**Frequently Asked Questions**

**How long do I have to be in treatment court?**

The Whitley County Veterans Treatment Court program is 12-24 months in length, with the average participant spending 18 months in the program. The program is divided into four separate phases which carry different supervision requirements. Those phases will be discussed with you at the time of your orientation with the coordinator. The treatment court judge determines when you have successfully completed all requirements.

**How much will it cost?**

All persons enrolled in the Whitley County Veterans Treatment Court will be assessed a user fee in the amount of $100. The fee is payable to Whitley County Community Corrections. There is also an additional $25 transfer fee for out-of-county referrals. Drug screen fees are assessed at the rate of $20-$80 per test. Any credit or overpayment of fees at the termination or successful completion of your case is nonrefundable.

Fees for treatment services are determined on an individual basis and collected by your treatment provider. Your ability to pay may be reassessed at any time during the course of your participation. Every participant is expected to contribute financially to the cost of treatment services and drug testing. Payment of fees is a requirement of Veterans Treatment Court just as attendance and abstinence from drugs and alcohol is a requirement. Some private insurance plans and Medicaid programs will assist in the cost of treatment services. If you have health insurance or Medicaid, bring this information with you to your assessment.

**Why should I participate?**

Your participation in treatment court is voluntary and it is encouraged that you discuss it with your family and your attorney/public defender before making a decision. The benefits of participation include becoming drug and alcohol free, education, job training, and other community resources.

**What if I fail to complete the treatment court requirements?**

In order to participate in the program, you must sign a plea agreement admitting guilt to your current charges. If you fail to complete the requirements, the judge may terminate you from treatment court and then sentence you on your charges. Your attorney will discuss this with you in further detail.

**What are my alternatives?**

If you choose not to participate, your case will be prosecuted in the usual manner.

**I want to participate, now what?**

If you choose to participate, then you will need to fill out the VTC application and submit proof of military service. As long as there is no objection from the prosecuting attorney, further evaluations will be scheduled to assess your individual needs. These will be conducted by the VTC coordinator or case manager. The Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator (VJO) may need to perform a clinical screening as well. Substance abuse and/or mental health evaluations will be conducted by individual service providers at a later date, if you are not already active in services. If found to be eligible for VTC placement by the judge and the VTC team, a Participation Agreement will be signed and filed with the court, and you will officially be ordered into the program.