When do Veterans access these services?

Services are offered to Veterans at several points in the criminal justice system:

- Point of law enforcement or emergency services
- Initial detention or court hearings
- Courts and jails
- Before release from prison or jail

Eligibility

- Veterans are generally eligible if they have an Honorable or General Discharge from service and if those who enrolled after September 1980 have 24 months of consecutive service. National Guard Reservists may qualify if they were called to active duty. In some cases, Veterans with less than honorable discharges can receive services for things like traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress if they can attribute their struggles to their time in service.
- Eligibility is only limited by involvement with the criminal justice system during incarceration. At this time, VHA is only able to make assessments and referrals for services to begin following release.

- Monetary benefits will be reduced or suspended after a person has been sentenced; the amount to which this occurs depends on several factors.

Veterans Treatment Courts

- Veterans Treatment Court is a specialized court structure to address underlying issues contributing to criminal behavior. The courts address not only the criminal behavior, but the factors that cause them. VJO Specialists work within these courts.
- Mental health issues such as PTSD, traumatic brain injury and adjustment disorder are often associated with particular crimes. A Veteran is assessed for these issues upon entry into court. VJOs try to link a veteran with services and programs that may help them enter diversion or avoid incarceration where possible and appropriate.

WHERE ARE THESE SERVICES?

Where Veterans can receive these services:

- **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA):**
  - Website: [www.va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp)
  - Phone: 1-800-827-1000

- **Veterans Health Administration (VHA):**
  - Website: [www.va.gov/health](http://www.va.gov/health)
  - Phone: 1-877-222-VETS (8387)

- **Health Care for Re-Entry Veterans:**
  - Website: [www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp](http://www.va.gov/homeless/reentry.asp)

- **For a list of Ohio Veterans Treatment Courts and other information:**
  - Go to [www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JCS/specDockets/](http://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/JCS/specDockets/)
  - Go to [www.justiceforvets.org/](http://www.justiceforvets.org/)

- **For a list of current news, grants, training, information and other resources on veterans and criminal justice:**
  - Go to Retired Justice Stratton’s blog at [www.estrattonconsulting.wordpress.com](http://www.estrattonconsulting.wordpress.com).

- **To join the Ohio Attorney General Task Force Subcommittee on Veterans Care and Military Affairs:**
  - Contact Carolyn Bevins at 614-466-3552 or carolyn.bevins@ohioattorneygeneral.gov.