



The Lee County Veterans Court is a specialty court program with the goal to provide appropriate treatment and rehabilitation options to persons who served in the military and have a history of mental health and/or substance abuse problems and who are involved in the criminal justice system. The program provides referral, linkage, and case coordination between the judicial system and local mental health and social service agencies. Court supervision plans incorporate the least restrictive and clinically appropriate services based on individual choice and needs, including but not limited to: linking with psychiatric care, mental health counseling, family counseling, and trauma and/or grief counseling; substance abuse evaluation and aftercare; assistance finding safe, adequate, and affordable housing; benefits assistance; linking with job training, supportive employment, and adult education; cultivating a positive support network; and legal counseling.

I. Eligibility:

- 1. The person MUST have served in the US Military, be a current or former US Department of Defense contractor, or be a current or former military member of a foreign allied country. Please contact the Veteran Justice Outreach Coordinator to verify eligibility for VA Healthcare benefits. Please see steps on page 2 before sending a referral to Coastal Behavioral Healthcare.**

II. Legal Eligibility Criteria:

1. Must be 18 years of age or older.
2. Must be willing to participate voluntarily and to comply with any recommended interventions.
3. Must be considered **legally competent**.
4. Must have an open misdemeanor or felony case in the 20th Judicial Circuit.
5. Must follow guidelines set forth in **Florida Statute § 948.01, § 948.08, § 394.47891.**
6. Must not be charged with a “forcible felony” as defined in **§ 776.08**.
7. There must be a **clear nexus** between the mental illness and/or substance abuse disorder and the criminal offense.
8. There must pose no danger to supervising staff or the community.

III. Diagnosis Eligibility Criteria:

1. Must have a **primary diagnosis of substance abuse or an eligible mental illness**, such as:
 - a) Substance use disorder
 - b) Military service-related mental illness (i.e. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder – PTSD)
 - c) Mild Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
 - d) Eligible Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI) disorder, such as:
 - i. Psychotic disorders, including Schizophrenia and Schizoaffective disorders
 - ii. Bipolar disorders
 - iii. Major depressive disorders

AND

2. There must be medical records to substantiate an eligible diagnosis **within the last 6 months**

<u>Severe and Persistent Mental Illness (SPMI)</u> is defined by Florida DCF in the <i>DCF Pamphlet 155-2, Chapter 5 (PERF)</i>

IV. Clinical Exclusions (these will not qualify for Lee VTC):

1. The person has a **primary diagnosis of anything other than listed in Section III.** *Such diagnoses may be secondary to or co-occurring with eligible primary diagnosis, however they will not qualify if they are primary or create significant functional disability.*

The target population as described above was defined as a collaborative effort between the Court and the treatment team to be able to provide adequate services with available resources, adhere to the provisions set forth in Florida Statutes § 948.01, § 948.08, § 394.47891, and § 776.08, and to follow the best practices set forth by the Justice for Vets / NADCP’s 10 Key Components of Veterans Treatment Courts.



LEE COUNTY VETERANS COURT REFERRAL FORM

If you have a good faith belief that your client meets eligibility criteria as outlined on this referral form and could benefit from participating in the program, please complete this referral with as much information as possible.

IMPORTANT!! STEPS FOR SENDING A VETERANS COURT REFERRAL:

STEP 1: Verify Veteran Status BEFORE sending the referral form to Coastal Behavioral Healthcare

- a. Contact the Veteran Justice Outreach Coordinator: Heather Davis at heather.davis5@va.gov or 239-652-1800 ext. 20395 to verify if your client is an eligible Veteran

STEP 2: If the VJO verifies your client is eligible for VA healthcare benefits, and you have discussed this option with your client, send the referral to the address below

STEP 3: If the VJO verifies your client is ineligible for VA healthcare benefits, please forward the referral to the address below and indicate that the client is ineligible for benefits. *This does not preclude eligibility for Veterans Court.*

SEND TO: Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.

Phone: (239) 567-5528

Fax: (833) 375-4145

Email: LeeReferrals@coastalbh.org

REFERRAL SOURCE

REFERRING PERSON/AGENCY: _____ DATE: _____

PHONE #: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ DATE VERIFIED BY VJO (*required*): _____

INDIVIDUAL BEING REFERRED

NAME: _____

DOB: _____ LAST 4 SSN: _____ JAIL ID#: _____

CRIMINAL CASE #(s): _____

IS INDIVIDUAL IN CUSTODY? _____

DOES YOUR CLIENT REQUIRE AN INTERPRETER? _____ LANGUAGE: _____

INDIVIDUAL CONTACT INFORMATION

PHONE #(s): _____ ALTERNATE CONTACT

ADDRESS: _____ NAME/RELATIONSHIP: _____

PHONE #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

REASON FOR REFERRAL: (Any pertinent information such as knowledge of service history, mental health or substance abuse information, names of current or previous treatment providers, family/friends involvement, etc.)