
RDC Mission

Using an innovative, multi-disciplinary approach, the mission of the Regional Drug Court is to increase public safety and reduce the costs of crime on society by identifying and treating non-violent drug involved offenders and military veterans who come into contact with the criminal justice system, enabling these offenders to make positive lifestyle changes which will save lives, preserve families and promote community. The Regional Drug Court (RDC) structure is being piloted in an effort to make this program available to all citizens of the Commonwealth, including those in the most expansive, rural communities.

Regional Drug Court (RDC) Team

- ◇ Honorable John Leete, RDC Judge
- ◇ Chris Konzal, Esq., RDC Coordinator

Representatives from Elk, Forest, & Jefferson County:

- ◇ Probation Department
- ◇ Single County Authority (SCA)
- ◇ District Attorney's Office
- ◇ Public Defender's Office
- ◇ VA - Veterans Justice Outreach Specialists
- ◇ Veteran Mentor Coordinator

STEERING COMMITTEE

- ◇ President Judge Maureen Skerda (Forest County)
- ◇ President Judge John Foradora (Jefferson County)
- ◇ President Judge Richard Masson (Elk County)
- ◇ RDC Judge John Leete
- ◇ P. Karen Blackburn, AOPC

General Questions?

Contact Chris Konzal, RDC Coordinator

- ◇ Phone: (814) 602-0995
- ◇ Email: Chris.Konzal@pacourts.us

SUPPORTED BY:

AOPC

Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts

Pennsylvania Judicial Center
601 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 1500
Harrisburg, PA 17120
www.pacourts.us

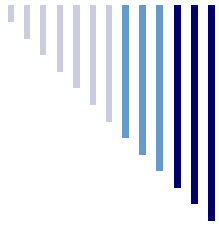


Elk, Forest, and Jefferson Counties

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR:

- ◆ Individuals with pending non-violent drug related offenses; and
- ◆ U.S. Military Veterans with pending offenses.





BENEFITS

- √ Become clean and sober.
- √ Reduce your chances of reoffending.
- √ Treat mental health issues from your military service.
- √ Gain employment and/or skills.
- √ Improve relationships with family and friends.
- √ Be a positive contributor in the community.
- √ Possible expungement of your charges.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

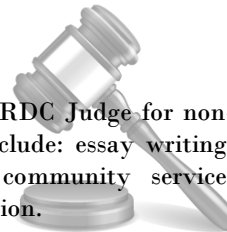
- ◇ Program lasts a minimum of 14 months followed by 6 months of aftercare.
- ◇ Attend treatment sessions and follow treatment plan.
- ◇ Submit to frequent and random drug testing.
- ◇ Meet with your probation officer at his/her office, at your home, work, and in the community.
- ◇ Gain employment, participate in job training and/or work to improve educational attainment (e.g., GED, trade school, college, etc.)
- ◇ Secure and/or maintain stable housing.
- ◇ Perform community service.
- ◇ Improve and/or maintain relationships with your children and family.
- ◇ Attend bi-weekly RDC court sessions.
- ◇ Remain crime-free.
- ◇ Pay fines, costs, fees, and restitution.
- ◇ Follow all rules and regulations (all not listed above).

PROGRAM COMPLIANCE

Participants may be given rewards or incentives for compliant behavior while in the program. Examples include: phase promotion, public recognition, courtroom applause, and gift cards. A graduation ceremony is held after successful completion of the program.

PROGRAM VIOLATIONS

Participants are sanctioned by the RDC Judge for non-compliance. Example sanctions include: essay writing, increased supervision, additional community service, incarceration, and program termination.



REFERRAL & APPLICATION

HOW DO I JOIN THE PROGRAM?

Those considering participation in the RDC must complete and submit the RDC Referral and Application to the designated contact provided on the application form.

To be considered, you must be:

- ◇ Resident of the county (Elk, Forest, or Jefferson) where the charges occurred;
- ◇ Age 18 or older;
- ◇ Clinically eligible (i.e., substance abuse dependence, veterans with PTSD, etc.); and
- ◇ Criminally eligible (i.e., non-violent, etc.).

WHERE DO I FIND AN APPLICATION?

Applications can be found at the county courthouse, public defender's office, County Office of Veterans Affairs, local Magisterial District Court, and county website.

WHO CAN HELP ME COMPLETE THE APPLICATION?

Your attorney. Either a private attorney or an attorney from your county's public defender's office.

IS THIS PROGRAM REQUIRED?

No. Participants voluntarily agree to participate in and be subject to the rules, regulations, and sanctions of the RDC.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I SUBMIT AN APPLICATION?

An RDC representative will contact you and/or your attorney approximately one week after submitting your application. If you meet the basic eligibility criteria such as age and residency, you will be scheduled for further assessments.