

DIVERSION

MISSION STATEMENT

THE CLERMONT COUNTY JUVENILE DIVERSION DEPARTMENT IS ESTABLISHED TO DIVERT ADJUDICATED AND NON-ADJUDICATED STATUS AND MISDEMEANOR DELINQUENT OFFENDERS FROM FORMAL COURT INTERVENTION BY PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF SERVICES AND SUPERVISION.

STATUS DIVERSION PROGRAM

THIS PROGRAM WAS CREATED BY OUR COURT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION TO FAMILIES OF UNRULY CHILDREN. THE PROCESS ALLOWS THE YOUTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO CORRECT THEIR BEHAVIOR WITHOUT ENDING UP WITH AN OFFICIAL COURT RECORD. TO START THE PROCESS A PARENT OR GUARDIAN MUST FIRST CONTACT THE COURT'S INTAKE DEPARTMENT AT (513)732-7799 TO INITIATE A REFERRAL TO THE PROGRAM.

ONCE A REFERRAL IS FILLED OUT, AN INITIAL APPOINTMENT WILL BE SCHEDULED WITH THE FAMILY BY A DIVERSION OFFICER TO DISCUSS WITH THE CHILD THEIR UNRULY BEHAVIOR, THE LEGAL PROCESS AND WHAT FURTHER STEPS A PARENT MAY TAKE TO FILE A COMPLAINT IF INCORRIGIBLE BEHAVIOR CONTINUES AT HOME OR AT SCHOOL. AS PART OF THIS APPOINTMENT AN ACTION PLAN WILL BE FILLED OUT BY THE DIVERSION OFFICER OUTLINING WHAT STEPS ALL PARTIES WILL TAKE TO FOLLOW

UPON RECOMMENDATIONS GIVEN BY THE DIVERSION OFFICER DURING THIS APPOINTMENT. IN SOME CASES THE DIVERSION OFFICER MAY REFER THE YOUTH AND THEIR FAMILY TO CHILD FOCUS, CLERMONT COUNSELING, FAMILY SERVICES, THE CLERMONT RECOVERY CENTER, THE COURT'S AMENDS PROGRAM OR THE FAMILY MAY CHOOSE A PRIVATE COUNSELOR COVERED UNDER THEIR INSURANCE.

IF INCORRIGIBLE BEHAVIOR ON THE PART OF THE YOUTH CONTINUES AFTER THE INITIAL APPOINTMENT, THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN MAY CHOOSE TO FILE A COMPLAINT BY CONTACTING THE DIVERSION OFFICER THEY MET WITH TO SCHEDULE A DIVERSION INTAKE APPOINTMENT. **AT THE TIME THE COMPLAINT IS TAKEN A \$40.00 FILING FEE IS REQUIRED TO BE PAID.** AN EXCEPTION TO THIS PROCESS WOULD BE IF THE YOUTH LEAVES HOME WITHOUT PERMISSION AND IS MISSING FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME. IF THIS OCCURS, A RUNAWAY WARRANT WILL BE ISSUED AT THE TIME A COMPLAINT IS TAKEN BY THE COURT AND THE YOUTH WILL BE RETURNED HOME UPON EXECUTION OF THE WARRANT AS PART OF THE INTAKE APPOINTMENT,

STATUS DIVERSION PROGRAM

(CONTINUED)

A DIVERSION AGREEMENT WILL BE WRITTEN BY THE DIVERSION OFFICER WHICH OUTLINES THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE PROGRAM AND REINFORCES THE RULES THE FAMILY HAS IN PLACE IN THE HOME. THE DIVERSION CASE IS STILL CONSIDERED UNOFFICIAL AT THIS TIME UNLESS THE CHARGES HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE PROGRAM THROUGH AN OFFICIAL ORDER OF THE COURT. AS PART OF THE DIVERSION AGREEMENT, THE FAMILY COULD BE REFERRED TO COUNSELING SERVICES. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THROUGH COULD RESULT IN TERMINATION FROM THE PROGRAM. FREQUENCY OF CLIENT-CASEWORKER CONTACT WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE DIVERSION OFFICER. THE DIVERSION OFFICER'S ROLE COULD BE ONE OF COUNSELOR, DISCIPLINARIAN, MONITOR OR FRIEND, DEPENDING ON THE NEEDS OF THE CASE. IF THE JUVENILE MUST APPEAR FOR ANY REASON BEFORE THE COURT, THE DIVERSION OFFICER WILL ATTEND ALSO AND GIVE THE JUDGE A REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE CASE AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ORDERS TO BE MADE BY THE JUDGE.

THE LENGTH OF INVOLVEMENT WITH THE DIVERSION PROGRAM VARIES AND IS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE DIVERSION OFFICER. THE BASIC GUIDELINE IS 18 WEEKS FOR A STATUS DIVERSION CASE. IF THERE IS NOT ADEQUATE IMPROVEMENT IN THE ASCRIBED LENGTH OF TIME, THE ORIGINAL COMPLAINT CAN BE REFERRED TO COURT FOR A FORMAL HEARING BEFORE THE JUDGE OR DIVERSION INVOLVEMENT MAY CONTINUE.