

**LANCASTER COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS  
VETERANS COURT**

**PARTICIPANT CONTRACT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Docket No(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Track: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby enter into this Veterans Court Contract, binding myself to its terms. I understand and agree that I am required to comply with the contract specifications as listed below. Additionally, I understand and agree that I am required to comply with the Veterans Court Rules as well as the Rules and Regulations of Adult Probation and Parole Services, as approved by the Court of Common Pleas.

1. I agree that I have entered a guilty plea and/or stipulated to a Parole/Probation Violation on the above-listed case docket number(s).  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. I understand that the validity of this contract is conditioned upon my eligibility for the Veterans Court Program. If at any time after the execution of this agreement and in any phase of the Veterans Court Program, it is discovered that I am, in fact, ineligible to participate in the program, I may be immediately terminated from the program and sentenced at the discretion of the presiding judge. In the case of a guilty plea, I will not be allowed to withdraw my previously entered plea of guilty unless my ineligibility is based on facts or information which should have been known to the prosecutor prior to Veterans Court admission, or upon constitutional grounds.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. I understand that if I enter this program and fail to complete it, I may be barred from future participation in Veterans Court.  
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4. I understand that participation in Veterans Court involves a minimum time commitment of twelve (12) months and will include an aftercare component up to thirty-six months.  
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5. I will report in person or in writing to my Veterans Court Officer according to his or her instructions.  
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6. I understand that during the entire course of the Veterans Court Program, I will be required to attend court sessions as directed and that failing to attend may result in a warrant for my arrest. For the

purposes of regular Veterans Court review hearings, I agree to waive my right to have my attorney of record present. I understand that my case may be discussed without my attorney or the prosecutor present.

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7. I understand that after my admission into the Veterans Court Program, the Veterans Court Team Member designated as Defense Counsel shall be my attorney and represent my legal interests for the duration of my participation in the program.

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8. I agree to cooperate in an assessment/evaluation for planning an individualized Veterans treatment program adequate to my needs and agree to execute the Request for and Authorization to Release Medical Records or Health Information of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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9. I will inform all treatment providers of my participation in the Veterans Court Program and my agreement to meet the expectations of the Court, which may affect my treatment.

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10. I understand that my individual course of treatment may include residential treatment, prescribed medications and/or other therapy, education, and/or self-improvement courses such as anger management, parenting or relationship counseling. I agree to attend all required treatment meetings and sign appropriate Releases of Information forms allowing treatment providers to release information as it relates to my individualized treatment plan. I understand that my treatment plan may be modified at any time by the treatment provider and/or the Veterans Court Team as circumstances arise, and I agree to comply with the requirements of any such modifications.

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11. I understand that by participating in a therapeutic and problem-solving court, the presiding judge may initiate, permit or consider *ex parte* communication while assuming a more interactive role with me, treatment providers, social workers and the members of the Veterans Court Team. As a participant of a therapeutic and problem-solving court, I consent to the possibility of *ex parte* communication during my involvement in the Veterans Court Program.

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12. I will not leave any treatment program without prior approval of my treatment provider and the Veterans Court Team. I agree to complete all required financial disclosure declarations as necessary to obtain funds for my treatment. If funding is not available, I agree to pay some or all of the costs of my treatment.

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13. I agree to keep the Veterans Court Team, treatment providers, and law enforcement liaison, if any, advised of my current address and phone number at all times and will not change my residence without prior consent from my supervising probation officer. My place of residence is subject to Veterans Court approval.

