



YOUTH DIVERSION PLAN
JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, PRECINCT 3
CASS COUNTY, TEXAS
Plan Effective Date - January 1, 2025

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Youth Diversion Plan is to protect and preserve the interests of Texas youth who have been issued citations for nontraffic laws. This plan is intended to provide interventions and/or strategies to assist the troubled youth and to keep his/her record clean. A copy of this Youth Diversion Plan shall be maintained on file for public purposes.

PLAN COORDINATORS:

Clerk staff from the Justice of the Peace Court, Precinct 3, Cass County Texas will be the designated coordinators for this Plan.

PLAN QUALIFICATIONS:

To qualify for youth diversion, a youth must be 10 years of age or younger than 17 years of age at the time he/she allegedly committed the nontraffic offense. The youth must not have had a prior unsuccessful Diversion Plan. The youth must not have signed a Diversion Plan Agreement within the last 365 days prior to a new plan beginning.

PLAN OVERVIEW:

This plan is designed to intervene when youth have citations for nontraffic offenses by providing strategies and/or services with the goal of averting further interactions with the legal system. The plan will be specific to each individual youth served by this Court to include:

- A written agreement which must be signed by the youth and the parent or legal guardian.
- The agreement will divert and halt the prosecution of the charges incurred by the youth and the pending charges will be dismissed at the end of the successful Diversion period.
- The agreement will be for a set period of time as determined by the Youth Diversion Plan Coordinators not to exceed 180 days.

A copy of the signed Diversion Plan Agreement must be provided to the youth, the parent or legal guardian, court clerks acting as Youth Diversion Plan Coordinators, and any and all others specified people and/or organizations noted in the signed agreement.

The Diversion Plan will be actively monitored by the Youth Diversion Plan Coordinators who will keep in contact with the youth, and/or parents or legal guardian of the youth, and all other people and/or organizations specified in the signed agreement. Monitoring will verify that the requirements of the Diversion Plan are being administered and followed.

Participation in this plan and execution of the plan is not an admission of guilt and no plea is required to participate. Participation is also voluntary and the youth and the parent or legal guardian will be notified of the child's rights which include the right to refuse the Diversion Plan. The youth must knowingly and voluntarily consent to participate in the plan and the signatures of both of the youth and the parent or legal guardian are required to invoke the rights under this Diversion Plan Agreement.

The plan will be invoked if and when charges are brought against the youth who qualifies, thus making this a plan where diversion occurs in the court.

POTENTIAL OUTCOMES:

Successfully completing a Diversion Plan Agreement will bar the charges leveled against the youth from being revived and prosecuted. The records associated with the youth will be automatically expunged at 18 years of age. The Justice Court may, at its discretion:

- amend or set aside certain terms to the agreed Diversion Plan
- extend the diversion period not to exceed one year from the initial start date
- order the parent to perform any reasonable act or refrain from any reasonable act,
- continue any scheduled hearing for up to 60 days, AND
- make a determination that the diversion was successful or unsuccessful.

An unsuccessful completion of the Plan may result in the case being referred for prosecution.

The Justice Court will have jurisdiction over the case for the period of the Diversion Plan Agreement.

PLAN RECORDS:

The Youth Diversion Plan Coordinators shall maintain records on all Diversion Plans for a period of three years and shall keep a permanent file on all successful and unsuccessful plans.

PLAN STRATEGIES:

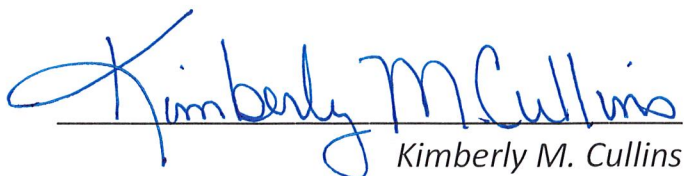
Plan strategies and interventions may include one or more of the following to include, but not limited to:

- Academic Monitoring and/or Tutoring
- Community service not to exceed 20 hours at a non-profit:
- Educational program
- GED prep classes:
- Mental health screening and/or clinical assessment:
- Mentoring Services or Self-Improvement Program(s):
- Ordering Youth to pay restitution on property offenses not to exceed \$100:
- Ordering the child/parent to perform any other reasonable action:
- Private or in-school counseling:
- School related programs or options:
- Social Media use on court assigned topic:

PLAN MONITORING:

The Diversion Plan Agreement shall be monitored by the Youth Diversion Plan Coordinators for compliance. It is expected that all participating youth and parents or legal guardians will comply with all requirements imposed by the Court and/or the Youth Diversion Plan Coordinators.

SIGNED the 30th day of December, 2024.



Kimberly M. Cullins

Cass County Justice of the Peace
Precinct 3, Place 1