

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE MARICOPA
COUNTY JUSTICE COURTS VETERANS
COURTS

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
NO. 2026-133

Veterans Treatment Courts seek to treat veterans suffering from a condition that may be connected to their military service, including but not limited to a mental health issue, a traumatic brain injury, and or substance abuse, while helping ensure public safety. These courts combine rigorous treatment and personal accountability, with the goal of helping defendants improve their overall well-being and preventing recidivism.

Veterans Treatment Courts are modeled after other specialty courts that promote collaboration among the judiciary, prosecutors, defense attorneys, treatment providers, and other community support groups. These courts develop an individual coordinated response involving the Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare networks, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and other resources.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Any veteran of the United States armed forces who has been charged with a misdemeanor, in a Justice Court in Maricopa County, is eligible to have his or her case transferred to a Maricopa County Veterans Treatment Court (VTC). For the purposes of Veteran's Court, the definition of "veteran" is anyone who has served or is currently a member of the armed services, state or federal reserved services, ARMEDCOM, MRC, US Coast Guard, or Ready Reserve Corps. Eligibility will be verified by the Veteran's Court. If a veteran is found to be ineligible, the case will be transferred to its originating court.
2. Eligible defendants with criminal cases in the Arrowhead, Hassayampa, Manistee, North Valley, Canyon Trails, and White Tank Justice Courts may have their cases transferred to the Northwest VTC.
3. Eligible defendants with criminal cases in the Desert Ridge, Dreamy Draw, McDowell Mountain, Moon Valley, and West Mesa Justice Courts may have their cases transferred to the Northeast VTC.
4. Eligible defendants with criminal cases in the Agua Fria, Arcadia Biltmore, Country Meadows, El Centro, Encanto Ironwood, Kyrene, Maryvale, South Mountain, and West McDowell Justice Courts may have their cases transferred to the Central VTC.

5. Eligible defendants with criminal cases in the Highland, East Mesa, North Mesa, San Tan, San Marcos, and University Lakes Justice Courts may have their cases transferred to the Southeast VTC.
6. The Presiding Justice of the Peace for Maricopa County Justice Courts shall appoint a Justice of the Peace to serve as the regional judge for each VTC.
7. The Presiding Justice of the Peace for Maricopa County Justice Courts shall appoint a VTC Committee consisting of each Regional VTC Judge and any others as is appropriate. This committee shall coordinate all services, treatment, and training for all Maricopa County Veterans Treatment Courts.
8. Regional VTC judges may reject any transfer to their court and may transfer any case from their court.
9. The VTC assumes all duties of processing the case, including post adjudication.

This Administrative Order replaces Admin. Order 2025-130.

Dated this 23 day of September, 2026.



Hon. Pamela S. Gates
Presiding Judge
Maricopa County Superior Court

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Judge Leonore Driggs, Presiding Justice of the Peace
Judge Jennifer Jermaine, Associate Presiding Justice of the Peace
Judge DesaRae Tucker, Northwest Regional VTC
Judge Michele Reagan, Northeast Regional VTC
Judge Ken Chevront, Central Regional VTC
Judge Blake King and Judge Tyler Kissell, Southeast Regional VTC
Raymond L. Billotte, Judicial Branch Administrator
Jennifer Harrold, Maricopa County Justice Court Administrator