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14. I will not travel more than 30 miles from my home without receiving permission from my probation officer. I will not travel outside the border of Pennsylvania without written travel permission from my probation officer.
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15. I must comply with all local, state, and federal laws. I agree to inform any law enforcement officer who contacts me that I am a participant of Veterans Court. I must immediately notify my supervising Veterans Court Officer of any contact, arrest or investigation by/with a law enforcement agency. I understand that I may not work as a confidential informant with any law enforcement agency while I am participating in the Veterans Court Program, nor may I be made or encouraged to work as a confidential informant as a condition of my full participation in the Veterans Court Program.
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16. I will not possess, have control of, or have in my place of residence or vehicle, any contraband such as stolen property, non-prescribed controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, firearms (handguns, rifles, shotguns) or other deadly weapons, including but not limited to: bow and arrow, prohibited offensive weapons, or any instruments of crime. I will submit my person, property, place of residence, vehicle and personal effects to search at any time by a member of the Veterans Court Team or representative (including units of Adult Probation & Parole Services) based upon reasonable suspicion that I am in possession of contraband.
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17. I understand that I may not participate in Veterans Court if I am currently an affiliated gang member.
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18. I understand that any false statements, verbal or written, made by me to any member of the Veterans Court Team may result in my termination from the program.
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19. I agree not to threaten, harass, intimidate or abuse in any way any past or present Veterans Court participants, or any member of the Veterans Court Team, any of its representatives, or mentors.
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20. I understand that while in Veterans Court my focus must be on my treatment. As a result, I agree not to be romantically involved with past or present Veterans Court participants or with any member of the Veterans Court Team, any of its representatives, or mentors.
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21. I understand that Veterans Court has a code of conduct and I am required to comport myself in court, by both my conduct and dress, in a manner satisfactory to the Judge and befitting a Veteran of the United States Armed Forces.
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22. I understand that participating in Veterans Court requires me to be drug and alcohol free at all times. I will not associate with people who use or possess drugs, nor will I be present while drugs are being used

or possessed by other.

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23. I understand that I must provide copies of all my prescriptions to my probation officer and that I am subject to the Veterans Court Medical Marijuana Policy. Any change in my medication must be communicated to my probation officer within twenty-four (24) hours. I understand that I may be required to bring all said medications to appointments with my probation officer so a pill count can be conducted. I realize that I am responsible for any discrepancy between the instructed dosage and the actual pill count.

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24. I am responsible for what goes into my body. Before taking any medication or ingesting any substance or substance of any kind, prescribed or over the counter, I will check with the doctor and/or pharmacist to ensure that it is non-narcotic, non-addictive, and contains no alcohol. This includes mouthwash and any other products containing alcohol. I will also ensure that it will not demonstrate a positive result for drug and/or alcohol testing.

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25. I understand that due to the high potential of addictive medications to interfere with treatment and recovery efforts, Lancaster County Veterans Court requires all participants to seek non-addictive medication as the first choice for treatment. Exceptions to this policy are made only in rare occasions, as it is recognized that some veteran participants will have acute pain and/or anxiety that may not respond to non-addictive medications. In all such cases, I will be required to alert the prescribing physician about any substance abuse history and obtain evidence that I have done so. If indicated, I will seek a pain clinic referral to explore alternatives to addictive medications. If I am prescribed addictive medications, I am prohibited from obtaining prescriptions from more than one provider. I understand that if I habitually seek exception to this policy, I may be subject to increased sanctions and/or termination.

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26. I agree to submit to urinalysis and/or breathalyzer testing on a random basis as directed and according to procedures established by the Veterans Court Team and/or treatment provider. I understand that refusal to submit to testing, failure to report for testing, and/or failure to provide a sample for testing will be considered a positive test and a violation of the Veterans Court Contract.

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27. I will not substitute, alter, or try in any way to change my bodily fluids or testing specimen, including attempting to dilute the sample. I understand that providing a substitute or adulterated urine sample may result in my immediate termination from Veterans Court.

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28. I understand that I may dispute positive test results, but that I will reimburse the court for the cost of laboratory fees sustained upon positive confirmation of drug use.

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29. I understand that during the early phases of my treatment and recovery, I may be precluded from working or gaining employment. I further understand that within the time directed by the Veterans Court

Team, I will seek legitimate employment, job training and/or further education as approved by the Veterans Court Team.

