

Denver District Attorney's Office Juvenile Diversion Program
F.A.Q.

What are the eligibility criteria?

The DA's office will consider youth clients who:

- Are between the ages of 10-17 years of age at the time of offense,
- take responsibility for the offense and agree to the terms and conditions of the program, and
- are not on probation supervision at the time of arrest.

What types of cases are eligible for Diversion?

- The program accepts felony 4-6 cases and all misdemeanor charges, including: theft, burglary of a dwelling, motor vehicle theft, criminal mischief, select weapons charges, assault, gang related offenses, possession of a controlled substance and forgery. Other cases including sex offenses may be eligible on a case-by-case basis.

How are potentially eligible clients identified?

- Denver Deputy DAs in the Juvenile Unit, review cases at intake and make a recommendation to Diversion for a client to be accepted in to the program.
- Diversion supervisors review each case that has been recommended by the Deputy DAs.
- The program is voluntary and eligible juvenile clients must complete an intake review with the assigned Diversion Officer.
- Clients are accepted into the Diversion program once all these steps have been completed.

What does it mean to be in Diversion?

- The goal of diversion is to change behavior and reduce recidivism through targeted interventions based on risk and need.
- Clients in the Diversion program are closely monitored by Diversion Officers.
- Clients sign an accountability contract, which outlines program requirements based upon the individual client's risks and needs.
- All clients are required to remain crime free, pay restitution, and complete community service hours.
- Clients may be required to attend substance use and/or mental health treatment, employment classes, educational classes, cognitive therapy and any other activity designed to support a crime-free life.

What happens if an offender fails Diversion?

- Program clients who re-offend or fail to meet the requirements of their accountability contract will have the original case re-filed and prosecuted for their original crime.

Who do I contact if I have questions?

- Chief Deputy District Attorney, Juan Silva: jxs@denverda.org
- Diversion Director Benita Martin: bam@denverda.org