



# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ  
COLLABORATIVE COURTS OFFICE  
701 OCEAN STREET  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
(831) 420-2498  
[www.santacruzcourt.org](http://www.santacruzcourt.org)

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## Veteran Court Assessment (VCA) Referral Packet

Veteran Court (VC) mission is to assist justice system-involved veterans and their families with opportunities to improve the quality of life through a collaborative effort among justice system partners, community-based organizations, and county and national veteran's services. The VC is a peer-support based court program, operating under CA Penal Code § 1170.9 and 1001.80, which provides for alternative sentencing for veterans with service-related mental health issues.

### Eligibility Criteria

A military veteran is eligible if he/she:

- ❖ Served in the United States Military, regardless of length of service, combat experience, or characterization of discharge
- ❖ Struggles with a diagnosis of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), military sexual trauma (MST), substance use or other mental health symptoms directly related to military service (PC § 1170.9 eligible)
- ❖ Amenable to participation in the program and voluntarily agree to all conditions including treatment for their qualifying condition.

### Exclusionary Factors

- ❖ No PC § 290), arson (PC § 457.1) or gang registrants
- ❖ No PC § 667.5(c) current or prior violent felony conviction(s).
- ❖ No case where the victim in the current offense has suffered death or great bodily injury (permanent disfigurement or permanent disability).

### VC Referral Process

- ❖ Request that the court conduct a Veteran Court Assessment (VCA)
- ❖ Have veteran fill out and sign the following packet attached, must complete all forms, and submit to Travis Deyoung at [travis.deyoung@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:travis.deyoung@santacruzcounty.us) or [scveteranadvocation@gmail.com](mailto:scveteranadvocation@gmail.com).
- ❖ After the packet is received, Travis Deyoung will contact veteran for interview and next steps.
- ❖ Court Clinician will follow up with the court after eligibility and suitability is determined.

Please allow four weeks to complete the VCA.

If you have any questions please contact Travis Deyoung at [Travis.Deyoung@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:Travis.Deyoung@santacruzcounty.us) or Katie Mayeda at [Katherine.Mayeda@santacruzcourt.org](mailto:Katherine.Mayeda@santacruzcourt.org).