

Will County Veterans and Servicemembers Court



Participant Handbook

Will County Veterans and Servicemembers Court Mission Statement:

To provide veterans or current servicemembers individualized mental health, mental disorder and/or substance abuse treatment through judicial intervention utilizing a collaborative, non-adversarial approach in order to promote public safety, reduce recidivism, and enhance the quality of life for the community and the individual.

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WELCOME

Welcome to the Will County Veterans and Servicemembers Court (WCVSC) program.

Veterans and Servicemembers courts are specialized courts that emphasize treating a Participant's addiction and mental health issues so that he or she does not continue to commit criminal acts. Instead of jail time without treatment, the WCVSC focuses on giving its Participants the tools to manage their addiction and mental health disorders, and become productive members of society.

The WCVSC requires each Participant to comply with a rigorous treatment plan that will ensure they can leave Veterans and Servicemembers Court with the skills to manage their addictions.

The purpose of this handbook is to help Participants understand what they need to know and do, so that they can successfully participate in and complete WCVSC. Included in this handbook is WCVSC general program information, eligibility for WCVSC, the assessment and enrollment process, an outline of the WCVSC team, Participant responsibilities, the program phases, details on consequences for not complying with WCVSC treatment plans, drug testing procedures, and the possible program outcomes.

If there are questions about the WCVSC, please contact the Court Coordinator, or your attorney.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

WCVSC consists of the following components:

- an eligibility screening for legal acceptability
- assessments for treatment needs and risk levels
- a four phase intervention program
- graduation
- an aftercare plan

Once admitted into the WCVSC program, the WCVSC team collaboratively creates a specialized treatment plan for each Participant with which he or she must comply. Decision making is cooperative in nature, with the Judge making the final decision.

A Participant's treatment plan may include (but is not limited to) some or all of the following:

- substance use treatment
- case management services
- mental health assessment and treatment services
- individual counseling

- trauma specific treatment services
- medication assisted treatment
- random drug testing
- primary health treatment services
- domestic violence counseling
- anger management
- employment and education programs

It is important that each Participant understands that it is his or her responsibility to follow all of the requirements of the WCVSC program because these requirements are necessary to change the choices, attitudes and behaviors that have brought the Participant into the criminal justice system.

As Participants progress through the phases of the WCVSC program, each Participant will be required to appear before the WCVSC Judge, Case Managers, Probation Officers, Treatment Providers and others as directed. Participants will also be required to submit to scheduled and random drug and alcohol testing.

The WCVSC team meets prior to WCVSC and discusses the status of each Participant for that week. When each Participant appears before the WCVSC Judge, the Judge will discuss the Participant's progress, ask how he or she is doing, and if necessary, the Judge may provide incentives, therapeutic adjustments, and/or sanctions to a Participant based on his or her compliance with their treatment plan and program rules and expectations.

The typical program length is 12-24 months; however, program length varies depending on Participant's needs and compliance with program requirements.

WCVSC treatment services range from detox to long term in patient treatment and extended care. Recovery focused housing resources, medication assisted treatment, cognitive behavioral therapy, and psychoeducational groups are also available to WCVSC Participants. Employment classes may be required.

Upon successful completion of the program, in most cases the State's attorney agrees to dismiss the Participant's charges. In this case, Participants do not end up with a conviction on their record, which benefits future employment and career opportunities. If the charges are not dismissed, the Participant's sentence may be deemed complete upon graduation of the WCVSC program.

ELIGIBILITY

It is the policy and practice of WCVSC to conduct all aspects of the program without discrimination on the basis of gender, race, nationality, ethnicity, limited English proficiency, disability, socio-economic status or sexual orientation. For individuals for whom English is not their primary language, Interpreters are available through the Will

County 12th Judicial Circuit. In accordance with applicable legal requirements, the treatment providers ensure that language services are readily available to assist in service delivery for those Participants needing language services assistance. To aid individuals with low literacy levels all members of the WCVSC team provide Participants with oral instructions in addition to written materials at every stage of program development. The Will County Veterans and Servicemembers Court adheres to the 12th Judicial Circuit's Language Access policy. It is the responsibility of the participant to inform the Court of any disabilities that need accommodation.

