



**Mission Statement:**

The King County District Court's Regional Veterans Court will serve veterans and the public by:

- ✓ Addressing the underlying issues that have resulted in a veteran being referred to the criminal justice system.
- ✓ Providing a courtroom environment that is supportive and respectful of the veteran and the victim, and conducive to reaching a successful outcome in every case.
- ✓ Striving to increase public safety through a collaborative, team-based approach that includes the veteran, and incorporates individualized treatment plans, close monitoring, and creative approaches to resolve difficult issues.

Regional Veterans Court is staffed by a team of dedicated professionals who have specialized training and experience with mental health issues, veterans' issues, and therapeutic programs such as veterans courts. They meet regularly to ensure that RVC functions at its highest possible level.

**The team consists of:**

- ✓ The Judge;
- ✓ The Defense Attorneys and Defense Social Workers;
- ✓ The Prosecutors and Victim Advocate;
- ✓ The Probation Officers;
- ✓ The Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists; and
- ✓ The Court Clinicians



**King County**

**King County District Court**  
Regional Mental Health Court  
King County Courthouse  
516 3rd Ave, Courtroom E 326  
Seattle, WA, 98104  
mentalhealthcourt@kingcounty.gov

# King County District Court Regional Veterans Court



**King County**



## What are the eligibility Criteria?

- ✓ Criminal charges originating in King County
- ✓ Individual currently meets diagnostic criteria for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder or a severe and persistent mental illness
- ✓ Individual is eligible for VA health care services
- ✓ Individual demonstrates a willingness and ability to engage in treatment and probation and abide by court conditions

## How does a case get referred into Regional Veterans Court?

If the defendant is charged with a felony or the case is pending in a King County Municipal Court, the Prosecutor currently assigned to the case must make the referral. If the defendant is charged with a misdemeanor and the case is being prosecuted by the KC Prosecutor's Office, anyone -including defense counsel- can refer the case to RVC.

## What happens once the case is referred?

Defendants appear in court one or more times to meet the RVC team and to screen for program eligibility. If the defendant is eligible for RVC and amenable to program requirements, the Court Clinician will draft a plan specific to the defendant's needs.

For information or to consider a referral please contact:

**[mentalhealthcourt@kingcounty.gov](mailto:mentalhealthcourt@kingcounty.gov)**

Or visit **[www.kingcounty.gov/courts](http://www.kingcounty.gov/courts)**



## What are the expectations of Regional Veterans Court?

- ✓ Comply with conditions of treatment and up to 24 months of supervision
- ✓ Be actively engaged in mental health and/or chemical dependency treatment, as ordered
- ✓ Take prescribed medications as directed
- ✓ Maintain housing and follow housing rules (the RVC team can often assist with housing placements)
- ✓ Submit to urinalysis as directed
- ✓ Report to Probation as directed by the Judge
- ✓ Return to court for reviews on a regular basis, initially weekly and then as ordered by the Judge