



***NEWS RELEASE –***

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**DA BETH MCCANN LAUNCHES PRE-FILE YOUNG ADULT  
DIVERSION PROGRAM**

Denver District Attorney Beth McCann announced that her office today launched a pilot program for a pre-filing young adult diversion program.

Adult diversion, like juvenile diversion, is a voluntary alternative to criminal adjudication that allows a diversion-eligible person accused of a crime to fulfill a set of conditions, or complete a formal program designed to address, treat, or remedy issues related to or raised by the allegation against them. Diversion is a legally binding agreement between the diversion participant and the District Attorney's Office.

In pre-trial diversion, upon successful completion of the conditions or program, the charges against the defendant are not filed and the participant is returned to the same legal status as if the offense had never occurred. Pre-file diversion differs from deferred prosecution/judgment in that charges are not filed, and the defendant has not pleaded guilty.

The primary goals of adult and juvenile diversion are to prevent further contact with the police and criminal justice system, address underlying issues that led to the offense, and provide a cost-saving alternative to traditional prosecution.

The Denver District Attorney's Office has never had an adult diversion program, pre-file or otherwise.

"I am excited about our ability to launch this important new program in Denver. We have had a successful juvenile diversion program for several years with a track record of much lower recidivism rates—11% in 2017—than traditional criminal justice approaches," DA McCann said. "There is no good reason we shouldn't expand this program to young adults. A unique aspect of this pre-filing program is that a person will not incur a criminal record for the offense if he or she successfully completes the program, helping prevent young adults from being unable to obtain jobs or housing because of a criminal record," McCann continued.

The Adult Diversion Program (ADP) is an extension of the Denver DA Juvenile Diversion Program. Over the course of the next several months, office prosecutors will review and select 50 criminal offenders between the ages of 18-26 as potential diversion applicants based on a list of eligibility criteria. A preliminary review for diversion eligibility will take place at the city jail before first advisement. These individuals will then be screened by the DA's diversion office, with input from Denver police, to determine if they are appropriate for diversion – one of the most important criteria being whether they accept responsibility for the offense. Compliance with the agreement will be monitored by the DA's diversion office.

If an individual is deemed not eligible for the program, re-offends, or is subsequently not successful in completing the diversion program, the charges will then be filed and the case prosecuted.

An F.A.Q. list is attached for reference.