

COMMUNITY DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Community Diversion Program (CDP) was developed for juveniles charged with first-time misdemeanor and status offenses in order to avoid formal court action. By utilizing community resources to address problems brought to the attention of the court local intervention is highly successful.

The current model for CDP was established January 1, 1999. CDP replaced the prior model of restitution services which was implemented when programs were initially developed in 1978. Diversion is not new to North Olmsted; it just operates better than ever!

The types of offenses diverted from court include misdemeanor offenses such as theft, assault, criminal damaging, possession of alcohol and drugs, etc... Status offenses that may be diverted include unruly behavior such as truancy, and curfew violations. A status offense is only applicable to minors. To be eligible for diversion, the juvenile must be a first offender who was not previously in a diversion program. Felony level cases may occasionally be eligible once reviewed by prosecutors for appropriate placement.



How CDP Operates

CDP is highly intervention based and coordinates the expertise of a social service professional and the legal perspective of a magistrate approved by the Juvenile Court. This provides for local intervention and accountability on multiple levels:

- ↻ Community based sanctions
- ↻ Intervention services

Community based accountability sanctions consist of activities or consequences for juveniles and provide direct accountability for their actions. Intervention services then address any underlying problems which are barriers to overall success both present and future. The ultimate goal is to avoid repeat offenses.

Referrals are made to the CDP by Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court (CCJC) for eligible misdemeanor or status offenses. Most of the cases involving misdemeanor complaints originate with the North Olmsted Police Department, neighboring police departments or retail security forces. Status offenses such as truancy and unruly typically originate from local schools. A parent or guardian may file directly with the CCJC and first time offenses will be referred back to the CDP. The Juvenile Court provides background checks and prepares the official complaints. No public record is established in diversion.

Interview assessments are conducted with the juvenile and family to measure needs and to advise them of their legal rights and options. Once consent is obtained, juveniles participate in a hearing conducted by a volunteer magistrate. The magistrate hears the case and prepares a disposition for the juvenile to make restitution for their actions and orders any appropriate intervention services.



Outcomes

Cases disposed of through the CDP have no Juvenile Court record and result in no additional public records. If the juvenile is successful, all records become sealed and are eventually destroyed.

Dispositions may include accountability sanctions and interventions such as community service; drug and alcohol education and assessment; random drug screens; educational interventions; curfew; financial restitution to victims; counseling; etc. Youth remain active in the program up to twelve months.

CDP dispositions act as a program roadmap to provide accountability and intervention for youth and families involved in our program. It is not intended to be merely punitive. Interventions are personally designed to help youth reach personal goals, gain support for individual and family problems and to reach their own potential.

We look at CDP as an opportunity for growth. Families that cooperate and work with us often are grateful for the experience once their case is closed.

Questions? Contact us at
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CITY OF NORTH OLMSTED COMMUNITY DIVERSION PROGRAM (CDP)



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