Will County Veterans and Servicemembers Court Eligibility Requirements:

- Veteran or Servicemember
- 18 years or older
- Charged with a probationable felony offense
- Have a substance use disorder or mental health disorder diagnosed by the certified addiction or mental health professional
- Voluntarily sign the *Consent to Participate* in WCVSC court
- All Participants must agree to stop all drug and alcohol use
- Be willing to comply with all treatment requirements of the WCVSC program
- All Participants must admit guilt, be found guilty, or admit the Petition to Revoke, in order to enter WCVSC

The WCVSC Judge makes the final decision regarding acceptance into the program. If a Participant's felony charge is a drug-related Class 2 or greater felony offense, the consent of the State's Attorney is also required.

If an individual is currently charged or has been convicted with any of the following crimes in the past 10 years, excluding times of incarceration, he or she is not eligible for participation in the WCVSC:

- first-degree murder;
- second-degree murder;
- predatory criminal sexual assault of a child;
- aggravated criminal sexual assault;
- criminal sexual assault;
- armed robbery;
- aggravated arson;
- arson;
- aggravated kidnapping;
- kidnapping;
- aggravated battery resulting in great bodily harm or permanent disability;
- stalking;
- aggravated stalking;
- any offense involving the discharge of a firearm

VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS COURT REFERRAL AND ASSESMENT

If an individual is interested in entering the WCVSC program, he or she must fill out a referral form available in all courtrooms. Assistance is available for the illiterate. The form must be submitted to the Court who will submit it to the WCVSC team. The WCVSC team will review the application and the State's Attorney's Office will ensure the applicant's criminal history permits him or her to enter the program.

Following this, the individual is assessed by a certified addiction counselor in order to determine if the Participant has a substance use disorder or a mental health professional to determine if there is a mental disorder. A risk assessment by a member of the WCVSC team is then conducted to determine if the Participant is in the target population. **All Participants must agree to stop all drug and alcohol use.**

The findings from the legal and clinical assessments are compiled and then discussed at the weekly WCVSC meeting. An individualized treatment plan is presented.

The WCVSC Judge makes the final decision regarding acceptance into the program. The Participant is notified of his/her acceptance or denial during the regular weekly court call, and a date will be set for the Participant to sign his or her contract and *Consent to Participate*.

If an individual's felony charge is a drug-related Class 2 or greater felony offense, the consent of the State's Attorney is also required. If the Judge or State denies an individual's entry into the program, he or she is sent back to their original court call for traditional case processing.

THE VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS COURT TEAM

The WCVSC team is made up of individuals who all have a different specialty in the criminal justice field. The team uses a non-adversarial approach, meaning that each member of the team works collaboratively to develop a treatment plan that is tailored to the individual needs of each Participant.

Each member of the WCVSC Team is listed below:

Judge:

Leads the WCVSC team and, with input from all of the team members and Participants, makes all final decisions regarding WCVSC team responses, as well as decisions involving their compliance or non-compliance with WCVSC requirements. The PSC judge, before being assigned to preside in such a court, should have experience and/or training in a broad range of topics including, but not limited to: (1) criminal law; (2)

behavioral health; (3) confidentiality; (4) ethics; (5) evidence-based practices; (6) substance use and abuse; (7) mental illness and (8) co-occurring disorders. The judge must be assigned to preside over the PSC for a minimum of two years;

WCVSC Coordinator:

Coordinates all referrals and acts as the central contact for any questions. The court coordinator oversees the day to day operations of WCVSC and is responsible for all grant activities and data collection. He/she shall regularly participate in and coordinate trainings, webinars, events, and other educational opportunities on topics that are essential to the effective planning, implementation and operation of the PSC and to ensuring that the PSC maintains fidelity to the PSC model. Topics include, but are not limited to, evidence-based screening, assessment and treatment practices, target population, substance use disorder, mental illness, disability, co-occurring disorders, trauma, confidentiality, criminogenic risks and needs, incentives and sanctions and therapeutic adjustments, court processes, limited English proficiency and team dynamics. He/she shall stay abreast of current law and research on best practices and participate in ongoing interdisciplinary education and training. He/she shall commit to serving on the team a minimum of one year.

Prosecutor:

Follows a Participants compliance with WCVSC requirements and makes recommendations that balance public safety concerns with their treatment needs. The prosecutor is responsible for advising the WCVSC team of all relevant information about Participants available to the State i.e. police contact, new charges, etc. He/she shall regularly participate in trainings, webinars, events, and other educational opportunities on topics that are essential to the effective planning, implementation and operation of the PSC and to ensuring that the PSC maintains fidelity to the PSC model. He/she shall stay abreast of current law and research on best practices and participate in ongoing interdisciplinary education and training. He/she shall commit to serving on the team a minimum of one year.