30. I agree to inform the Lancaster County Domestic Relations Office and/or the Lancaster County Children & Youth Agency of my participation in Veterans Court as long as I have open cases with such agencies.
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31. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations imposed by the Veterans Court Team and understand that failure to comply may result in sanctions or termination from the program. I understand that sanctions may include, but are not limited to, time in custody, increased supervision sessions, increased drug testing, remaining in a particular phase, reduction to a previously completed phase, and/or such other sanctions as may be deemed appropriate by the Veterans Court Team.
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32. I understand that I may choose to voluntarily withdraw from Veterans Court. If I do so, it will be considered a violation and I may be sentenced up to the maximum penalty allowed for the underlying offense(s), or I will be recommitted to serve the entire balance of the unserved maximum term of incarceration as a parole violator.
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33. I understand that my failure to successfully complete and graduate from the Lancaster County Veterans Court Program will result in the imposition of the previously deferred sentence and/or will result in a violation of my probation/parole. I understand that my failure to complete Veterans Court cannot be a basis for the withdrawal of my previously entered guilty plea or my stipulation to my probation/parole violation. I understand that any attempt to withdraw my guilty plea or my stipulation to my probation/parole violation would be prejudicial to the Commonwealth. Any sentence imposed shall be at the sole discretion of the presiding judge.
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34. After graduation from the Veterans Court program, I understand that I will be required to participate in the Veterans Court Aftercare Program. This phase will last up to 36 months and include, but not be limited to, court reporting, drug testing, ongoing treatment, and community involvement. If the aftercare requirements have been met without additional sanctions, and the outstanding balance of fines and costs are paid, aftercare may terminate earlier. I understand that failure to comply with and complete the Aftercare Program requirements may negatively affect my expungement as well as result in a sanction(s), imposition of the previously deferred sentence against me, and/or the finding of a violation of probation or parole and the imposition of a sentence up to the maximum penalty allowed at the sole discretion of the presiding judge. I agree to participate in and meet the requirements of Aftercare.
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35. Upon successful completion of the program and any required aftercare:
- a. Those individuals who entered the program on the diversion track may have their criminal case(s) dismissed and expunged.
  - b. For participants completing the modified track, the agreed upon offense(s) will be dismissed and supervision of the alternate offense(s) will terminate.
  - c. For those individuals who entered the program on the non-diversion track or on probation/parole

violations, any remaining term of supervision may be terminated. \_\_\_\_\_

c1. Any required hearings regarding the potential early termination of probation as required by Act 44 of 2023, which amended Sections 9754(b), 9763(b)(1), (2), (11), 9771(a), (b), (c) and enacted Section 9774.1 of Title 42 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes, (hereinafter, "Act 44"), shall be conducted at the appropriate time during the defendant's appearance at a regularly scheduled session of Treatment Court.

I understand that, if I am on probation for the offense(s) for which I have been admitted to Treatment Court, that any violation of the Requirements, Rules, and/or Regulations of Treatment Court will constitute a violation of the terms of my probation. In exchange for my participation in Treatment Court, I agree, that in such situations, I will waive my right to any required preliminary violation (*Gagnon I*) hearing. I understand that an expedited formal violation (*Gagnon II*) hearing will be conducted during the first available regularly scheduled session of Treatment Court. At such hearing, I will be afforded all applicable rights, including the right to be represented by legal counsel. \_\_\_\_\_

36. I understand that I must pay all fines, costs, restitution, and fees associated with my participation in Veterans Court. I will do so by establishing a payment plan with the Collections Enforcement Unit. I understand that any restitution must be paid in full prior to charges being dismissed or reduced for participants who entered Veterans Court on the diversion and modified tracks. Failure to pay all fines and costs in full will result in the participant's /graduate's case being referred to the Collection Enforcement Unit. \_\_\_\_\_

**I hereby acknowledge that I have read, or have had read to me the foregoing rules, regulations and special conditions of my Veterans Court supervision. Further, I understand that the Veterans Court Program is constantly improving and therefore it may be necessary for me to review and sign updated contracts. I am willing to enter into this agreement to participate in the Lancaster County Veterans Court Program.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant's Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney for the Commonwealth

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Veterans Court Judge

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date