

Will my school will be notified?

When a youth enters into a Diversion Agreement and is enrolled in a school, the principal of that school will be notified if the juvenile has an offense such as the following:

- Assault 4th degree
- A Controlled Substance (drugs or alcohol)
- Harassment/ Phone Harassment
- Sex Offense
- Inhaling Toxic Fumes
- Arson/ Reckless Burning
- Malicious Mischief 3rd degree
- Violation of a Protection Order
- Weapons



Any further questions concerning
Diversion may be directed to:

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DIVERSION



SUPERIOR COURT OF KITSAP COUNTY

Juvenile and Family Court Services

What is Diversion?

- Diversion is a program for juveniles who have been charged with crime, between the ages of 8-17, who, in lieu of court are diverted out of the court system.
- Youth are held accountable for their criminal behavior by the conditions of a written contract 'Diversion Agreement'.
- After an arrest or report by law enforcement, the case is referred to the prosecuting attorney for review.
- When the prosecutor determines the case to be legally sufficient the matter may be referred to diversion.
- Instead of appearing before a judge in court, the youth and his/her family meet with a Community Accountability Board and/or Diversion staff.

What are the advantages of Diversion?

1. The Diversion Agreement is not a conviction.
2. Diversion is more convenient and less time consuming than going to Juvenile Court.
3. Diversion process is confidential and private, unlike public court hearings.
4. Diversion cannot require a juvenile to serve time in detention.



What happens at a Diversion Board meeting?

- A Diversion unit or board, made up of case monitors and volunteers, meet with the juvenile and his/her legal guardian to determine the terms and conditions of a Diversion Agreement.
- Meetings usually take between 45 minutes and an hour. Conditions may include community service work, educational classes, counseling, restitution, treatment, restriction from certain areas, curfew; and/or no contact with the victim.
- Once a Diversion Agreement is signed, it will be your responsibility to report your progress to the Diversion Program. Once you have completed the conditions of the agreement, and provided proof to the Diversion Program your case will be closed.

What type of educational classes are offered?

- **Drug and Alcohol Education** - Youth gain factual information regarding alcohol/drug addiction.
- **Shoplifting Prevention Circle** - Discussion on the causes and effects of theft.
- **Victim-Offender Mediation** - Youth have opportunity to understand more fully the effects of their decisions and actions on others.

- **Youth Court** - Youth who have been charged with a crime are prosecuted, defended and sentenced by their peers. The program offers unique opportunities to all participants to both learn about the consequences of criminal behavior and to make positive contributions to our community.

What happens if a youth does not follow the requirements of the Diversion Agreement?

1. The case will be referred to the prosecuting attorney for review, and a formal court hearing.
2. The case will proceed to arraignment and will be handled like other Juvenile Court cases.
3. If the youth does not appear at the hearing, the Court may issue a warrant of arrest.

Will I lose my driving privileges?

- If you sign a Diversion Agreement for an alcohol or drug related offense, that offense can later be used as a prior offense to revoke your driving privileges should you be convicted in court of another alcohol or drug related offense.

