

KOOTENAI COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK



Revised October 2024

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Kootenai County Veterans Treatment Court (herein after referred to as VTC) Handbook. This handbook is designed to answer questions, address concerns, and provide overall information about the VTC program. As a participant, you will be expected to follow the instructions given to you by the Judge and probation officer, as well as to comply with the treatment plan developed for you by an approved treatment provider and/or counselors. This handbook will detail what is expected of you as a VTC participant and review general program information. It is intended to be a standard guide to VTC participants in Kootenai County. All participants are encouraged to share this handbook with family and friends.

This program will be hard and require your total commitment, but the time and effort will be well worth it in the end as you regain control over your life.

PLEASE READ THIS BOOKLET VERY CAREFULLY. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING AND UNDERSTANDING ITS CONTENTS.

All participants MUST apply for Medicaid and provide either the approval or denial results to their treatment provider and the coordinator.



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PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Kootenai County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is a court-supervised, comprehensive treatment program for veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The Kootenai County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) is designed for justice-involved veterans who meet the eligibility requirements set forth on page 5. All participants are closely monitored for program compliance.

Treatment is provided by the United State Department of Veteran Affairs and/or Ambitions of Idaho. In addition to treatment and counseling, the program may also assist in completing educational goals and vocational training. There is no set amount of time it takes for a participant to complete Veterans Treatment Court; every participant's program is unique; however, the program will never be less than 12 months, with an aftercare component. All participants must have 6 months of sobriety in order to be eligible to graduate. Participants may be asked to submit to additional evaluations, screenings, or any other examination or test deemed appropriate to ensure all of the identified needs are being treated.

An individual may enter VTC as follows:

Your attorney will advise and discuss VTC with you. If you choose to participate, you must complete the application process. To apply, you must complete an intake screening and a separate screening with the treatment provider. There may be other participant-specific requirements that must be completed in the application process; if so, they will be communicated to you clearly and directly.

If you choose to participate in VTC, and you are accepted into VTC, you will be required to enter a guilty plea and/or an admission, in order to begin the program. Prior to entering your plea/admission, your attorney will be provided with the police reports, evidence, video, lab reports, and any other discovery in your underlying case. You can decide against entering the program at any time until you enter a guilty plea or enter an admission to a probation violation. A Kootenai County Magistrate Judge serves as the VTC Judge. The Judge will oversee your progress and has full jurisdiction over the entire process.

Successful completion and graduation from the program will result in the relief set forth in the VTC Waiver and Agreement. Failure to complete, and/or dismissal from the program will likely result in a probation violation proceeding being initiated or sentencing as stated in the VTC Waiver and Agreement.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

In order to be meet admission criteria, an applicant:

(1)- Must have served in the United States Armed Forces in some capacity, as defined by federal law.

- Nature of separation from the military is not a disqualifier, an applicant need only have served in some previous capacity

(2)- Must have a pending misdemeanor matter, a pending misdemeanor probation violation, or a plea agreement which contemplates your felony matter being resolved as a misdemeanor.

- VTC **does not** accept felony sentences as of this time.

(3)- Must have one of the following:

- A drug and/or alcohol dependency
- A mental health and/or trauma related condition, including but not limited to, traumatic brain injury
- A specific and persistent mental illness (SPMI), which will be considered on a case-by-case basis

(4)- Must obtain an LSI score.

(5)- Must have residence/reside in Kootenai County.

In addition to the above stated criteria, an applicant's admission criteria is governed by Idaho Code §19-5604, which states the following (VTC is a drug court):

19-5604. ELIGIBILITY. (1) No person has a right to be admitted into drug court. The drug court in each county shall determine the eligibility of persons who may be admitted into drug court except that each candidate, prior to being admitted, must undergo: (a) a substance abuse assessment; and (b) a criminogenic risk assessment.

(2) No person shall be eligible to participate in drug court if any of the following apply:

(a) The person is currently charged with, has pled or has been adjudicated or found guilty of, a felony crime of violence or a felony crime in which the person used either a firearm or a deadly weapon or instrument.

(b) The person is currently charged with, or has pled or been found guilty of, a felony in which the person committed, attempted to commit, conspired to commit, or intended to commit a sex offense.

(3) A drug court may, after consultation with the drug court team **and** with the consent of the prosecuting attorney, allow a person to participate in drug court who would otherwise be ineligible only because of the provisions of subsection (2)(a) of this section.

