

## COMMUNITY DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Community Diversion Program (CDP) was developed for juveniles charged with first-time misdemeanor and status offenses in order to avoid formal court action. By utilizing community resources to address problems brought to the attention of the court local intervention is highly successful.

The current model for CDP was established January 1, 1999. CDP replaced the prior model of restitution services which was implemented since programs were initially developed in 1978. Diversion is not new to North Olmsted; it just operates better than ever!

The types of offenses diverted from court include misdemeanor offenses such as theft, assault, criminal damaging, possession of alcohol and drugs, etc... Status offenses that may be diverted include unruly behavior such as truancy, possession of tobacco and curfew violations. To be eligible for diversion, the juvenile must be a first offender. Traffic diversion was established in 2010 to address first time waiverable offenses for 16 or 17 year old drivers. (See back flap for Traffic)



## How CDP Operates

CDP is highly intervention based and coordinates the expertise of a social service professional and the legal perspective of a volunteer magistrate. This provides for local intervention and accountability on multiple levels:

- ↻ Community based sanctions
- ↻ Intervention services

Community based accountability sanctions consist of activities or consequences for juveniles and provide direct accountability for their actions. Intervention services then address any underlying problems of juveniles and their family systems to focus on overall success. The ultimate goal is to avoid repeat offenses.

Referrals are made to the CDP by Cuyahoga County Juvenile Court (CCJC) for eligible misdemeanor or status offenses. Most of the cases involving misdemeanor complaints originate with the North Olmsted Police Department, neighboring police departments or retail security forces. Status offenses such as truancy and unruly typically originate from local schools or the North Olmsted City School District. A parent or guardian may file directly with the CCJC and first time offenses will be referred back to the CDP. The Juvenile Court provides background checks and prepares the official complaints. No public record is established in diversion.

Interviews are conducted with the juvenile and family to assess needs and to advise them of their legal rights. Juveniles then participate in a hearing conducted by a volunteer magistrate appointed by the court. The magistrate hears the case and prepares a disposition for the juvenile to make restitution for their actions and orders any appropriate intervention services.



## Outcomes

Cases disposed of through the CDP have no Juvenile Court record and result in no public records. If the juvenile is successful, all records become sealed and are eventually destroyed.

Dispositions may include accountability sanctions and interventions such as community service; drug and alcohol education and assessment; random drug screens; educational interventions; curfew or driving restrictions; financial restitution to victims; counseling; etc. Youth remain active in the program for twelve months.



### **Community Diversion Program Traffic Diversion**

The Community Diversion Program provides a diversion option for first time juvenile traffic offenders for waivable offenses such as signal or moving violations, speeding and minor motor vehicle accidents.

The program is designed to offer an alternative for juveniles in lieu of involvement in the Juvenile Court system. Juveniles can avoid a court record, reporting to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles and points on their license averting automatic suspensions. Families have the added benefit of preventing soaring insurance costs due to a violation. Interventions make our young drivers responsible, educated and safe!

#### **How it works**

Juveniles cited for a waivable traffic violation will be given the option of diverting the case to the North Olmsted CDP. Cases will be heard locally by a volunteer magistrate. A disposition will be issued for accountability and intervention to promote learning and safety. The case will be monitored for 90 days. Pending compliance and no further citations, the case is closed.

#### **Benefits of Diversion**

- × NO POINTS**
- × NO REPORT TO OHIO BMV**
- × NO REPORT TO INSURANCE**

**FEES AT OR BELOW REGULAR COURT  
FINES + COSTS**

### **Division of Youth & Family Services Administrator**

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#### **CDP Case Manager**

Danielle Liggett, B.A.

#### **Community Diversion Program Advisory and Intervention Team**

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#### **Magistrates**

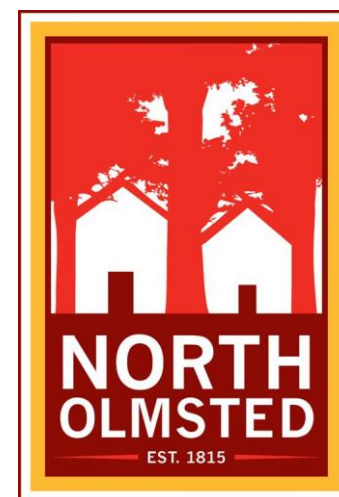
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### **CITY OF NORTH OLMSTED COMMUNITY DIVERSION PROGRAM (CDP)**



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