

**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 VETERANS )  
COURT )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER  
NO. 2023-019

Superior Court Administrative Order No. 2021-012 established the Maricopa County Justice Court 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. The A.O. further provided that other Justice Courts may establish additional veterans 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.

Due to the success of the Northwest Regional Veterans Therapy Court and increased requests for criminal case transfers to the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) involving veterans within the Maricopa County Justice Courts, the Presiding Judge of Maricopa County Justice Courts seeks to dissolve the MCJC Northwest Regional Veterans Therapy Court as provided in AO 2021-12 and establish four (4) Veteran Treatment Courts geographically dispersed within Maricopa County.

With the permission of the Presiding Judge of the MCJC, each individual MCJC may transfer cases to VTC. Allowing a defendant participation in VTC is encouraged, but is at the discretion of each individual Justice of the Peace.

The purpose of these Veterans Treatment Courts is to provide the highest level of service to our veterans in resolving their legal and personal issues by maximizing available resources for veterans. All VTC courts are to ensure the participation of the following: Maricopa County Justice Courts, the Maricopa County Attorney’s Office, the Office of the Public Defender, the V.A., volunteer mentors, and any other organization that may benefit the VTC as determined by the Chair of the Committee on Specialty Courts. The Chair shall ensure the coordination of services to all of the VTC courts.

Veterans must meet the requirements as outlined by the MCJC Committee on Specialty Courts to be accepted into the VTC. VTC may only accept cases from MCJC. Cases from other cities or counties will not be accepted.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. Dissolving the VTC known as MCJC Northwest Regional Veterans Therapy Court.

2. Establishing four new Veterans Treatment Courts for the Maricopa County Justice Courts which shall be known as:

Maricopa County Justice Court Northwest Veterans Treatment Court  
(MCJC Northwest VTC)

Maricopa County Justice Court Northeast Veterans Treatment Court  
(MCJC Northeast VTC)

Maricopa County Justice Court Central Veterans Treatment Court  
(MCJC Downtown VTC)

Maricopa County Justice Court Southeast Veterans Treatment Court  
(MCJC Southeast VTC).

3. Each Justice Court shall be assigned a specific Regional VTC to transfer cases into, unless a victim or defendant, upon good cause, request a different court.

Maricopa County Justice Court Northwest Veterans Treatment Court:

Manistee, Arrowhead, North Valley, Maryvale, White Tank, Agua Fria, Country Meadows, and Hassayampa Justice Courts

Maricopa County Justice Court Northeast Veterans Treatment Court:

McDowell Mountain, Dreamy Draw, Moon Valley, Desert Ridge, and University Lakes Justice Courts

Maricopa County Justice Court Central Veterans Treatment Court:

West McDowell, South Mountain, Downtown, Kyrene, Encanto, Arcadia Biltmore, and Ironwood Justice Courts

Maricopa County Justice Court Southeast Veterans Treatment Court:

Highland, West Mesa, East Mesa, North Mesa, San Tan, and San Marcos Justice Courts.

Any Regional VTC that reaches an overload of cases may transfer, with agreement from the receiving VTC judge, the excess cases to another court.

4. The Committee on Specialty Courts will coordinate with all service providers and volunteers and will be responsible that all defendants receive services and resources. A Justice of the Peace shall serve each VTC. Each judge shall serve a two (2) year term in conjunction with the term of the Presiding Judge of MCJC. The first term shall begin upon approval of this Administrative Order and will end upon the end of the current term of the MCJC Presiding Judge. The Presiding Judge of the MCJC shall appoint the VTC Judges. The Presiding Judge shall establish a selection process for the Regional Judges with input from the Chair of the Committee of Specialty Courts.

Hearings shall be held in the courtroom of the judge assigned for that region or any other location as designated by that judge. At the discretion of the judge presiding over any VTC courts, hearings may be held remotely.

The Committee of Specialty Courts will provide a formal training program for all Regional Judges.

**IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:**

1. The MCJC VTC 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 VTC and back to the referring court.
3. The Specialty Courts Committee Chair and each regional judge of a VTC court will coordinate with the Veteran's Administration for the provision of treatment services to eligible veterans. Additionally, each VTC and the Committee on Specialty Courts 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 VTC shall transfer the case back to the referring court for adjudication.

This AO replaces Superior Court AO 2021-012.

Dated this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2023.

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

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Anna Huberman, Maricopa County Justice Courts, Presiding Judge  
Lenore Driggs, Maricopa County Justice Courts, Associate Presiding Judge  
Donald Watts, Justice Courts, Chair Ad Hoc Committee for Specialty Courts  
Raymond Billotte, Judicial Branch Administrator  
Bob James, Deputy Court Administrator  
Karen Sadler, Limited Jurisdiction Courts Liaison  
Christopher Reams, Justice Court Administrator