As a general rule, VTC has been developed as an option for individuals who have served in the United States Armed Forces in some capacity, as defined by federal law, and who have been charged with a substance abuse related offense, however this is not a requirement for eligibility. You will be screened for drug and/or alcohol dependency, any mental health issues, and/or any trauma related background, including but not limited to a traumatic brain injury. Your case will be reviewed by the Veterans Treatment Court Judge, and a determination will be made for appropriateness.

WHAT IS IN IT FOR ME?

The Kootenai County VTC will help you identify treatment, counseling, case management, and other service needs. Services are contingent upon your specific needs and treatment recommendations. As you progress through treatment your achievements will be recognized by the Judge, VTC team members, and your peers. This provides an opportunity for you to achieve sobriety, mend relationships, improve your life circumstances, become a positive member of the community, and avoid incarceration on your current charges. If you take advantage of the assistance offered, you will discover many new ways to make your and your family's life better. Furthermore, upon graduation and completion of the program, you may receive relief set forth in your VTC Waiver and Agreement.

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT SUPERVISION

As a VTC participant, you will be required to appear in court on a regular basis. The Judge will be given a progress report prepared by your treatment counselors, probation officer, and the VTC coordinator regarding your drug test results, attendance, and participation in treatment. The Judge may ask you questions about your progress, and discuss any specifics, successes and problems, you are experiencing.

If you are doing well, you will be rewarded and encouraged to continue with the program. You will also be encouraged to continue working with your counselor towards success. If you are struggling, the Judge will discuss this with you and determine further action. One goal of any treatment court is to help you achieve total abstinence from illicit, illegal, or addictive drugs and alcohol; however a positive drug test will not necessarily result in your termination from the program. If you are having problems, the Judge may order a variety of sanctions, such as additional testing, written assignments, more frequent court appearances, community service, jail, and/or any combination of these sanctions. If you do not appear in Court as scheduled, you may have a warrant issued for your arrest. In the event there is an emergency that prohibits your attendance at Court, you are expected to inform your probation officer and the VTC coordinator as soon as possible about this emergency. You may be expected to provide some type of proof of the emergency situation. In the event you are unable to make Court, the communication of an emergency does not guarantee a warrant will not be issued.

TREATMENT PROCEDURES

Within twenty four (24) hours of your acceptance into VTC, you will be instructed to contact the VTC Coordinator. At that time, a multi-component, outpatient program will be developed, which includes but is not limited to: treatment planning, drug and alcohol testing, and counseling.

Treatment Planning will be developed by you and your counselors following an overall assessment of your problems and needs. The plan will be your guide in Phase I of the program. It will help you set goals and target dates to achieve those goals. The plan will be maintained in your file for review and updates as you progress in VTC. This plan may include treatment provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs and/or any other treatment provider, as deemed appropriate. Progress in treatment will be reported to the Judge and VTC Coordinator, and it is a requirement of this program.

All participants will be drug and alcohol tested throughout the entire program. If you have a prescription, it must be disclosed at the time of the screening process. As you progress through the program, your testing frequency will diminish. The Judge and VTC Coordinator will have access to your

UA results and may review them with you during the program. Testing positive for a substance will not necessarily disqualify you from the program, however one goal of VTC is to help you achieve total abstinence from illicit or illegal drugs. If you do test positive for a particular substance, you are encouraged to **be honest**.

Counseling will be unique to each participant's treatment plan, and may include individual, group, and education counseling. Together, these counseling formats are designed to help you develop self-awareness, help you realize self-worth, and teach you to practice self-discipline. You may be required to address other areas of life as well, such as education, employment, health issues, family counseling, or other areas of need as deemed appropriate. Your attendance will be reported to the Judge, and you must contact the VTC Coordinator or your counselor if you are unable to attend or will be late to a scheduled session, for permission to be excused.

TREATMENT PHASES

VTC is a four phase, structured, outpatient treatment program lasting a minimum of twelve (12) months. The exact length of the program is based on each individual participants progress. Each phase consists of specified treatment objectives, therapeutic and rehabilitative activities, and specific requirements for "promotion" into the next phase. The components and requirements for advancement to each phase are generally described below and are identified in each phase contract signed with the Court. Participants must make significant progress in treatment and other program requirements to be promoted.

Phase I- "The Education Phase"- (Minimum of three months in length)

- Attend court hearings bi-monthly (2x a month).
- Focus on the education of the participant to assist in motivation to change, raising awareness, and instilling a commitment to the program.
- You will attend a minimum number of groups per week based on your treatment plan.
- You will attend recovery support meetings as instructed by the treatment team, based on your treatment plan.
- You must attend all individual sessions based upon the described needs in your treatment plan.
- You must UA at the frequency/direction of VTC.

