

## What Is The Veterans Treatment Court Mentor Program and How Does It Work With The Court?

The Bell County Veterans Treatment Court relies on the cooperation and collaboration of many Veterans service organizations and community treatment agencies. The court also relies on Peer Mentors from The Military Veterans Peer Network. Mentors are Veterans of the different Armed Forces who volunteer their time to assist the program participant through the court process. Mentors provide the participant support, encouragement and assistance in navigating VA and local services. Peer Mentors are trained and may have served in Vietnam, Desert Storm/Shield, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Afghanistan. Participants are assigned a mentor who is there to support them through their journey.



The Bell County Veterans Treatment Court is held at the Bell County Justice Center, County Court at Law #3, located at 1201 Huey Road in Belton, Texas 76513. Veterans Treatment Court begins at 3:30 p.m. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month.

Family and friends are welcome to observe and show their support at the Bell County Veterans Treatment Court.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

#### VISIT:

[http://www.bellcountytexas.com/departments/cscd\(adult\\_probation\)/index.php](http://www.bellcountytexas.com/departments/cscd(adult_probation)/index.php)

#### OR CONTACT:

**Samantha Haynes**  
Veterans Treatment Court  
Coordinator

#### Phone:

(254)618-4125

#### E-mail:

[samantha.haynes@co.bell.tx.us](mailto:samantha.haynes@co.bell.tx.us)



# BELL COUNTY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT



*Supporting Those Who  
Have Served*

## What is the Bell County Veterans Treatment Court?

In 2009, the State of Texas, with bipartisan support, during the 81<sup>st</sup> legislation, Senate Bill 1940 was passed authorizing the creation of specialty courts for Veterans in Texas.

In March 2015, Bell County began a Veterans Treatment Court program in County Court at Law #3. This court program primarily serves pre- and post-adjudicated Veterans charged with a misdemeanor offense; whose military or combat-related experiences contributed to the commission of the offense.

The Bell County Veterans Treatment Court works collaboratively with the VA and other Veteran and community organizations to provide a program that utilizes evidenced-based best-practices that will help Veterans get back on track to being productive members of our community.

The Goal of the Veterans Treatment Court is to promote public safety and assist Veterans or current members of the U.S. armed forces through a collaborative, coordinated system of court supervised treatment that ensures accountability, while empowering Veterans to become integral and productive members of our community.

## How Can I be Considered for the Bell County Veterans Treatment Court?

- A Veteran or current member of the United States Armed Forces; including a member of the Reserves, National Guard, State Guard or Coast Guard
- Charged with a misdemeanor crime
- A clinical diagnosis\* of PTSD, TBI, MST or a mental health condition, such as anxiety, depression, etc., that resulted from military service.
- Materially affected the Veteran's criminal conduct for which they are being charged.

If you are a Veteran or active military and would like to be considered for acceptance into the Veterans Treatment Court, ask your attorney to help you prepare an application.

*Successful completion of the Bell County Veterans Treatment Court may result in no jail time and/or the possibility of not having a misdemeanor conviction on your criminal record.*

**“Leave No Veteran Behind and Honor Their Service”**



## What Happens in the Bell County Veterans Treatment Court?

Participants will be assessed by the Veterans Administration to determine if they qualify for disability compensation, pension, educational benefits, vocational, housing, employment, substance abuse counseling, mental health counseling, and/or medical services.

You may receive support from fellow Veterans through the Peer Mentor Program.

An individualized treatment plan will be created to meet your needs and may include substance abuse and/or mental health treatment.

Participants appear frequently before the Veterans Treatment Court Judge for progress hearings.