

**COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**  
**MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT COURT**  
**Veterans' Diversionary Program**

**VETERANS' DIVERSIONARY PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

A criminal record has long lasting detrimental effects on a person's life and future. It is unfortunate that a mistake or an action that could have been prevented through treatment often cannot be forgiven and erased. Westmoreland County acknowledges that there are often treatable causes for a person's bad behavior and that by addressing these causes through treatment, a person may be able to apply what is needed to cope.

You, as a veteran with either an honorable discharge or general discharge under honorable conditions, may be eligible for medical services that address post-traumatic stress, traumatic brain disorder, or drug and alcohol abuse. As a veteran, Westmoreland County is offering you a one-time opportunity to be diverted from the criminal justice system into treatment if you volunteer for the diversionary program and if you are determined "eligible" for services through the Veterans' Administration.

The veterans' diversionary program begins today with you completing a group of forms. These forms include a Release of Information, a Defendant Referral (Application), a Colloquy and Waiver of Speedy Trial, and a Conditional Plea of Guilty for Summary charges. After submitting the completed forms, your case will be continued for three weeks to the date indicated on your Notice of Next Hearing. You must contact the Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist at the phone number indicated at Item 7 on the Defendant Referral Form within three days. If you are deemed "eligible," you will be placed in the Program at your next appearance. Any restitution to victims must be paid while you are in the Program. If you are not deemed "eligible," or if you do not volunteer for this Program, you will be given a new hearing date or trial for your case to proceed.

Once accepted into the Program, you will participate in a six-month treatment program. During that six-month program, you will be scheduled for two additional hearings before the Court: a 60-day Status hearing to review your progress, and a final hearing at which your misdemeanor charges will be withdrawn, or your summary charges will be dismissed. Upon successful completion of the Program, you may apply at the Clerk of Courts for Expungement of your Arrest and Criminal Records. Expungement is contingent upon you paying applicable fees. If you fail to complete the treatment program, your charges will be reinstated.

We are very proud to be able to offer this veterans' diversionary program to you and ask that you make your decision wisely knowing that we can only offer this program to you one time.