Phase II- “The Working Phase”- (Minimum of three months in length)

- Attend court hearings bi-monthly (2x a month).
- Focus on completion of the cognitive and relapse prevention packets.
- You will attend a minimum number of groups per week based on your treatment plan.
- You will attend a minimum of two recovery support meetings or other approved program per week, based on your treatment plan.
- Individual treatment sessions will be re-evaluated to ensure any appropriate changes from Phase I are addressed, and you must attend all the individual sessions based upon the updated needs in your treatment plan.

Phase III - “The Adjustment Phase”- (Minimum of three months in length)

- Attend monthly court hearings.
- Focus on building skills for continued recovery through life skills and self-discovery.
- You will attend a minimum number of groups per week based upon your previous progress.
- You will attend a minimum of two recovery support meetings or other approved program per week, based on your treatment plan.
- Additional re-evaluation of individualized treatment will be done to continue to adjust to any changes, developing issues, and/or progress made by a participant, and you must attend all the individual sessions based upon the updated needs in your treatment plan.

Phase IV- “The Omega Phase”- (Minimum of three months in length)

- Attend monthly court hearings.
- Focus on using all program tools to establish and create a life-long recovery plan.
- You will attend a minimum number of groups per week based upon your continued progress.
- You will attend a minimum number of recovery support meetings or other approved program per week, based on your treatment plan.
- Further re-evaluation of individualized treatment will be done to continue to develop an aftercare treatment plan, address any problems arising in Phase III, and you must attend all the individual sessions based upon the updated needs in your treatment plan.

See intake packet for Phase Requirements

PROGRAM RULES

As a participant, you must follow the rules of the program. Failure to abide by the rules of Veterans Treatment Court may result in a sanction or termination from the program. By agreeing to participate in this program, in addition to your terms of your individual supervision, you agree that you will abide by the following rules:

1. Attend all ordered treatment sessions.
2. Be on time.
3. Do not engage in threatening or violent behavior with other participants or staff.
4. Attend all scheduled VTC Sessions, and exercise appropriate courtroom behavior at all times.
5. Remain in Kootenai County at all times unless given permission to leave from your probation officer.
6. Not change residence without prior approval from your probation officer.
7. Do not lend, borrow, sell, barter, or otherwise exchange money, property, or services to/from other VTC participants, unless given prior permission by your probation officer.
8. Abstain from use of alcohol and illegal drugs. Do not have alcohol and/or illegal drugs in your possession or your residence. Do not enter into a space where others have alcohol and/or illegal drugs in their possession, including but not limited to, bars, liquor stores, taverns, and establishments whose primary purpose is the sale of alcohol. Do not enter where alcohol and/or illegal drugs are being stored.
9. Maintain confidentiality of other participants in the program, including things revealed during a VTC-court session.
10. Obey all court orders, obey all orders/directives from treatment, and obey all orders/directives from VTC staff
11. Immediately report any and all law enforcement contact to your probation officer.
12. Participants shall not associate with any individual who is on probation or parole without expressed, prior approval from their probation officer. This includes fellow participants, and even family and friends.
13. Participants shall not possess any weapons, on their person or in their home.
14. Maintain contact with your Mentor, and comply with the requirements of the Mentor Program, as instructed by VTC.
15. Submit appropriate documentation for all prescribed medication. If your doctor prescribes medication, you must show the prescription to your probation officer as well as your treatment provider. You must sign a release so that your probation officer can verify the prescription. While in VTC, you must use ONE doctor or ONE dentist and ONE pharmacy. You are also required to notify medical professionals of your participation in this program, and request non-narcotic pain medications when a prescription is being recommended. You and your prescriber must fill out the medication form from your intake folder then you submit this form to probation within 24 hours.
16. You may not consume **ANY** over the counter drugs or herbal drugs/preparations, including but not limited to all CBD or Hemp products, Spice, Kratom, or any other substance. This rule does not apply to Ibuprofen (Advil), Acetaminophen (Tylenol), or Aspirin.
17. You agree to remain truthful at all times with everyone whom you deal with, including but not limited to the Judge, the coordinator, any treatment or staff for VTC. You shall not cheat, lie, exaggerate, or minimize your statement, conduct, or actions in any way. This program works best with total transparency and accountability.

