

## DIVERSION STAFF

The Diversion Treatment Program is run by Andrée Mattix, M.Ed., L.P.C., L.M.F.T., Director of Social Services for the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office. Seven masters-level counselors and social workers assist Ms. Mattix in providing individual and group counseling to program participants. For more information, please contact us at:

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OFFICE OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS

# Adult Misdemeanor Diversion Program



for Defendants in Municipal Court

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The District Attorney's Office Misdemeanor Diversion Program provides a positive alternative to the Municipal court process for motivated offenders. The program is designed to meet the needs of these offenders in an attempt to prevent any future criminal behavior. This program works to offer appropriate supervision, rehabilitation, and education through a focused intervention model. As a potential participant, you should see this as an opportunity for change, accountability and growth. In order to be successful, you will have to meet all eligibility requirements, and then once admitted, follow all of the program requirements. If you have any questions, be sure to see out the answers in advance. Upon successful completion of the program, your case will be dismissed and you can apply to have your record cleared.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Defendants charged with crimes in Orleans Parish that may be diversion eligible are first screened by the District Attorney's office. During the screening process, a defendant's file is reviewed, including a review of his/her criminal record, to determine if s/he qualifies for the program. A full psychosocial is completed on each client to determine his or her treatment plan.

Eligibility Requirements:

- Be charged with an eligible misdemeanor such as: Possession of Marijuana (first offense), Possession of Paraphernalia, Simple Battery Criminal Damage, Assault, Criminal Mischief, Criminal Trespass, Theft Shoplifting, Possession of Stolen Property, Gambling, Disturbing the Peace (Non-Domestic Violence).
- The charge must not have resulted in any serious injury and will require victim approval.
- No more than one prior non-violent felony conviction.
- No more than two non-violent misdemeanor convictions.
- No arrests for crimes of violence for the past five (5) years

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The Misdemeanor Diversion Program will take 3-12 months and participants must comply with all of the below requirements for the duration of their participation. Participants with one or more misdemeanor/felony convictions must remain in the program for a minimum of 9-12 months. Participants making restitution payments will remain in the program beyond the 9-12 months until the restitution payments have been paid in full.

If admitted to Misdemeanor Diversion Program, each participant must:

- Participate in the 4-8 weeks of initial assessment conducted by counselors and social workers in the District Attorney's Diversion Office;
- Weekly drug testing for the first eight weeks of initial assessment;
- Weekly in-person reporting during the first four (4) weeks of initial assessment to a counselor in the District Attorney's Diversion Office;
  - After the initial four (4) weeks, participants must maintain a minimum of a monthly contact with their counselors until the completion of the program.
- Participants must complete 40 hours of community service with a designated community service organization ; OR
- For those who do not have a high school diploma or a GED, must enroll in and maintain regular attendance at a GED Program; OR
- Maintain employment and make timely restitution payments.
- Participate in a final interview and drug test at completion