Public Defender/Defense Counsel:

Follows a Participant's compliance with WCVSC requirements and advocates for their legal interests and treatment needs. The public defender will represent Participants in WCVSC unless Participants are represented by private defense counsel. In the majority of cases, Public Defenders take over a Participant's legal representation after a contract has been signed. He/she shall regularly participate in trainings, webinars, events, and other educational opportunities on topics that are essential to the effective planning, implementation and operation of the PSC and to ensuring that the PSC maintains fidelity to the PSC model. He/she shall stay abreast of current law and research on best

practices and participate in ongoing interdisciplinary education and training. He/she shall commit to serving on the team a minimum of one year.

Case Managers:

Meet with Participants on a regular basis to determine Participant's progress in the program, as well as provide referrals for substance use treatment, employment, education, transportation, mental health services, and entitlements. Their case manager will ensure that Participants understand the requirements of WCVSC and supervise their compliance with all WCVSC treatment requirements. He/she shall regularly participate in trainings, webinars, events, and other educational opportunities on topics that are essential to the effective planning, implementation and operation of the PSC and to ensuring that the PSC maintains fidelity to the PSC model. He/she shall stay abreast of current law and research on best practices and participate in ongoing interdisciplinary education and training. He/she shall commit to serving on the team a minimum of one year.

Probation Officers:

Responsible for meeting with Participants on a regular basis to determine Participant's progress in the program, as well as provide referrals for substance use treatment, employment, education, transportation, mental health services, and entitlements. They will ensure that Participants understand the requirements of WCVSC and supervise their compliance with all WCVSC treatment and probation supervision requirements. They will perform home visits and risk assessments as necessary. He/she shall regularly participate in trainings, webinars, events, and other educational opportunities on topics that are essential to the effective planning, implementation and operation of the PSC and to ensuring that the PSC maintains fidelity to the PSC model. He/she shall stay abreast of current law and research on best practices and participate in ongoing interdisciplinary education and training. He/she shall commit to serving on the team a minimum of one year.

Mental Health Professionals:

Responsible for performing mental health and risk assessments. Provide Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT), psycho educational and Thinking For a Change (T4C) groups. Work with team to develop treatment plans. Attend staffings and send report updates regarding treatment services. He/she shall regularly participate in trainings, webinars, events, and other educational opportunities on topics that are essential to the effective planning, implementation and operation of the PSC and to ensuring that the PSC maintains fidelity to the PSC model. He/she shall stay abreast of current law and research on best practices and participate in ongoing interdisciplinary education and training. He/she shall commit to serving on the team a minimum of one year.

Data/ Risk Assessment Specialist:

Works with the Mental Health Professional, Case Manager and Probation Officer to administer the necessary risk assessment tools in order to determine the risks and needs of potential Participants. Acts as a liaison with treatment providers and case managers to coordinate data collection and entry. Works with Court Coordinator to ensure timely reporting of required data. He/she shall regularly participate in trainings, webinars, events, and other educational opportunities on topics that are essential to the effective planning, implementation and operation of the PSC and to ensuring that the PSC maintains fidelity to the PSC model. He/she shall stay abreast of current law and research on best practices and participate in ongoing interdisciplinary education and training. He/she shall commit to serving on the team a minimum of one year.

Licensed Treatment Provider(s)

Provides screening, assessment and/ or treatment to Participants and coordinates with other treatment providers to develop treatment plans. WCVSC's treatment providers include Woodridge Interventions and Stepping Stones. When necessary, representatives from these organizations will attend WCVSC staffings to discuss a Participant's progress. He/she shall regularly participate in trainings, webinars, events, and other educational opportunities on topics that are essential to the effective planning, implementation and operation of the PSC and to ensuring that the PSC maintains fidelity to the PSC model. He/she shall stay abreast of current law and research on best practices and participate in ongoing interdisciplinary education and training. He/she shall commit to serving on the team a minimum of one year.

