court conditions. The program is a minimum of eighteen months long. Some will have their charges dismissed and others are assured of a non-incarcerative sentence upon successful completion.

Many veterans are known to have a warrior's mentality and often do not address their treatment needs for physical and psychological health care. Often those who are referred to the VTC are homeless, helpless, in despair, suffering from alcohol or drug addiction, and others have serious mental illnesses. Their lives have been spiraling out of control. Through this program, the veteran is offered the opportunity to address the underlying conditions through treatment so that the veteran can regain stability, strengthen their family, and obtain housing and employment.

An essential part of VTC is the addition of volunteer mentors as part of the support team that encourages, guides and motivates mentees to complete the 18 month treatment program for physical, psychological and substance abuse conditions stemming from their military service. A properly trained and engaged mentor will develop an active and supportive relationships with the mentee and will increase the mentees chances of recovery.

Our Program Mission

To successfully rehabilitate veterans by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system by providing them with the tools they need in order to lead a productive and law-abiding lifestyle.

Our Program Goal

To increase public safety by reducing recidivism; provide better mental health, alcohol and drug treatment through the VA; turn tax burdens into tax payers; and provide intensive case management and structure to the veteran participants.

Mentor Mission

Cobb County Veteran Mentor Program ensures every participating veteran in VTC has a fellow veteran acting as a mentor, advocate and ally through the 18 month long program. The mentor will provide peer-to-peer support to assist the veteran mentee with adjustment challenges and support the mentee in navigating through the VTC program.

Mentee Profile

1. Honorably Discharged Veteran
2. Mental health issues associated with combat service
3. Substance abuse issues
4. Facing felony criminal charges in Cobb County

Program Structure

Phase 1 = 3 months

Phase 2 = 5 months

Phase 3 = 4 months

Phase 4 = 6 months

Mentor Duties and Responsibilities

- Attend all scheduled court sessions with your veteran mentee; notify Mentor Coordinator of any absences
- Participate/lead mentoring sessions required by the Mentor Coordinator or Court Officials
- Support the treatment progress of your veteran mentee and encourage the participant to comply with treatment
- Identify and resolve personal and family problems interfering with the

success of the VTC. Solve problems as they arise.

- Strive to volunteer 8 hours per month or 96 hours annually in support of VTC
- Commit to the Cobb County VTC program for a minimum of 18 months
- Complete Mentor Training program annually
- Pass a criminal background check
- Work to understand the psychological war wounds the veteran mentee is suffering from and provide a guiding and nurturing hand towards recovery
- Dress code: Business attire

Mentor DOs

1. Be a good listener
2. Offer suggestions and guidance throughout the program
3. Problem solve with the mentee
4. Remain available to your mentee throughout the program. Remember both of you are bonded in service to our country and you are in the best position to understand the mentee's military issues
5. Report all threats of harm to self and others to the Mentor Coordinator and Judge Reuben Green

Mentor DON'Ts

1. Do not act as a Drill Sergeant
2. Do not judge the veteran mentee
3. Do not provide LEGAL COUNSEL to the mentee
4. Do not provide any type of funding to the mentee
5. Do not provide PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING

VTC Mentor Coordinator Duties and Responsibilities

1. Assume the major responsibility for recruiting qualified mentors. Provide input for the Cobb County Mentor Recruitment Program.
2. Coordinate the Cobb County mentor orientation program and any specialized training. Conduct all training requirements annually.
3. Communicate with all mentors monthly to ensure mentor needs/resources are met.
4. Attend all court sessions and carry out additional duties assigned by VTC team.