

What are the advantages of Diversion?

- The Diversion Agreement is not a conviction, nor is it probation.
- Diversion is more convenient and less time consuming than going to Juvenile Court.
- Diversion process is confidential and private, unlike public court hearings.
- Diversion cannot require a juvenile to serve time in detention.

What happens if I do not complete my Diversion Agreement?

1. The diversion will be rejected and sent back to the prosecuting attorney for review.
2. The case may proceed to arraignment and will be handled like other Juvenile Court cases.

I've heard about Youth Court.

What's that?

Youth Court is a restorative program. Diversion youth charged with an offense participate in a mock court where they are defended, prosecuted, and sentenced by their peers. Youth Court provides the opportunity for the youth to take responsibility for their actions and have their Diversion Agreement written by their peers.



Any further questions concerning
Diversion may be directed to:

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Superior Court of Kitsap County
Committed to providing compassionate
and effective services to youth, their
families and our community.



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DIVERSION



SUPERIOR COURT OF KITSAP COUNTY

Juvenile and Family Court Services

What is Diversion?

- Diversion is a restorative justice program for juveniles who have been charged with a crime. Youth in Diversion are allowed to resolve their case outside of a traditional courtroom setting.
- After an arrest, or report by law enforcement, the case is referred to the prosecuting attorney for review.
- Upon review, the prosecutor will determine if the case is legally sufficient and may refer the matter to diversion.
- Instead of appearing before a judge in court, the youth and their parent/guardian will meet with a Diversion staff.
- During the Diversion meeting, youth will have their rights explained including the right to meet with an attorney and/or opt out of the diversion and go to court.
- Youth agreeing to the Diversion will enter into a written contract, otherwise referred to as a 'Diversion Agreement'.

Can I speak to an attorney?

- Yes. It is your right to speak to an attorney. The Diversion meeting will be paused pending attorney consultation. If you wish to continue with the Diversion process, your meeting will be rescheduled.

What happens at a Diversion meeting?

- Youth and their parent/guardian meet with the Diversion staff. Meetings can be held virtually or in-person, and usually take between 45 minutes and 1 hour.
- Legal rights and options for an attorney are reviewed. Having agreed to the diversion, youth will discuss the underlying offense, the circumstances surrounding it, what they've learned from it, and how it has impacted them and/or their community.
- A Diversion Agreement is drawn up, and may include conditions such as; community restitution (service) work, educational classes, counseling, treatment, restrictions from certain areas, curfew; and/or no contacts. Every Diversion Agreement includes a risk assessment to determine if further services are required.
- 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 or services could go on my contact?

- **Functional Family Therapy** - In-home therapy. Therapist meets with the youth and family for 10 - 12 sessions focusing on communication skills.

- **Coordination of Services** - 12-hour interactive workshop for youth and guardian.
- **Shoplifting Prevention Circle** - Discussion on the causes and effects of theft.
- **Parent-Youth Mediation** - Hosted by dispute resolution center. Focuses on youth and parent/guardian communication skills.
- **DUI Victims Awareness Panel** - Discussion on the causes and effects of driving under the influence.
- **Student Advocate Professionals** - A referral to an educational professional for the purpose of solving education barriers.
- **HSYNC—STAY** - Hosted by Kitsap Mental Health. Focus is on homelessness and/or youth and parent/guardian communication.
- **Victim-Offender Mediation** - Youth have opportunity to understand more fully the effects of their decisions and actions on others.

Will I lose my driving privileges?

- No. You will not lose your driving privileges by entering this contract. 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.*