Law Enforcement Officer

He/she acts as a liaison to other law enforcement agencies and will offer a law enforcement perspective when policy and procedures are developed. The officer may assist with home visits as needed, process/serve warrants on Veteran's Court Participants and assist with referring potential Veteran's Court Participants. The officer may promote and encourage law enforcement officers to receive Crisis Intervention Training. If the law enforcement officer is a veteran, he/she can offer encouragement and emotional support. He/she shall regularly participate in trainings, webinars, events, and other educational opportunities on topics that are essential to the effective planning, implementation and operation of the PSC and to ensuring that the PSC maintains fidelity to the PSC model.. He/she shall stay abreast of current law and research on best practices and participate in ongoing interdisciplinary education and training. He/she shall commit to serving on the team a minimum of one year.

Veteran's Justice Outreach Specialist

He/she screens and assesses veterans for eligibility for VA Healthcare services, provides recommendations for those services, including psychiatric and substance abuse and monitors the treatment of the veterans. He/she provides referrals to community resources for social needs such as housing and finance and provides case

management throughout the Participant's court involvement. He/she shall regularly participate in trainings, webinars, events, and other educational opportunities on topics that are essential to the effective planning, implementation and operation of the PSC and to ensuring that the PSC maintains fidelity to the PSC model. He/she shall stay abreast of current law and research on best practices and participate in ongoing interdisciplinary education and training. He/she shall commit to serving on the team a minimum of one year.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Each Participant is required to sign an authorization for release of information to allow the WCVSC team to communicate as a team about each Participant's participation and compliance. Once a Participant is in the program, the WCVSC team may also require that he or she sign additional releases of information to third parties, such as family members, sponsors, mentors, or medical/treatment providers on an as needed basis. A Participant's health and treatment records are protected under federal regulations. 42 C.F.R. Part 2 (Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records) and 45 C.F.R. Parts 160 & 164 (HIPPA). Almost all of the Statements made during eligibility screening, assessments and treatment cannot be used against them. 45 C.F.R. §164.512 (j)(2)(i) and (ii). However, if a Participant admits to either of the following two things, Statements **may** be used against me: 1) child abuse or neglect (45 C.F.R. §164.512(b)(1)(ii); and 2) domestic violence, abuse or neglect which causes the Team Member to believe disclosure is necessary to prevent serious harm to a potential victim (45 C.F.R. §164.512(b)(1)(ii). If a Participant admits to these offenses, the State's Attorney may bring new charges against them. Statements made during the eligibility, assessment(s) and treatment, other than those mandatorily required to be disclosed as outlined in the above paragraph, cannot be the basis for new criminal charges or a criminal investigation except as authorized by a court order. 42 C.F.R. §2.1 (b)(2)(C); 42 C.F.R. §2.2 (b)(2)(C). Prior to a Court Order being issued, a hearing shall be conducted by the Specialty Court Judge. Notice shall be given to Defense Counsel with a Bill of Particulars with the following information: a.) The Statement that the State is seeking to disclose; b.) A list of all individuals who witnessed the Statement that the State is seeking to disclose, including their names, addresses, telephone and email addresses; and c.) Any and all reports, notes, audio or video material memorializing the Statement of the Participant and the circumstances under which it was made.

PHASES OF TREATMENT

There are four phases to Veterans Court prior to graduation from the program. In order to move from one phase to another, certain requirements must be met. Once completed, Participants may make written application with proof of completion to his or

her case manager, explaining why Participants are ready to move to the next phase. This written request will be reviewed and approved or denied by the Veterans Court judge, with input from the team. When a Participant completes each phase, he/she receives a certificate of completion and recognition during court services.

Phase I

- Complete 1st phase of treatment (Inpatient, IOP, OP)
- Comply with psychiatric appointments and recommendations (If Applicable)
- Medical/Medication Issues Addressed (If Applicable)
- Meet with case manager weekly if not in residential treatment
- Attend court weekly if not in residential treatment
- Urine and drug/alcohol screens are negative for minimum of 30 days
- Apply for all recommended public entitlements and VA benefits
- Attend 3-4 recovery support meetings weekly (If Applicable)
- Explanation of what step participants is working on (If Applicable)
- Sign releases of information to collateral contacts upon requests
- Must be in phase one for minimum of 60 days
- Approval by the WCVSC Team

Participants can only advance to Phase II if substantially compliant with Phase I requirements for a sustained period of time, have no drug tests which violate the alcohol and drug testing protocol and procedures for 30 days, and the Judge with input from the WCVSC team approves their written application explaining why he or she would like to move to Phase II.