18. You consent to be tested for the use of substances, including alcohol, throughout the entire program. If you deliberately attempt to adulterate, alter, dilute, or tamper with a sample obtained with the purpose to test for the use of substances, you may be sanctioned and/or terminated from the program.
19. You may not consume any products or food that contain alcohol/ethanol, including mouthwash or hand sanitizer, or eat any product containing poppy seeds. All participants are responsible for what they put in their body.
20. You will seek and maintain employment, be enrolled as a student, or participate in such programs unless otherwise instructed or approved by the VTC. You shall not change jobs or education status without written permission from your probation officer.
21. You agree to be supervised by a Kootenai County Adult Misdemeanor Probation Officer, and to follow the rules and regulations of that supervision, including all terms of probation.

CONDITIONS OF PROBATION

1. I am on probation with the Kootenai County Probation Office under the jurisdiction of Kootenai County Magistrate Court. I am waiving my rights under the Fourth Amendment of the Constitution and Article 1 Section 17 of the Idaho Constitution as applied to searches and seizures. I consent to warrantless searches of my person, my property (locked or otherwise secured), automobiles (entire vehicle and the contents contained therein) residence (under the control of myself), all electronic devices, EDR (Event Data Recorder), blood, breath, or urine by a police officer or a probation officer.
2. I will be appropriate, cooperative, and courteous at all times with probation and court staff, and law enforcement.
3. I understand that I may not associate with other persons who are on probation/parole, use or abuse illegal drugs/alcohol, or who otherwise engage in unlawful activity, or those my probation officer designates.
4. Any time I am contacted by law enforcement, I will lawfully cooperate with them, immediately disclose my true and full identity, and state that I am on supervised probation.
5. I understand that I must obtain approval from the probation officer before changing my residence.
6. I have a curfew from 10pm until 4am unless for verified employment or prior approval from the probation office.
7. I must attend verifiable recovery support meetings, as required by my treatment provider.
8. I shall participate in the Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring Program (SCRAM) in a manner and scheduled as set by the courts and/or probation department if required.
9. I understand that I am on formalized random drug testing and must adhere to the scheduling testing hours including weekends and holidays. I will also be required to call the testing facility daily. All tests are at my expense.
10. I will NOT consume and/or possess any beverage, food, or drug (without a licensed physician's prescription) that contains any illegal substance or alcohol that may invoke a positive test.
11. I will submit to all K9 searches.
12. I will follow all requirements of the VTC, my Judgment and Supervised Probation Addendum.
13. I may not possess a firearm and/or ammunition.
14. I will pay probation supervision fees as allowed by statute.

UA SCREENINGS

You will be required to provide ongoing random urine samples to monitor your progress. A same-sex staff member at the testing facility will supervise you when you give a specimen, Urinalysis reports are documented and available to the court. Any positive urine screens, late tests, tampered samples (including dilutes) or refusal to provide a sample may be grounds for sanctions from the Judge. During Orientation, you will be required to sign an ETG/Drug Testing Contract. **You must test by 9:00 am** unless given specific permission by your probation officer otherwise.

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

I. TREATMENT COURT FEES:

As a VTC participant, you are required to pay to the clerk of court or his/her designee in the Clerk's Office, located downstairs at 324 W Garden Avenue. A participant is typically assessed a fee of \$30.00 a month unless otherwise notified. Any payment made shall indicate your court case number. The terms and conditions of this fee are determined by the Judge. The amount of monthly fee may be raised at any time. Unpaid fees will remain in your case if you are terminated from the program, along with other unpaid court fines and/or fees.

II. COSTS OF SUPERVISION:

You must pay your monthly costs of supervision. \$30.00 or as otherwise instructed.

III. COSTS FOR TREATMENT/DRUG TESTING:

As long as the Court continues to receive state funding, your treatment costs will be covered and your portion of drug testing will be \$9.00 per test. These amounts could increase at any time based on availability of state funding. You are responsible for your testing costs at the time of delivery. Treatment providers & drug testing facilities can refuse service to you for non-payment. If this happens, you may be sanctioned including possible termination from the program. Participants have the right to pay Averahealth \$25.00 one time for a confirmation.

