

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE MARICOPA
COUNTY JUSTICE COURTS
NORTHWEST REGIONAL VETERANS
THERAPY COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2021- 012

The Presiding and Associate Judges of the Maricopa County Justice Courts (MCJC) seek to establish the MCJC Northwest Regional Veterans Therapy Court (MCJC NWRVTC); pursuant to A.R.S. § 22-601, in order to maximize available resources and ensure the participation of a Veterans Justice Outreach specialist (VJO) from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (V.A.) and other approved services.

With the permission of the Presiding Judge of the MCJC, each individual MCJC may transfer up to twelve cases annually to the MCJC NWRVTC, which is currently at the Manistee Justice Court. This will create an additional maximum of 300 cases for the Manistee Court. Participation in the MCJC NWRVTC is at the discretion of each individual Justice of the Peace.

Additionally, each veteran must meet the requirements as outlined by the MCJC NWRVTC to be accepted into the MCJC NWRVTC.

Each Justice Court may establish additional veteran's therapy courts with the written permission of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court as well as permission from the Presiding Judge of the MCJC. It is preferred that courts develop a regional court. The Manistee Justice Court will assist other Justices of the Peace in developing their own program.

The MCJC NWRVTC docket will be held at a centralized location; currently Manistee Justice Court (Donald Watts, Justice of the Peace), to share resources and lessen the impact to the VJO from having to travel to multiple court locations throughout the valley.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED as follows:

1. Establishing the Northwest Regional Veterans Therapy Court for the Maricopa County Justice Courts.
2. At the discretion of each individual Justice of the Peace and with the approval of the Presiding Justice of the Peace, up to twelve cases annually may be transferred from individual justice courts to the MCJC NWRVTC.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

1. The MCJC NWRVTC shall notify the referring court of the graduation of the veteran or refer the veteran back to the referring court if the veteran fails to comply.
2. Justice courts shall use the existing case transfer procedures to transfer cases to the NWRVTC.
3. The NWRVTC Presiding Judge will coordinate with the V.A. for the provision of treatment services to eligible veterans. Additionally, the NWRVTC may also utilize local community-based treatment programs, social services, and veterans service organizations that further the purpose of the Regional Veterans Court.
4. In the event a veteran is removed from the Regional Veterans Court for failing to make satisfactory progress in a court-ordered treatment, or for any other lawful reason, the NWRVTC shall transfer the case back to the referring court for adjudication.
5. The Presiding Judge of the NWRVTC, in coordination with the respective county prosecutor(s) and after consultation with the respective public defender(s), shall develop and implement any other standard operating procedures consistent with this order.

Dated this 1st day of February, 2021

/s/ Joseph C. Welty
Honorable Joseph C. Welty
Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Keith E. Russell, Justice Courts, Presiding Judge
Donald Watts, Justice Courts, Associate Presiding Judge
Raymond Billotte, Judicial Branch Administrator
Jim Morrow, Justice Courts Administrator
Richard Woods, Deputy Court Administrator
Karen Westover, Regional Court Administrator