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Veterans will be teamed with an approved program mentor who will guide the veteran defendant, along with the veteran's defense attorney, through the court system and work with the veteran to ensure they complete all program requirements.

### EXCLUSIONARY CRITERIA

While each case is to be considered individually, the following offenses will typically be excluded from the program:

- Felony sex crimes
- Felony Crimes of violence
- Crimes committed with a Firearm
- Felony Drug Offenses
- Defendant with any unresolved out of county charges are not eligible. It is the responsibility of the offender and his counsel to resolve these matters before admitted into the Bucks County Program.
- Veterans charged with Homicide in any form will not be eligible for the program.

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### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Office of the District Attorney  
215-348-6344

Deputy DA Robert D. James  
215-348-6332

Deputy DA Marc Furber  
215-348-6339

Office of the Public Defender  
215-348-6473

Bucks County Bar Association  
215-348-9413

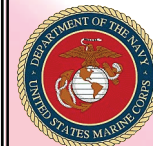
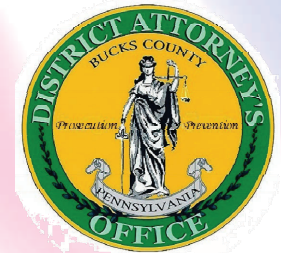
Bucks County Veteran's Affairs  
215-345-3307  
Director of Veteran's Affairs - Dan Fraley

VA ([www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov))  
800-827-1000

Veterans Crisis Line  
800-273-8255



# Bucks County Veterans Treatment Program



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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Veterans Treatment Program is to enhance public safety and reduce recidivism of criminal defendants who are returning war veterans by connecting them with VA benefits, treatment services and veteran support services. The goal of the program is to offer appropriate dispositions with respect to the veteran's criminal charges by considering the veteran defendant's treatment needs in consideration with the seriousness of the veteran's criminal offense(s) and the impact of the veteran's crimes on the victim and the community.

## **PROGRAM DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE VETERAN**

An eligible veteran is defined as a Bucks County resident who is a veteran of the United States Armed Forces who meets the eligibility criteria delineated in the program manual. The veteran must submit, along with their application, a certified copy of their DD Form 214.

Applications for the Veterans Treatment Program are available from the Office of the Public Defender and the Bucks County District Attorney's Office.

Veterans will be required to waive their preliminary hearing and meet with a veteran mentor. It must be determined, prior to entry into the program, if the veteran defendant is eligible for VA benefits.

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## **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

The District Attorney's Office will review all applications for eligibility, subject to a case-by-case review.

Eligibility assessment includes a review of the defendant's criminal history, consultation with the victims of the defendant's crimes, legal eligibility, and a review of eligibility of the offender (including a review of applicant's veteran status, review to determine whether the veteran is VA benefit eligible, and a review of documentation that the defendant suffers from a service related disorder).

An application must be submitted to the DA's Office for every Veteran interested in entering this voluntary program.

## **INVOLVED AGENCIES**

Bucks County Court of Common Pleas  
Bucks County District Attorney's Office  
Office of the Public Defender  
Adult Probation and Parole  
Bucks County Bar Association  
Bucks County Veteran's Affairs

**FOR A PROGRAM APPLICATION  
PLEASE CALL THE DISTRICT  
ATTORNEY'S OFFICE, THE PUBLIC  
DEFENDER'S OFFICER OR THE  
MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT**

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**The Veterans Treatment Program is limited to defendants who are eligible for VA benefits, as determined by the Veteran's Administration.**

In order to participate in Veterans Treatment Program, the defendant must be a veteran who is diagnosed with one or more of the following service related ailments:

- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- Military Sexual Trauma (MST), or
- Psychological and/or substance abuse problems requiring treatment.

Returning Veterans with substance abuse disorders may also be evaluated and eligible for placement into the county Drug Treatment Program.

Defendants will access the full range of services available through the United States Veterans Affairs Office.

There are no costs or administrative burdens placed on the veteran defendant for the mentor services. Veterans wishing to become a mentor may apply by contacting the Bucks County District Attorney's Office for an application.

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