

# Hunt County Veterans Pretrial Diversion Program

## What is Hunt County Veterans Pretrial Diversion Program?

The program uses a non-adversarial approach with a team comprised of prosecutors defense counsel, mental health specialist, Veteran's affairs, and a community supervision Veteran's supervisor working together with the Veteran to assess their needs, offer assistance, and successfully rehabilitate the Veteran and divert them from the traditional criminal justice system. The program closely monitors the Veteran and provides them with a combination of treatments to improve mental health recovery and ultimately lead to community reintegration and resolution of the criminal case. The program takes 6 to 12 months to complete, depending upon the nature of the offense and other considerations.

## Who is eligible?

Any United States Military member who is active-duty, reservist, guardsman, retiree, or an honorably discharged Veteran suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Stress Disorder, Traumatic Brain Injury, or other mental health problems resulting from their military service with a pending misdemeanor in Hunt County, Texas.

## How do you qualify?

To qualify, the defendant must complete a risk assessment evaluation, complete the Veterans Pretrial Diversion application, and provide documented proof of military service such as the DD214. Once the required information is provided, the defendant must also complete a request for release of confidential VA information. The defendant or his/her defense counsel must contact Mrs. Paige Ashley, in the Hunt County Attorney's office, to schedule an in-person interview. The team will then make a placement decision.

## What happens after successful completion of Veterans Pretrial Diversion?

If a defendant successfully completes the Hunt County Veterans Program, the pending criminal case will be dismissed. Upon dismissal, the Hunt County Attorney's office will handle expunction proceedings for the offense related to the successful completion of the program.

## Have Questions?

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