

Northlake Municipal Court

TOWN OF NORTHLAKE



§ IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT
§ TOWN OF NORTHLAKE
§ DENTON COUNTY, TEXAS

ORDER ADOPTING A YOUTH DIVERSION PLAN

IT IS ORDERED pursuant to Article 45.306 (b) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure that the Court adopts the Youth Diversion Plan hereafter referred to as the "Northlake Youth Diversion Program" or "Program."

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Program shall not limit the types of strategies or services that may be imposed as needed in the best interest of the child and to promote the long-term safety of the community. Strategies and Services may be tailored to an individual case as determined by the Judge, City Prosecutor and Youth Diversion Coordinator after assessment and collaboration with all interested parties and service providers.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the procedures, components, and applicable law referenced in the Friona Youth Diversion Program shall be maintained on file for public inspection.

SIGNED AND ENTERED on this 11 day of December, 2024


Judge Harris Hughey
Municipal Judge
Town of Northlake
Denton County, Texas

Northlake Municipal Court Youth Diversion Program

The Northlake Municipal Court Youth Diversion Program is designed to provide an alternative to traditional court proceedings for eligible youth offenders. This program adheres to Texas H.B. 3186 and is structured in accordance with Article 45.306 (b) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. The program aims to reduce recidivism, promote accountability, and provide educational and rehabilitative opportunities for youth.

Objectives

1. **Reduce Recidivism:** Minimize repeat offenses among youth by providing constructive interventions.
2. **Promote Accountability:** Encourage youth to take responsibility for their actions through community service and restitution.
3. **Enhance Life Skills:** Provide educational resources and support to develop positive life skills.
4. **Improve Community Relations:** Foster better relationships between youth and law enforcement, community members, and the judicial system.
5. **Support Families:** Engage families in the diversion process to promote a supportive home environment.

Applicability

The Youth Diversion Program applies to:

- Youth aged 10-16 who have committed misdemeanor offenses under the jurisdiction of the Northlake Municipal Court.
- Offenses eligible for diversion include non-violent misdemeanors such as theft, vandalism, and minor drug offenses.
- Youth who have not previously participated in a diversion program or who have no prior felony convictions.

Referral

Referrals to the Youth Diversion Program may be made by:

- The Northlake Municipal Court Judge during Juvenile Hearing.

Intake / Eligibility

1. Initial Screening: Upon referral, the court will conduct an initial screening to determine eligibility based on offense type, age, and prior history.
2. Parental Consent: Consent from a parent or guardian is required for youth to participate in the program.
3. Assessment: A comprehensive assessment will evaluate the youth's needs, strengths, and any underlying issues contributing to their behavior.

Evaluation

An evaluation process will be implemented to assess:

- The individual needs of the youth.
- Any educational, mental health, or substance abuse issues.
- The youth's support system, including family and community resources.

Intermediate Diversion Intake and Implementation

1. Program Orientation: Eligible youth and their families will attend an orientation session to understand the program's goals, expectations, and requirements.
2. Development of a Personalized Plan: Each youth will have a tailored plan that may include:
 - Community service hours
 - Educational workshops
 - Counseling or mentoring sessions

Diversion Agreement

This process helps maintain the integrity of the diversion program and ensures that it serves as a meaningful opportunity for first-time or infrequent offenders.

1. Contract Signing: Youth and parents/guardians will sign a diversion agreement outlining the terms of participation, including goals, responsibilities, and consequences for non-compliance.

2. **Sworn Affidavit:** As part of the agreement, the youth and parent/guardian will sign a sworn affidavit confirming that the youth has not participated in any youth diversion program within the last 365 days. This affidavit will serve to ensure that the diversion program is being used appropriately and that the youth is eligible for this opportunity.
3. **Commitment to Conditions:** Youth must commit to completing the agreed-upon requirements within a specified timeframe.

Referral to Court and Court Proceedings

1. **Completion of Program:** Upon successful completion of the diversion program, the youth will be referred back to the court for dismissal of charges.
2. **Monitoring Compliance:** The program coordinator will monitor progress and compliance with the diversion agreement.
3. **Court Dismissal:** If all conditions are met, the court will formally dismiss the case, allowing the youth to avoid a permanent criminal record.

Conclusion

The Northlake Municipal Court Youth Diversion Program aims to provide youth with the opportunity for rehabilitation and growth, steering them away from the criminal justice system while fostering community involvement and personal accountability. Through a structured approach, we hope to support our youth in becoming positive, productive members of society.