

## Benefits of participation in the Veterans Treatment Court

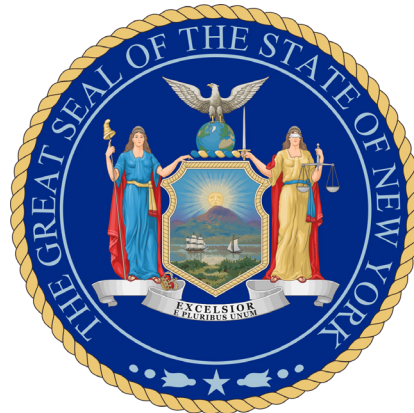
The Veterans Court will help your access identified treatment, counseling, case management, supportive housing, and other services. The court works closely with the Northport VA who makes treatment recommendations specific to the needs of the participants.

The Court offers you a chance to address your problems or issues and to avoid incarceration on your current charge(s).

If you take advantage of the assistance offered, you will discover many ways to make a better life for yourself. Change is never easy; it will take commitment, dedication, self-control, perseverance, and hard work. The Veterans Court will provide you with the support, opportunity, assistance, and referrals necessary to help you begin making positive changes in your life.



*No Veteran left behind.*



**East End Veterans Court  
Southampton Town Justice Court  
32 Jackson Avenue  
Hampton Bays, NY 11946  
631-702-2963**

# East End Veterans Court



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**Southampton Town Justice Court**

*“...to care for him who shall have borne the battle...”*

— Abraham Lincoln, March 4, 1865

## A few words about the Veterans Court

Men and women in the United States military endure high costs of service. The impact of military service on veterans can be immense and long-lasting. These may include alcohol and substance abuse, mental illness, homelessness, unemployment, and strained relationships. With the increase of veterans with serious needs in our criminal justice system, comes the need for the system to develop innovative ways of working to address these issues and needs. The Veterans Court is a specialized part of the Suffolk County District and County Criminal Courts. The Court provides a means to successfully help veterans by diverting them from the traditional criminal justice system and providing them with the tools they need to live a productive and law-abiding life through treatment, rehabilitative programming, reinforcement, and judicial monitoring. Successful completion of the program can result in a reduction of the legal charge upon completion.



### Eligibility for Veterans Court

A unique aspect of the Veterans Court is its willingness to help veterans suffering from substance abuse and/or mental health issues. Veterans are identified through a specialized screening of their prior criminal history, military service record and a psychological evaluation.

### Entering the Veterans Court

If the treatment team determines that a defendant is eligible for treatment, a recommendation will be made to the judge. If a defendant wishes to participate, they must plead guilty, and the judge will defer the sentencing until treatment is completed.

### Participating in the Veterans Court

Eligible veterans voluntarily agree to participate in a judicially supervised treatment plan that a team of court staff veteran health care professionals from the Northport VA, veteran peer mentors and alcohol and drug healthcare professionals develop. If the defendant successfully completes treatment, the charges will be reduced or dismissed depending on the agreement between the District Attorney's Office, the Defense Attorney, and the Judge. If the defendant fails to complete

the program by his own wishes or is asked to leave for non-compliance then the court will impose the jail sentence that was agreed upon.

### Ensuring Compliance

At regular status hearings, treatment plans and other conditions are periodically reviewed for appropriateness, incentives are offered to reward adherence to court conditions and sanctions for non-adherence are administered.

### Mentorship

One particularly unique and vital component of the Veterans Court is the mentorship program. Fellow veterans work closely with the court to help the veterans with readjustment to civilian life. Most importantly, mentors assist the veteran participant in a way that only other veterans can. The foundation of the mentoring program is the belief that behind every successful person there is someone somewhere who cared about their growth and development. This person was their mentor.

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