

Stand Down Court

is a special court session held annually each July at an advocacy location providing veterans with the ability to pay their fines for minor violations through alternative sentences such as community service. The target population consists of veteran offenders charged with all infractions and/or misdemeanors that are violations of Penal Code Sections 647 (f) and (j), and violations of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (also known as the California Administrative Code). The services provided are opportunities for offenders to satisfy their fines through programs offered by homeless shelters, community service projects, attendance in alcoholics anonymous, and linkage with appropriate social service programs to assist the participant with reintegration into society.

Veterans Intervention Program (VCVIP)

was established November 1, 2010 under Penal Code §1170.9. Defendants eligible for VCVIP are United States Military Veterans who would otherwise be sentenced to county jail or state prison and who committed a criminal offense as a result of psychological injury from service in combat. VCVIP features include 1) a court calendar for selected criminal cases involving eligible veterans post conviction 2) a medically supervised mental health treatment program provided by the Veterans Administration (VA) for treating psychological injuries received during combat duty 3) VA dedicated staff member assigned to VCVIP Court to coordinate treatment and other services for veterans convicted in the court. The goal of the VCVIP is to provide eligible veterans with treatment that changes their behavior so they will abstain from any future criminal acts. All cases accepted for this court must pass a strict eligibility criteria set by the Ventura County District Attorneys' Office as approved by the Court. The treatment services for veterans may include: residential care, intensive outpatient or inpatient treatment, medical psychiatric, psychotherapy, drug and alcohol testing and therapy, and peer support

groups. The Court, District Attorney, Public Defender or other counsel, Probation Department, Behavioral Health and the Veterans Administration have all agreed to cooperate in monitoring of the defendant's progress to ensure compliance with the required treatment plan.



Collaborative Court Partners:

Area Agency on Aging
Interface Family & Children Services
Khepera House
Prototypes Women's Center
Ventura Center for Dispute Resolution
Ventura County Behavioral Health Department
Ventura County Department of Probation
Ventura County District Attorney's Office
Ventura County Human Services Agency
Ventura County Office of Education
Ventura County Public Defender's Office
Ventura county Public Health Services
Ventura County Sheriff's Department
Veterans Administration
Veterans Advocacy Groups

COLLABORATIVE JUSTICE COURTS



**Our Court is here for
the People we serve**

Collaborative Justice Courts

Adult Drug Court

facilitates the treatment and recovery of qualifying drug-abusing offenders who have failed Deferred Entry of Judgment and Proposition 36 programs and would otherwise be committed to state prison for offense(s) currently before the Court in order to eliminate their future criminal behavior and produce ongoing and greater state prison savings. The target population consists of adults charged with non-violent drug related felonies and non-violent non-drug felonies (other than Penal Code Sections 667.5(c) and/or 1192.7(c)(1) offenses) who have a demonstrated history of drug abuse which contributed to the offense(s) presented. The services provided include drug and alcohol assessment, outpatient community-based substance abuse treatment and/or residential treatment, individual and group counseling services, intensive probation supervision and random drug testing.

Adult Mental Health Court (Multi-Agency Referral and Recovery Team)

provides mental health treatment services and support services to adult mentally ill offenders who have co-occurring disorders (a primary diagnosis of mental illness and a secondary substance abuse disorder) in a post-booking, out-of-custody, formal probation setting. The target population consists of adult offenders booked into jail for misdemeanor offenses and low-level felonies (other than Penal Code Sections 667.5(c) and/or 1192.7(c)(1) offenses) who have a primary diagnosis of mental illness. The services provided include mental health assessment, psychological evaluations, integrated outpatient community based mental health and substance abuse treatment, medication monitoring, individual therapy, intensive probation supervision, 24-hour crisis services and linkages to supported employment, medical, housing and family services.

Dependency Drug Court

provides the earliest possible intervention for mothers who give birth to newborns prenatally exposed to alcohol and other drugs by providing a safe environment for these children while strengthening the ability of families to care for their children. The target population consists of mothers giving birth to infants who test positive for drugs resulting in a petition filed by the Human Services Agency under the Welfare and Institution Code (WIC) 300. The services provided include intensive residential substance abuse treatment for the mother, in-home counseling services, parenting aide services, parenting skills, vocational and educational assessments, and child development monitoring and intervention services, as well as outpatient alcohol and drug treatment services.

Domestic Violence Court

provides a centralized approach to the handling of domestic violence cases to reduce repeat offenses through a higher level of monitoring and the quick imposition of consequences for failures to comply with court orders. The target population consists of domestic violence offenders charged with Penal Code violations. The services provided include immediate mental health and substance abuse screenings, a 52-week anger management program, public health nurse services, probation supervision, and 24-hour crisis services.

Elder Law Court

is a court team created to develop court and community projects concerning older adults. An advisory task force committee comprising of court and community stakeholders were recruited to provide recommendations to the court concerning seniors. The Elder Law project mission statement was adopted as follows: "To ensure that older adults in this court are accorded a fair and reasonable voice in, and access to, the courts; and referrals between medical, social and legal services." The program completed Phase I Overview (2006-2008) which was primarily a research study designed to document innovative practices in handling cases of elder abuse, as well as to assess the needs of abused elders and the barriers they face in coming to court to obtain protection

from their abusers. Phase II Overview (2008-current) focuses on implementing innovations and other practices studied in Phase I. It will begin with education and outreach to make courts aware of the project, and then move on to providing technical assistance to courts wishing to implement specialized programs or services designed to address elder abuse issues.

Homeless Court

is a special court session held at various homeless advocacy locations providing homeless people with the ability to pay their fines for minor violations through alternative sentences such as community service and participation in AA/NA meetings. The target population consists of homeless offenders charged with all infractions and/or misdemeanors that are violations of Penal Code Sections 647 (f) and (j), and violations of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. The services provided are opportunities for offenders to satisfy their fines through programs offered by homeless shelters, community service projects, attendance in alcoholics anonymous, and linkage with appropriate social service programs to assist the participant with reintegration into society.

"Insights" Juvenile Mental Health Court

Serves offenders who are diagnosed with severe emotional disturbances and, potentially, co-occurring substance use disorders, who do not respond well to existing dispositional alternatives and often linger on probation or revolve in and out of custodial facilities and/or out-of-home placements. With focus on the special needs of these high-risk youth and their families, interagency team members will work in strong collaboration to develop individualized multidisciplinary case plans with the overarching goals of reducing incarcerations, hospitalizations, and other out-of-home placements and providing those supports necessary for these youth to be successful in their home communities. The services provided include mental health and substance abuse counseling, pro-social and community-based supports, school supports, and intensive probation supervision.