

Advice About Diversion
(When Confinement is Possible)

1. Diversion is a different way of dealing with juveniles who are charged with an offense. You do not go to court and there is no trial before a judge.
2. A Diversion Agreement is a contract between you and the diversion unit. A Diversion Agreement may require you to do certain things, such as: community restitution; attend counseling, informational, or education sessions; pay restitution or fines; requirements to attend school; observe home curfews, abide by restrictions to certain geographical locations, and refrain from any contact with victims or witnesses of the offense; but you cannot be sent to jail. Under certain circumstances, you may be counseled and released, which means no further action will be required of you.
3. If you sign a Diversion Agreement, or if you are counseled and released, the offense you are charged with and any Diversion Agreement will be part of your criminal history. Your criminal history may result in: (A) future or other offenses not being handled by diversion or deferred disposition; and (B) future or other offenses resulting in more serious consequences. Your criminal history will show whether or not you have completed the terms of a Diversion Agreement. Your criminal history is accessible to the police, the prosecutor, the court and the diversion unit.
4. If you do not follow the Diversion Agreement, the prosecutor may bring you to a hearing for the offense(s) with which you are charged. If you do not appear at the court hearing, the court may order that you be arrested.
5. The diversion unit must notify the Department of Licensing (DOL) when you sign a Diversion Agreement for an alcohol or drug related offense. DOL will revoke your driving privileges for one year on a first offense with 90-day early reinstatement if the terms of your Diversion Agreement are completed. Additional alcohol/drug offenses will result in additional one to two-year revocation periods. Only after completing your Diversion Agreement will DOL be advised to send you a letter describing what actions are necessary to reinstate your license. If you are 13-16, you are ineligible for a driver's permit until 90 days after your 16th birthday. Information sent to the Department of Licensing will not be sealed or destroyed and is only accessible to insurance companies during the actual period of revocation upon request.
6. You do not have to participate in diversion. If you choose not to participate, your case will go to court if charges are filed by the prosecutor. If your case goes to court, you can have a lawyer represent you, and you will not have to pay the lawyer if you cannot afford it.
7. You may ask the court to seal your file on your current offense(s) if you spend two continuous years in the community from the date you complete the terms of your Diversion Agreement without committing any offense or crime that results in conviction or diversion and you are at least 18 years old.
8. If this is your first Diversion Agreement and two years pass after completing this Diversion Agreement and you have no other referrals to Juvenile Court, you may ask the court to destroy your records when you are at least 18 years old.
9. If your criminal history includes only referrals for diversions, and all your Diversion Agreements have been successfully completed and no proceeding is pending against you seeking conviction of a criminal offense, when you are at least 23 years old you may ask the court for an order destroying your Diversion records.

10. You have the right to talk to a lawyer about whether you should participate in diversion or whether you should go to court. You will not have to pay for a lawyer if you cannot afford it. A lawyer can review the police reports, explain your rights, and explain the law. If you do not believe you committed this offense, you should talk to a lawyer.
11. When you agree to participate in the diversion process, you do not have the right to have a free lawyer appointed for you to help you work out a Diversion Agreement, but you do have the right to have a lawyer help you work out a Diversion Agreement if you can afford to pay for it.
12. If you are enrolled in school, the court will notify your principal of your Diversion Agreement if the offense for which you are entering into a Diversion Agreement is a violent offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030; a sex offense as defined in RCW 9.94A.030; inhaling toxic fumes under Chapter 9.47A RCW; a controlled substance violation under Chapter 69.50 RCW; a liquor violation under RCW 66.44.270; or any crime under Chapters 9.41, 9A.36, 9A.40, 9A.46 and 9A.48 RCW.

I have read or someone has read to me everything printed above, and I understand it. I have been given a copy of this statement.

Dated: _____

Dated: _____

Parent or Guardian (optional)

Juvenile

The above statement was read by or read to the juvenile and signed by the juvenile on the date indicated.

Diversion Unit Representative