

CITY OF CLEVELAND
COMMUNITY RELATIONS BOARD
YOUTH COMMUNITY DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Youth Community Diversion Program is a joint effort between the City of Cleveland and the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court. The program began in 1999. The program's goal is to divert first time youth offenders who have committed misdemeanor or status offenses from official court proceedings. The Youth Community Diversion Program addresses the youth's illegal behavior and resolves the matter unofficially. The youth are given accountability based sanctions in an effort to prevent further involvement with the juvenile justice system.

When a complaint is filed against a youth, Juvenile Court will determine if the youth is eligible for the Youth Community Diversion Program. If eligible, a caseworker will contact the parent/guardian and offer the program to them. Participation in the program is voluntary. The youth and parent/guardian will be required to complete an assessment, sign all necessary participation forms and attend an informal hearing with a volunteer magistrate. At the informal hearing, the caseworker and volunteer magistrate will give the youth sanctions to complete and also make referrals to community resources if needed.

Sanctions imposed on the youth may include the following:

- Apology letters to victims or parents
- Community service work
- Curfew restrictions
- Essays
- Financial restitution
- Obtain employment
- School monitoring
- Referrals to drug and alcohol education
- Referrals for drug and alcohol assessment
- Referrals for mental health counseling

Youth are involved in the program for 12 months. Youth who re-offend or fail to complete sanctions, will be terminated from the program. These youth will be sent to juvenile court for official court proceedings.

Program location: 75 Erieview Plaza Suite 204 Cleveland, OH 44114
Phone numbers: 216-664-6344 or 216-664-6250
Fax number: 216-420-8015