TERMINATION FROM THE PROGRAM

Termination from the program will result in the loss of the relief described in the VTC Waiver and Agreement, and it may also result in incarceration. Depending on your Waiver and Agreement, you may be sentenced up to the maximum time provided by law or you may be sentenced up to any remaining suspended time on your original sentence. A participant may be terminated for breaking any of the Program Rules in this handbook, including but not limited to non-compliance, new criminal charges, bench warrants, drug and/or alcohol testing problems. However, a violation of a program rule does not guarantee termination. Short of termination, a participant may be given a wide variety of sanctions, imposed by the Judge, such as jail, sheriff's labor detail, work release, community service, increased UA frequency, writing assignments, additional treatment, demotion in the program, additional court attendance, and/or any other sanction the Judge may deem appropriate.

GRADUATION

Once you have successfully been promoted to Phase IV and completed the criteria for Phase IV, you will advance and graduate from VTC. Graduation, like promotions, is determined by the VTC team, with final approval coming from the Judge. Prior to graduation, participants must complete their treatment plan, fulfill their financial obligations to the Court, including restitution, and have a minimum six (6) months sobriety. Persons who complete all but the financial conditions may be allowed to graduate, although all legal benefits remain on hold until all obligations, including financial, are satisfied. Your family and friends will be invited to your graduation as the Judge and VTC team congratulate you on successfully completing the program and achieving your goals.

CONCLUSION

The program is designed to promote self-sufficiency and to return you to the community as a productive and responsible member of society. The Judge, the team, your probation officer, and your counselors are here to guide and assist you, however the final responsibility is yours. You, and you alone, must be motivated to make this life change for yourself. We hope this handbook has been helpful and answered any questions or concerns you may have about VTC.

WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

DRESS CODE FOR ALL KOOTENAI COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT PARTICIPANTS WHILE AT THE FIRST DISTRICT ADULT TREATMENT SERVICE CENTER, PARTICIPATING IN VETERANS TREATMENT COURT ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE OF THE TREATMENT CENTER, AT THE COURTHOUSE WHEN MEETING WITH THE COORDINATOR, OR AT COURT APPEARANCES IN FRONT OF THE VETERANS TREATMENT COURT JUDGE:

- Absolutely no article of clothing will be allowed bearing any alcohol or drug advertisement or message.
- No sexually explicit clothing is allowed.
- Shirts and shoes must be worn at all times.
- No bandana, hats, hoods, or sunglasses may be worn at any time.
- No sleeveless shirts/tank tops or backless shirts will be allowed.
- Shorts and skirts must be the length that they would reach the tips of your fingers while your hands are straight down at your side.
- Pants must fit properly.
- Swimsuits are not allowed.
- Tops of pants must meet bottoms of shirts (no bare skin).