Phase II

- Continue Treatment as recommended
- Comply with CBT, T4C, MRT, Psycho Educational and/or Substance Abuse treatment
- Comply with psychiatric appointments and recommendations (If Applicable)
- Medical/Medication Issues Addressed
- Explore employment opportunities, Disability or educational opportunities
- Meet with case manager weekly
- Attend court weekly
- Obtain a sponsor (if applicable)
- Urine and drug/alcohol screens are negative for minimum of 60 days
- Complete five (5) hours of community service
- Make substantial effort to pay \$360.00 of WCVSC fee

- Attend 3-4 recovery support meetings weekly (If Applicable)
- Explanation of what step participants is working on
- Explanation of insights and skills participant has acquired through T4C and/or MRT and how participant applies these skills to everyday life (if applicable)
- Must be in phase two for minimum of 60 days
- Approval by the WCVSC Team

Participants can only advance to Phase III if substantially compliant with Phase II requirements for a sustained period of time, have no drug tests which violate the alcohol and drug testing protocol and procedures for 60 days, and the Judge with input from the WCVSC team approves their written application explaining why he or she would like to move to Phase III. If a defendant is determined to be unable to pay fees, community service may be substituted.

Phase III

- Complete all required treatment
- Continue to meet all Phase II Requirements
- Attempt to obtain employment or full time educational status
- Obtain stable housing
- Letter from sponsor detailing program work (If Applicable)
- Explanation of what step participants is working on (If Applicable)
- Attend 3 recovery support meetings weekly (If Applicable)
- Urine and drug/alcohol screens are negative for minimum of 150 days
- Complete additional ten (10) hours of community service
- Make substantial effort to pay Additional \$600.00 (cumulative total of \$960.00) of WCVSC fee
- Lead 1 o'clock meeting with specific topic
- Attend Court bi-weekly
- See case manager bi-weekly
- Increase Positive Attitude and use skills acquired to increase independence
- Explanation of insights and skills participant has acquired through T4C and/or MRT and how participant applies these skills to everyday life (If applicable)
- Complete either T4C or MRT (if applicable)
- Sign releases of information to collateral contacts upon request
- Must be in phase two for minimum of 120 days
- Approval by the WCVSC Team

Participants can only advance to Phase IIII if substantially compliant with Phase III requirements for a sustained period of time, have no drug tests which violate the alcohol and drug testing protocol and procedures for six months, and the Judge with input from the team WCVSC team approves their written application explaining why he or she would like to move to Phase IIII. If a defendant is determined to be unable to pay fees, community service may be substituted.

Phase IV

- Continue to meet all Phase III requirements
- Employment or full time educational status
- Letter from sponsor detailing program work (If Applicable)
- Explanation of what step participant is working on (If Applicable)
- Attend 3 recovery support meetings weekly (If Applicable)
- Urine and drug/alcohol screens negative for minimum of nine (9) months
- Complete additional ten (10) hours of community service
- Make substantial effort to pay additional \$600.00 of WCVSC fee
- Pay full restitution (If Applicable)
- Maintain stable housing
- Complete MRT, T4C, all assigned Psycho Educational Groups (if applicable)
- Explanation of insights and skills participant has acquired through T4C and/or MRT and how participant applies these skills to everyday life (if applicable)
- Sign release of information to collateral contacts upon request
- Participant is able to describe how they take responsibility for life and behaviors now as opposed to prior to entering WCVSC
- Must be in phase three for minimum of 120 days
- Approval by the WCVSC Team
- Complete graduation questionnaire
- Complete and review discharge Plan with assistance of the Case Manager

Participants can only advance to Graduation if substantially compliant with Phase IV requirements for a sustained period of time, have no drug tests which violate the alcohol and drug testing protocol and procedures for nine months, and the Judge with input from the WCVSC team approves their pre-Graduation questionnaire. This questionnaire asks the participants seeking to graduate to reflect on their time in WCVSC, to determine if they have all the necessary tools to manage their addictions, and to think about how they will continue to live a drug free life upon leaving WCVSC.

