



## YOUTH JUSTICE PROGRAMS



### DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Huron Perth Centre Diversion Program is a pre-charge intervention program that provides youth 12-17 with the opportunity to take accountability for their actions. The Diversion program provides an effective and timely response to offending behavior while encouraging the youth, their support people and the community to become involved in the design and implementation of the measures assigned where appropriate.

#### How is a young person referred?

Youth will be referred to the program by the Police at the time of the offence, or following an investigation of the offence. At the discretion of the Police officer, they will deem if the offence is eligible and appropriate for the Diversion program and a referral will be completed. Upon the referral being submitted, the youth will be notified by the officer and provided with contact information of the Diversion Coordinator. The youth will have 10 days to initiate contact with the Diversion Coordinator.

#### What happens when a youth enters the Diversion program?

The coordinator, youth and support persons (wherever possible), work together to determine appropriate measures as an alternative to formal court proceedings. The Diversion program measures are determined on an individual basis. The youth is encouraged to demonstrate responsibility in the community, while providing an opportunity for the youths skills and abilities to be recognized. Such sanctions may include, but are not limited to:

- Education seminars
- Community service work
- Restitution to the Victim
- A written and/or verbal letter of responsibility
- Youth Justice Conference: Bringing together the victim(s) and offender(s) in an appropriate intentional way to provide the youth with an opportunity to make amends

# YOUTH JUSTICE COMMITTEE PROGRAM

The Youth Justice Committee Program is an alternative to the traditional court proceedings. A youth and their caregiver(s)/guardian will meet with the program coordinator, community volunteers, and the victim(s). Together, everyone will negotiate meaningful ways or "sanctions" for the youth to repair the harm caused.

## How is a young person referred?

Youth may be referred to the program by the Police at the time of the offence, by an alternate Diversion program or by the Crown. All youth must be 12 to 17 years at the time of their offence, and must have committed an offence deemed to be minor.

## Requirements

To be considered for the program, a youth must be willing to:

- Accept responsibility for their actions
- Participate in the conference process
- Complete agreed upon sanctions

## Youth Justice Committee Provides

- A voice to the victim and an opportunity for them to express how the offence has affected them
- An opportunity for youth to get a better understanding of their actions and the impact of their actions on the people they harmed, their family and the community
- Opportunity for communities to become directly involved in the Restorative measures of youth
- Timely and meaningful resolutions to offending behaviour

## The Conference

A conference brings together the young person, their support person, community volunteers, the program coordinator, and the victim with their support person, if they choose to participate. With support of the program coordinator, the conference will help everyone talk about:

- Harm caused
- Impact to the victim and the community
- Ways to repair the harm

Everyone must agree to the sanction(s), which are tasks that the young person will complete.

Sanctions may include:

- A written or verbal apology
- Restitution
- Charitable contribution
- Completing a project
- Referral to community agency

Once the sanctions are completed, the police will not lay charges, or the charge(s) will be withdrawn by the Court.

## Is a Record Kept?

Although there is no conviction, a record is kept for two years. It can be brought forward if the young person re-offends within two years, even after they turn 18. At the discretion of the Crown or the police, an 810 recognizance (Peace Bond) may be put in place for a period up to 12 months following the withdrawal of the charge(s).



## Contact Us

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