

LANCASTER COUNTY VETERANS COURT ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Screening for entrance into the program will be available to those defendants who are detained at the Lancaster County Prison, currently on pre-trial supervision, currently on probation supervision, and/or are awaiting preliminary hearing before a Magisterial District Justice for an eligible criminal offense. The following criteria have been established to identify persons who may qualify for admission to the Lancaster County Court of Common Pleas Veterans Court:

- Offender is either a current member in good standing of any branch of the military, including the National Guard or Reserves, or is a former member of any branch of the military, including the National Guard or Reserves who was not dishonorably discharged.
- Form DD214 must be provided within 30 days of receipt of application.
- Offender must be eligible for benefits through the VA or provide proof of other insurance.
- Offender is a Lancaster County resident, age 18 years or older
- Any offense will be considered, with the exception of homicide or registerable sex offenses.
- Must meet one of the following clinical criteria: PTSD (Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder), TBI (Traumatic Brain Injury), MST (Military Sexual Trauma), Drug/Alcohol Addiction, and other Axis I diagnoses that include but are not limited to: Major Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Schizoaffective Disorder, or a psychological and/or substance abuse problem(s) requiring treatment/support.
- Veterans with co-occurring disorders (mental health and substance use) will be evaluated for Veterans Court if they otherwise meet the eligibility criteria, but may be referred to Drug Court and/or Mental Health Court if determined more appropriate, or rejected if those issues/disorders would prohibit satisfactory completion of any Veterans Court sentence/program.
- Offender voluntarily agrees to participate in, and be subject to rules, regulations and sanctions of Veterans Court.