Graduation

- Complete Graduation questionnaire
- All Phase Requirements satisfied
- Begin implementation of the discharge plan and any required ongoing treatment or follow up services.
- Minimum 12 Months in WCVSC
- Make Substantial Effort to pay \$1560 WCVSC fee

To be eligible for graduation, participants must continue to meet all of the requirements for moving from phase III to phase IV, must be compliant with phase III requirements, have made substantial effort to pay the WCVSC fee of \$1560 over the course of their time in the four phases, have negative urine screens for nine months, and have completed the pre-Graduation questionnaire and discharge plan and reviewed the discharge plan. If a defendant is determined to be unable to pay fees, community service may be substituted. The WCVSC team will staff a participant to determine if he/she has met the requirements to advance from phase IV to graduation. It is at this point that any legal agreements that have been previously made pending completion shall be reviewed and acted upon accordingly. The WCVSC holds approximately two graduation ceremonies a year.

SUMMARY OF VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS COURT PARTICIPANT RULES

1. Participants will totally abstain from the use of illegal drugs and alcohol. Participants will submit to urinalysis as requested by any WCVSC personnel. Failure to do so will be considered a positive test.
2. Participant is not to consume or to be in possession of any substance used to adulterate a drug test; these are commonly referred to as detox kits/drinks.
3. Participants will not associate with people who use or possess drugs, nor will Participants be present when drugs or alcohol are being used by others.
4. Participants must follow their treatment plan and actively participate in all services as required.
5. Participants will attend all scheduled court and treatment sessions on time, submit to random alcohol and drug testing, remain clean and sober and refrain from any further criminal conduct. If Participants do not appear on his or her regularly scheduled court date and have not been previously excused, the Judge will issue a warrant for the Participant's arrest.
6. Participants will cooperate with all home visits, treatment visits, or employment visits. The WCVSC team members will conduct home, treatment facility, or place of employment visits on a regular basis to monitor the program.
7. Participants must notify the WCVSC case manager/probation officer immediately following any law enforcement contact or hospitalization.

8. Participants will dress appropriately for court and treatment sessions. Clothing bearing violent, racist, sexist, drug or alcohol-related themes or promoting or advertising alcohol or drug use is considered inappropriate. Hats may not be worn. Gang attire is also inappropriate.
9. Use appropriate language when addressing the court. (“yes” instead of “yea”, “excuse me” instead of “huh”, “no” instead of “nope”) Nodding or shaking of the head is NOT an appropriate response!
10. There is to be no talking in the courtroom during WCVSC proceedings. Prior approval of WCVSC staff should be received if Participants must bring children to court. **TURN OFF CELL PHONES!**
11. Participants will remain in the courtroom until dismissed by the Judge or a member of the WCVSC team.
12. Participants will inform all treating physicians that Participants are a recovering addict and may not take narcotic or addictive medications or drugs without notice to the court. Participant will return medication receipt to their case manager.
13. Participants shall not take prescription medications not prescribed to them by his or her doctor.
14. Participants cannot ingest any substances that are labeled “not for human consumption”, including, but not exclusively, K2, spice, or other synthetic cannabinoids.
15. The Participant’s probation officer/case manager must be notified if he or she is taking any over the counter medications.
16. Participants will submit to random drug and/or alcohol screens when requested by any WCVSC team member and/or treatment provider, and comply with the random drug protocol.
17. Participants will keep the WCVSC team informed of their current address and phone number at all time. Participants must get approval for any changes and report any changes within 24 hours. If contacted, Participants have 24 hours to present themselves to probation for drug and alcohol testing.
18. Participants must inform their case managers of any changes in employment within 24 hours
19. Participants cannot leave the State without approval of the WCVSC. Permission to leave must be requested in writing and given to the probation officer or another member of the WCVSC team. Participants will be notified of approval or denial by the Judge.

20. Participants cannot be in possession of a firearm or dangerous weapon.
21. All Veterans Court Participants are required to pay court costs in the amount of **\$1560.00** (fee subject to change). In addition, they are required to pay all restitution owed in their case. Payment is to be made to the Will County Circuit Clerk's Office. Participants are not required to make weekly payments if they are in a residential treatment facility.
22. The WCVSC also requires each Participant to complete a minimum of 25 hours of community service work while in the program.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING PROCEDURES

Participants will be randomly drug tested throughout the program to make sure that they avoid harmful substances. Using drugs, including alcohol, will interfere with treatment and will lead to sanctions or therapeutic adjustments.

A 24 hour call-in system is in place to ensure compliance. Participants will receive a color and phone number for nightly call. In addition, each time a Participant comes to court, they will do a drug test in the lower level of the courthouse. They may also have to do drug testing at the Health Department, with a case manager, or another treatment provider.

