



The Orange County Veterans Court greatly appreciates every mentor who volunteers to improve the lives of our Veterans.

Veterans Court Mentor Guide

A Veteran Mentor has a separate and independent role from the court process. Mentors act as coaches, guides, role models, advocates, and provide support to the Veteran Mentee he/she is working with. A mentor is a more experienced individual who helps and guides another individual's development. The mentor is intended to encourage and support the mentee as he/she progresses through the court program. This will include listening to the concerns of the veteran and making general suggestions and assisting the veteran (as much as possible) in navigating court procedures and those of the Veteran's Administration to resolve matters or concerns that may come up. Mentors also determine what their needs are and act as a support person for the veteran at a time when he/she may feel alone in a way that only another veteran can understand.

Essentials of a Mentoring Relationship:

Communication: Mentors need to talk with and actively listen to their mentees. It is important to value a mentee's opinions and let the mentee know that he or she is being taken seriously. A mentee can help to build trust in the relationship by honestly relaying his or her goals and concerns and by listening to the mentor's opinions.

Availability: The mentor should be willing to meet with the mentee. The mentee should also make time for the relationship. While face-to-face meetings are encouraged with the mentee, mentors may meet and attend court with their mentee as their schedule permits.

Predictability: The mentor should be dependable and reliable. Expectations of one another's availability should be discussed and relied upon.

Trust & Confidentiality: Trust is essential for a successful mentoring relationship. This is a two-way street. Both mentors and mentees need to work together to build trust.

Mutual Respect is also essential for a successful mentoring relationship.

Self-Esteem: Building a mentee's self-esteem is encouraged to building a good relationship. Everyone has a desire to be valued. The mentor should make a point to give consistent, positive, feedback, direction, and advice. Mentors can define and bring out the best qualities in the mentee such as a particular talent.