

Fall Bench Bar Presentation—Bell County Specialty Courts

Jessie McCarty, LCSW

Bell County Drug Court and Veterans Treatment Court Coordinator

- 1) What is a specialty court/problem-solving court?
 - a) Ten Key Components of Adult Drug Courts
 - b) Bell County Specialty Courts
 - i) Drug Court
 - ii) Veterans Treatment Court
- 2) Is my client a good candidate for a specialty court program?
 - a) Target Population
 - i) High criminogenic risk
 - ii) High need (treatment/psychosocial)
 - b) Veterans Treatment Court
 - i) Nexus between military service history and alleged criminal behavior.
 - ii) Per Bell County VTC Policy the following are excluded:
 - (1) Charges: Man/Del, Sex offenses, Child/elder abuse, Strangulation/impeding breath, Murder
 - (2) Veterans with Bad Conduct or Dishonorable discharges
 - c) Drug Court
 - i) Nexus between substance use (to include alcohol) and alleged criminal behavior.
 - ii) By statute, offenses involving the following are excluded:
 - (1) Carrying, possession, or using a firearm or other dangerous weapon
 - (2) The use of force against the person of another
 - (3) The death of or serious bodily injury to another
 - d) Additional considerations
 - i) Residence within Bell County/courtesy supervision.
 - ii) Ability to attend all required programming.
 - iii) Capacity to comply with program requirements.
- 3) What's in it for my client?
 - a) Pretrial participants may be offered dismissal and expunction or reduction of charges upon successful completion.
 - b) Successful completion of a specialty court program may be included as a condition of probation.
 - c) Connection to treatment and community resources
- 4) Ethical considerations
 - a) Eligibility
 - b) Admission
 - c) Participation
 - d) Monitoring and sanctions
 - e) Termination and sentencing
 - f) Pre-plea courts
- 5) Screening and Admission process
 - a) Application
 - b) Screening

- c) State approval
- d) Orientation

All Rise. (2023). *A Practitioner's Guide to Constitutional and Legal Issues in Adult Drug Courts*. Center for Justice Innovation.

Marlowe, D. B. National Drug Court Institute (U.S.) & United States Bureau of Justice Assistance. (2012). *Targeting the right participants for adult drug courts*. National Drug Court Institute.

National Association of Drug Court Professionals Drug Court Standards Committee & United States Drug Courts Program Office. (2004). *Defining drug courts: The key components*. U.S. Dept. of Justice Office of Justice Programs Bureau of Justice Assistance.

TEX GOV'T CODE § 124 VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

TEX GOV'T CODE § 123 DRUG COURT