The Judge can order a random drug test as well. If a Participant is called in for a random drug test, they have 24 hours to take the test at the courthouse or with a case manager. Participants will be observed by a member of the same sex to ensure freedom from errors. Failure to provide a sample will be considered a positive test.

If a Participant has a positive test in any WCVSC phase, the Judge, based on recommendations from the WCVSC staff, may apply an immediate relapse plan. This plan may include sanctions, as well as adjustments to the Participant's treatment plan based on his or her individual needs.

INCENTIVES, SANCTIONS, AND THERAPEUTIC ADJUSTMENTS

Each WCVSC Participant has an individualized treatment plan. The team uses a combination of incentives, sanctions and/or therapeutic adjustments to reinforce a recovering lifestyle. The treatment plan is updated regularly.

Incentives:

Incentives include verbal affirmation, leaving court early, less frequent court appearances and/or mandatory probation meetings, and attendance at fewer recovery support meetings resulting in a reduction in Participant's expenses. They are also allowed more flexibility to travel. Incentives may be received for a variety of behaviors and achievements such as attending all probation and treatment and groups, attending all court status hearings, making progress in treatment, providing clean drug screens, gaining or maintaining employment, and education achievement.

Sanctions:

Sanctions may vary for each WCVSC Participant. Sanctions are imposed for each violation. Violations that will result in sanctions include but are not limited to: involvement in criminal activity dishonesty with the WCVSC team and treatment providers, poor attendance, lack of participation in treatment or tasks identified in the treatment plan, and positive drug screens. The sanctions that will be imposed for these violations may include but are not limited to: curfews, community service hours, incarceration, increased reporting to court and probation, "random" drug tests, extensions of contract and/or termination from program.

In the event of a sanction, the Participant will have the opportunity to address the WCVSC Court before sanctions are imposed. The WCVSC Judge must consider this input and decide whether to impose the sanction. The final decision as to whether to impose a sanction and what sanction is appropriate rests within the sole discretion of the WCVSC Judge and may only be imposed in accordance with the procedural principles of fairness and neutrality after the Participant is given an opportunity to be heard.

Therapeutic Adjustments:

Therapeutic adjustments to a Participant's treatment plan may be made for a variety of reasons that include but are not limited to: results of assessments and evaluations, recommendation by treatment providers, missing recovery support group meetings or meetings with case manager, and positive drug screens. Adjustments to one's treatment plan may include but are not limited to: individual counseling, parenting classes, and anger management. Participants will be required to comply with any new or additional requirements.

POSSIBLE PROGRAM OUTCOMES

There are four possible outcomes for a Participant in the program which includes successful discharge, neutral discharge, unsuccessful discharge, or voluntary withdrawal.

Successful Discharge

A Participant will be eligible for successful discharge if they complete every WCVSC program requirement. The Participant will also be required to complete a graduation questionnaire two weeks prior to graduating. At graduation, they will receive a certificate of achievement, be recognized for their achievement and will be discharged from WCVSC.

Upon successful completion of the program, in most cases the State's attorney agrees to dismiss the Participant's charges. In this case, Participants do not end up with a conviction on their record, which benefits future employment and career opportunities. If the charges are not dismissed, the Participant's sentence may be deemed complete upon graduation of the WCVSC program. In this case, the Participant avoids incarceration and gains helpful tools to live a productive life.

Neutral Discharge

A participant may encounter difficulties after entering the program that makes it difficult or impossible for him/her to comply with the requirements of WCVSC. Upon collaboration from the WCVSC Team the WCVSC Judge can enter an order permitting a neutral discharge from the WCVSC Program.

Unsuccessful Discharge

A Participant's contract in WCVSC can be terminated for reasons such as: warrants, new arrest, or a violation of any aspect of the WCVSC contract. Other violations, which could result in termination, include but are not limited to: missing drug tests, positive drug tests, altered drug test, lack of program response demonstrated by failing to cooperate with WCVSC team, and violence or threat of violence directed at staff or other Participants of the program.

Prior to unsuccessful discharge from WCVSC, a Participant will be served with a petition that seeks to revoke his or her WCVSC contract and sets out his or her alleged violations. Once a petition is filed, Participants have the right to be represented by an attorney, the right to a hearing on the petition, the right to confront the State's witnesses and evidence, the right to present evidence and testimony on his or her own behalf if Participants choose to, the right to require that the State prove that it is more probably true than not true that Participants violated his or her contract, and the right to be advised of the sentencing range.

