

Ventura Superior Court
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, California

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for the People
we serve*



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Military Diversion



***Our Court is here for
the People we serve***

Military Diversion

NOTICE TO MILITARY PERSONNEL AND VETERANS

If you are a current or former member of any branch of the U.S. Military who may be suffering from sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or mental health problems as a result of your military service and charged with a crime, you may be entitled to certain rights under some California laws. Below are brief explanations of some of those laws. You should consult with your attorney to discuss how these and/or other laws may apply to you.



You are not required to have an honorable discharge, to have combat service, or to be accepted into a Veterans Court to be eligible for the rights described in the following statutes:

California Penal Code §1170.9: Consideration for alternative sentencing and restorative relief.

Rights include possibly:

- Receiving treatment instead of prison or jail time for certain crimes
- Having a greater chance of receiving probation
- Having conditions of probation deemed satisfied early, other than any victim restitution ordered, and probation terminated early
- Having some felonies reduced to misdemeanors
- Having the court restore rights, dismiss penalties, and/or set aside conviction for certain crimes

Requirements include:

- For consideration for alternative sentencing:
 - Convicted of certain criminal offenses (some crimes do not qualify)
 - Eligible for probation and court orders probation
- For restorative relief following order of probation:
 - In substantial compliance with conditions of probation
 - A successful participant in and demonstration of significant benefits from treatment and services
 - No danger to the health and safety of others

California Penal Code §1001.80: Diversion in misdemeanor cases.

Rights include:

- Pretrial diversion program instead of trial and potential conviction and incarceration
- Dismissal of eligible criminal charges following satisfactory performance in program
- Arrest is deemed to have “never occurred” for most purposes following successful completion of program

Requirements include:

- Application to misdemeanors only, not felonies
- Consent to diversion
- Waiver of right to speedy trial
- Satisfactory performance in program

California Penal Code §1170.91: Mitigating factor in felony sentencing.

- The court shall consider these circumstances from which the defendant may be suffering as a result of military service as a factor in mitigation during felony sentencing, which could mean a more lenient sentence.