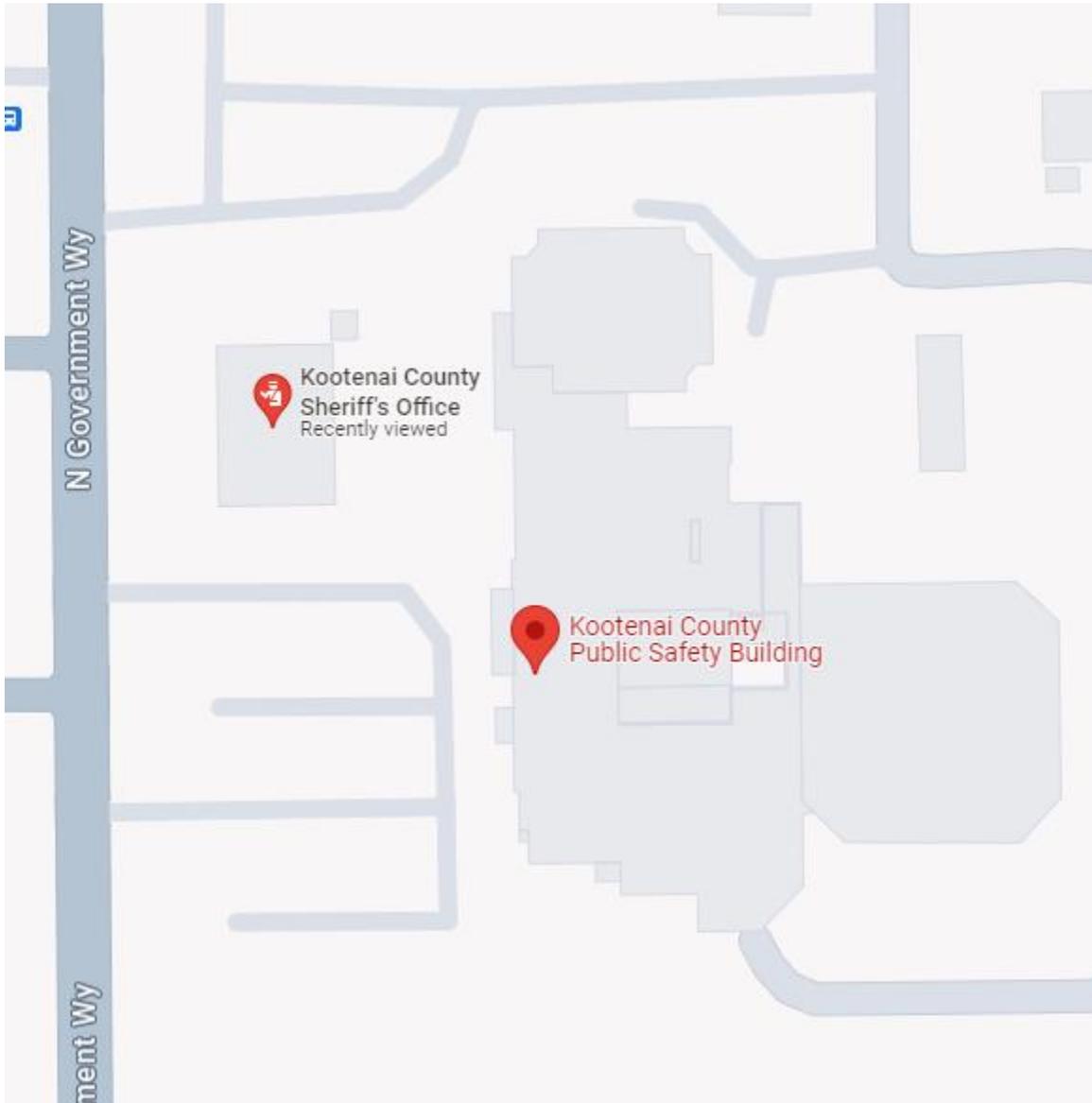
COURTROOM BEHAVIOR

You are expected to maintain appropriate behavior at all times in the courtroom and courthouse. This includes:

- No talking or whispering in the courtroom.
- No sleeping in the courtroom.
- No eating or drinking in the courtroom.
- No smoking in the courthouse (including courtroom #12)
- Be on time and **do not leave during the hearing**. You are expected to have used the restroom prior to the start of the session.
- No cell phones in the courtroom. If a participant brings a cell phone into the courtroom, it will be confiscated.
- Treat fellow Veterans Treatment Court participants respectfully while they interact with the team.

Kootenai County Public Safety Building
5500 N Government Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

Courtroom #12



VETERANS TREATMENT COURT ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

VETERANS TREATMENT COURT TEAM MEMBERS

Veterans Treatment Court Judge, Honorable Anna M. Eckhart
324 W. Garden Ave Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

Veterans Treatment Court Deputy Public Defender
PO Box 9000 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816
(208) 446-1700

Veterans Treatment Court Prosecutors:

Kootenai County Prosecuting Attorney
Nathan Adams & Chelsey Torgerson
(208) 446-1800

Coeur d'Alene City Attorney
Vicki Null-Carey
(208) 769-2323

Post Falls City Attorney
Pat Kiernan
(208) 773-0215

Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator:
Winford "Buddy" Winters
Phone: (208) 446-1099
Email: wwinters@kootenai.idcourts.net

Adult Misdemeanor Probation Officer:
Derrick Gordon
501 Government Way Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
(208) 446-1800

Veterans Treatment Court Treatment Providers:

Ambitions of Idaho
1044 Northwest Blvd Suite C, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814
(208) 626-4186

Veterans Treatment Court Testing Facility:

Averhealth (business hours are 8am to 4pm on non-testing days)
500 N Government Way Suite 100, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814
(208) 416-6200 call-in line for drug testing
Alternate Number: (208) 415-1930

Testing Hours:

Monday-Friday: 6am-4pm
Weekends/Holidays: 7am-noon
Be sure that you are listening to the scheduling for **that** day.
Call back later if the date has not changed.

Other Agencies:

North Idaho VA Clinic
915 Emma Ave Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814
(208) 665-1700

Veterans Service Outreach
120 E. Railroad Ave Post Falls, ID 83854
(208) 446-1098

North Idaho Crisis Center
2195 Ironwood Circle Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814
(208) 625-4884
Open 24 hours

Kootenai Recovery Community Center
(208) 932-8005

Idaho Suicide & Crisis Lifeline – 988
Open 24 hours – Call or Text

Heritage Health
1090 N. Park Place Coeur d’Alene, ID 83814
(208) 292-0292

