ININVOLVEMENT

Diversion is designed for adults who are self-motivated and willing to confront their own legal behavior issues. In many cases the Diversion Program is the first contact adults have with law enforcement and the criminal justice system.

Positive early intervention through the Diversion Program is an effective way to avoid future brushes with the law.

Successful Diversion Means:

- The case is formally resolved without the involvement of the court.
- The offender does not have a court record for the offense.

Termination From Diversion:
Results in the case being referred back to the traditional court system for further action.

TOP 10 REASONS To Support the Adult Diversion Program

1. Helps adults learn from their mistakes through early intervention.
2. Repairs the harm caused to families, victims and the community.
3. Equips and encourages adults to make responsible decisions.
4. Encourages adults to fulfill short-term personal goals.
5. Creates a mechanism to collect restitution for victims.
6. Hold adults accountable for their actions and provides learning opportunities regarding cause and effect.
7. Allows eligible offenders the opportunity to keep their court record clean.
8. Reduces burden on court system and jails.
9. Recognized as effective and required by state law since 1994.
10. Reduces future crime.

Diversion Program Fee
Each offender pays a non-refundable administration fee of $180.00 as well as any other additional fees related to their individualized needs and program, could include an educational online course.

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**WHAT IS DIVERSION**

The Adult Diversion Program is a voluntary program operated by the Stearns County Attorney’s Office that offers eligible offenders 18 and older an alternative to appearing in court.

**Diversion Offers an Individualized Action Plan Based Upon:**

**Accountability**
- To the community
- To the victim(s)

**Self Improvement**
- Through personal responsibility

**Admission of Wrongdoing**
- Understanding the impact of actions
- Taking personal responsibility for the wrongdoing
- Implementing changed thinking to prevent future problems

**GOALS**
- Prevent, eliminate or reduce the rate of recidivism.
- Provide eligible offenders with an alternative to the traditional court process and a criminal conviction.
- Promote the collection of restitution for the victims of the crime.
- Reduce costs and caseload burdens on district courts and the criminal justice system.

**ELIGIBILITY**

The offender must be 18 years or older at the time of the offense.

**Divertible Offenses Include:**
- Criminal damage to property
- Theft and theft-related offenses (except theft by an individual who occupies a position of trust or responsibility)
- Possessing/receiving stolen property
- Worthless checks
- Motor vehicle tampering
- Certain felony offenses only if allowed by state statute and recommended to the County Attorney in writing by the Chief Law Enforcement Officer of the investigating jurisdiction *

**Qualifying Factors**
- Prior offenses
- Nature of the current offense
- Offender’s attitude
- Responsibilities to the victim
- Availability of resources to accommodate the needs of the offender

* Final determination of eligibility is within the sole discretion of the Stearns County Attorney

**PARTICIPATION**

Participants must acknowledge responsibility, admit guilt and provide a factual account for certain offenses.

**STEP 1:**
Participant receives a letter explaining how to proceed with diversion.

**STEP 2:**
Participant attends a group intake educational conference about the Diversion Program and what is expected.
- Individual needs of the offender assessed.
- Personalized Diversion Agreement created and signed.

**STEP 3:**
Remain law-abiding and complete the program elements within the designated time.

**Possible Program Elements:**
- Maintain contact with Diversion Program Specialist
- 3rd Millennium on-line educational course
- Pay full restitution to victim
- Write an apology letter
- Attend counseling sessions/treatment
- Complete writing assignments
- Perform community service work
- Restorative Justice measures