

DIVERSION STAFF

The Diversion Program is run by Andjele Maths, M.Ed., I.P.C., L.M.F.T., the Director of Social Services for the Orleans Parish District Attorney's office. Seven Masters Level Counselors and Social Workers assist Ms. Maths, each of whom provide individual and group counseling to all program participants. For more information, please contact us at:

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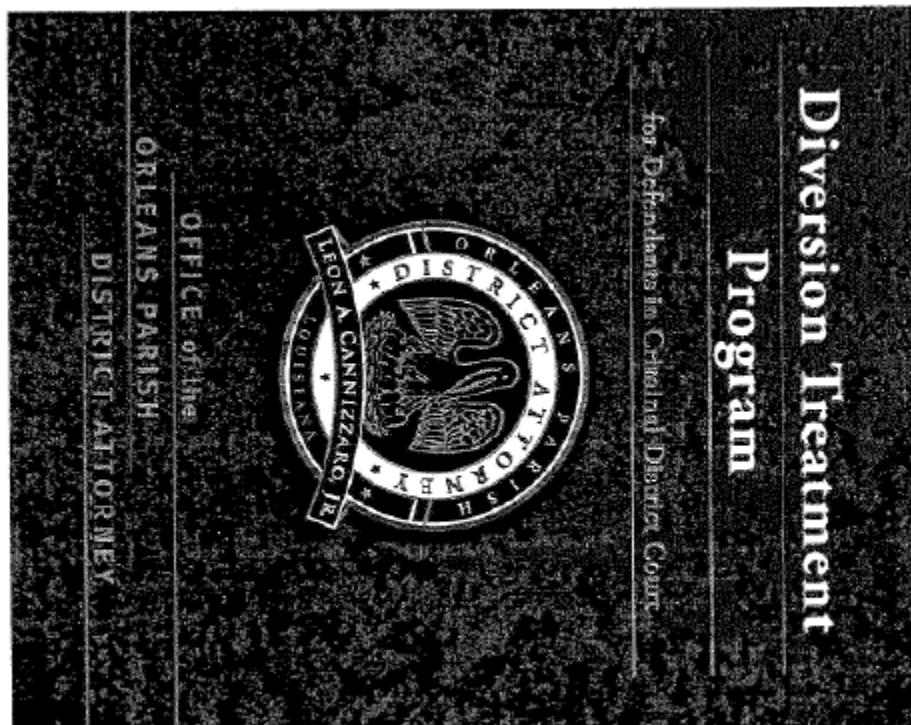
Diversion Treatment Program

for Defendants in Criminal District Court



OFFICE of the

**ORLEANS PARISH
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**



"The Diversion Treatment Program is designed to promote community stability and responsible living. While all criminal conduct is harmful to our community, I firmly believe that the safety of our community is best served by allowing some non-violent offenders to participate in an intensive rehabilitative program instead of prosecution." Leon A. Cannizzaro, Jr., Orleans Parish District Attorney

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Diversion Program is designed to promote community stability and responsible living. The Diversion Treatment Program promotes public safety in two important ways. First, it allows motivated individuals to receive meaningful rehabilitation without the negative collateral consequences of a criminal conviction, which reduces recidivism and increases the likelihood that participants become more productive members of our community. Second, the costs of the participants do not drain the limited resources of the criminal justice system. As such, the program saves the District Attorney's office in focusing its prosecutorial resources on violent criminals.

All new criminal cases are screened by the District Attorney's office to determine diversion eligibility. Violent offenders are generally eligible for the Diversion Program if they are not charged with "crime of violence" or drug distribution offense.



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Counseling and Office Visits • Participants are required to have office visits once per week for 8 weeks (maximum of 20 minutes). Weekly meeting may be reduced after 12 months of compliance or extended for up to 12 weeks for non-compliance. Counselor will develop a treatment plan for each participant which include full psychological assessment and referral to substance abuse, education, employment, mental health and housing resources. Client must sign a diversion agreement consent to deferral waiver of speedy trial, if criminal charges involve a co-defendant who is not participating in diversion testimony against the co-defendant may be required.

Drug Testing • Clients must remain drug and alcohol free, weekly drug testing for 8 weeks, plus random testing ordered by counselor; if one involves a narcotics charge or client admits to and/or uses positive for drugs, weekly testing may extend to 12 weeks before being reduced to 2x/month with random testing as well.

Drug Treatment • All clients are assessed for substance use dependence. The results of this assessment will determine the level of care recommended.

Employment/Education • Participants must provide verification of full-time employment or full-time student status. If clients are unemployed and able to work, then must provide proof of an active job search.



SANCTIONS

No noncompliance with program requirements can result in a wide range of appropriate sanctions, including but not limited to fines, probation, or imprisonment of 2 years to complete diversion.

DURATION

The Diversion Program requires 24 months to complete. Alternative offenders require a minimum of 2 years to complete diversion.

LANGUAGE ACCESS

To ensure that all persons who meet the eligibility criteria are able to participate in the Diversion Program, the District Attorney's office has received funding to provide language interpretation services for Spanish speakers. In addition, our program materials are available in Spanish, and we have a translator available to assist the staff and the participants.

FEES
The cost of participation in the Diversion Program is \$500 which can be paid in installments. Drug testing costs vary but may range from \$12 to \$25 per test; drug treatment is charged on a sliding scale, though there is no cost to after-lease groups.

Upon successful completion of the program requirements, the criminal charges will be dismissed.

