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## The Anchorage Veterans Court is a cooperative effort of:

- The Alaska Court System
- Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
- State of Alaska Public Defender Agency
- State of Alaska Office of Public Advocacy
- State of Alaska Department of Law
- State of Alaska Alcohol Safety Action Program (ASAP)
- Law firm of Denali Law Group (indigent defense contractor for the MOA)
- Municipality of Anchorage Prosecutor's Office (MOA)

### For more information:

Anchorage Veterans Court  
907-264-0466  
dsang@courts.state.ak.us

Dept. of Veterans Affairs  
907-257-4817  
907-375-2170

Public Defender Agency  
907-334-4400

Denali Law Group  
907-276-1942

## Invitation

The Anchorage Veterans Court hearings are open to the public and are held on Mondays, at 1:00 P.M. in the Boney Courthouse, 303 K Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.



**A Court that Assists Those  
Who Have Served  
in Our Armed Forces**

**Thank you for your service.**

Alaska Therapeutic Courts

# Anchorage Veterans Court

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## What is the Anchorage Veterans Court?

The Anchorage Veterans Court is a specialized court designed to facilitate the rehabilitation of eligible veterans who are charged with criminal offenses. The Court provides judicial monitoring coupled with alternative sentencing plea agreements to help eligible veterans succeed with their own rehabilitation and return to a productive and law-abiding lifestyle; thereby reducing crime and its costs to society.

## What are the objectives of the Anchorage Veterans Court?

- Promote public safety.
- Reduce incarceration of offenders who are veterans and promote their wellbeing in the community.
- Reduce repeated contacts with the criminal justice system among our nation's veterans.
- Facilitate access to VA resources to aid the veteran with addressing problems that led to criminal justice contact.
- Promote treatment adherence for the veteran through ongoing judicial monitoring.

## Who is Eligible?

- The veteran must be at least 18 years old.
- The veteran must reside in the Municipality of Anchorage.
- The veteran must be eligible for VA services, as defined by federal law and confirmed by the Veterans Administration.
- The veteran must be charged with a criminal offense. A veteran charged with a felony offense will be considered on a case by case basis to ensure public safety. Considerations will include the seriousness and the class of the current offense, and offender's criminal history.
- The veteran must voluntarily agree to waive his or her right to a speedy trial while he or she participates in Anchorage Veterans Court.
- The veteran must have no other pending cases in District or Superior Court. All open cases must be heard at Anchorage Veterans Court hearings.
- The veteran must have a treatment need (related to the criminal conduct charged) that the VA can address through one of its programs in order to participate in the Veterans Court program.

## How do I enter Anchorage Veterans Court?

Veterans who want to be considered for AVC should ask their defense attorney. Interested Veterans may observe court proceedings with no commitment to participate. If they desire to enter the program and the team agrees, Veterans may "opt in" to the program. If they decide they are not interested, their case will proceed in regular court.

## How does AVC work?

The Veteran "opts in" to the Anchorage Veterans Court by entering into a pleas agreement. The Veteran must agree to plead guilty to at least one charge, and agree to receive one of two sentences: a regular court sentence if the participant does not complete his or her VA case plan, or a lesser sentence if the participant completes his or her case plan.

The program involves a team of designated and specially trained professionals who meet regularly and consistently participate in AVC proceedings.

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Admission to the Anchorage Veterans Court is not automatic. The prosecutor's office, the VA, and the Veterans Court judge must all agree that you and your criminal case qualify.