Once a petition is filed, in order for the Judge to continue to participate in team staffings of their case, Participants must agree to let the Judge discuss their case. Participants' agreement will be requested when a petition is filed and addressed in open court. An unsuccessful discharge can occur as part of a plea agreement or as a sentencing outcome after a hearing on the petition. If the court grants the petition to remove, the Participant will proceed to sentencing.

Voluntary Withdrawal

WCVSC is a voluntary program; therefore, Participants do have the right to withdraw from the program. However, there will be consequences to withdrawing from WCVSC, so it is important that Participants understand what those consequences may be, and the Judge and each Participant's attorney will explain those to the Participant. A Participant that chooses to withdraw from the program will proceed to sentencing. Any consequence has to be consistent with the terms of his or her contract. Serving jail time that has previously been stayed is one example of a possible consequence of voluntary withdrawal from WCVSC.

TRANSPORTATION

In most cases, the Will County Sheriff's Department is responsible for transporting incarcerated Participants to the chosen treatment facility. Family members can obtain a list of clothing and other items from the treatment facility and drop them off according to the rules of the facility. Participants may also be able to send clothing and other items through the postal system.

CONCLUSION

WCVSC helps the Participant achieve a life free of dependence on mind-altering substances. WCVSC helps the Participant accept and cope with their mental health issues. The WCVSC team is here to guide and assist the Participant, but the final responsibility is on the individual. To succeed, one must be motivated to make a commitment to a mentally healthy, drug-free life.

VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS COURT STAFF NUMBERS

JUDGE CARLA POLICANDRIOTES	815-727-8941
VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS COURT COORDINATOR Julie McCabe-Sterr	815-774-7852
STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE Assistant State's Attorney's Dan Egan	815-727-8453 815-724-1394
Britt Florin	815-727-8617
Christine Vukmir	815-727-8870
PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE Jaya Varghese	815-727-8666
Shenonda Tisdale	815-727-8666
VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS COURT CASE MANAGER Marcia Van Natta	815-724-1384
Joseph Maso	815-774-7851
PROBATION DEPARTMENT Sue O'Halloran	815-774-4534
MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL Terry McCormick, PsyD	815-724-1394
Diana Murillo	815-724-1348
EMPLOYMENT OUTREACH SPECIALIST Timothy Ruettiger	815-724-1538
DATA/RISK ASSESSMENT SPECIALIST Mitchel Crandall	815-727-8875
CENTER FOR CORRECTIONAL CONCERNS Jan Moore	815-740-5631

SUPPORT GROUPS & COMMUNITY RESOURCES

While the final responsibility rests on the individual, know that there are resources and support services available to Participants, as they make their way down the road to recovery.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

SUPPORT GROUPS	815-729-1228
SOUTH SUBURBAN FAMILY SHELTER	708-798-7737
GROUNDWORK-WILL COUNTY	815-729-1228
GROUNDWORK-GRUNDY COUNTY	815-941-2261
CHICAGO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	312-743-0289

FINANCIAL CRISIS

SALVATION ARMY	815-726-4834
WILL COUNTY CENTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	815-723-1800

FOOD/SHELTER EMERGENCIES

DAYBREAK	815-774-4663
MORNING STAR MISSION MINISTRIES	815-722-5780
CATHOLIC CHARITIES	815-723-3405

GRIEF

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP	815-942-8525
SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE SUPPORT GROUP	630-482-9393
WIDOWS-WIDOWERS SUPPORT GROUP	815-838-5334
JOLIET AREA COMMUNITY HOSPICE	815-740-4104

EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS	615-647-9712
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LOSS AND GRIEF COUNSELING	815-416-9036
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GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS	630-972-1011
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WILL GRUNDY MEDICAL CLINIC	815-726-3377
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WORKFORCE SERVICES	815-727-4444
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WILL COUNTY VETERANS AND SERVICEMEMBERS COURT PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK SIGNATURE PAGE

I read and understand the contents of the WCVSC Participant handbook. I have been given a copy of the Participant handbook, and I will bring it to court and to all my appointments. I understand that in order to be successful in the WCVSC program, I must comply with the treatment recommendations and decisions made by the WCVSC team.

Client Signature

Date

Defense Counsel

Date