



GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR DIVERSION

- Low-Risk individuals are generally self-correcting.
- Formal intervention is generally not necessary as a response to criminal behavior with low-risk individuals.
- Formal intervention can be counter-productive.
- Mixing medium and high-risk individuals with low-risk individuals may have undesirable consequences.

FIRST TIME OFFENDER DIVERSION PROGRAM

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE DIVERSION PROGRAM AND CHOOSE TO PARTICIPATE YOU MUST:

1. Contact the Diversion Specialist **BY THE NEXT BUSINESS DAY** at:

CJS-Web@Chippewacountywi.gov

(IF NO ANSWER LEAVE A DETAILED MESSAGE WITH NAME, PHONE NUMBER, AND INCIDENT NUMBER)

2. Let the Diversion Specialist know you were referred for the program and what your charges are.

3. Follow the instructions the Diversion Specialist gives you.

My Incident #: _____

My Charge: _____

CHIPPEWA COUNTY

Kayce Lawcewicz
Diversion Program Specialist

<http://www.chippewacountywi.gov>

PROGRAM PURPOSE

- ❖ Reduce recidivism
- ❖ Provide education to first time offenders related to continued involvement in the criminal justice system and resulting consequences.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- ❖ Individuals complete a two- hour education session regarding ramifications of citations and criminal violations and the thought process leading to violations.
- ❖ Additional offense-specific online education for individuals referred for underage drinking, shoplifting, disorderly conduct, and THC related offenses.
- ❖ Individuals are required to remain offense-free for duration of program. This is from the time of the referral until 60 days post-education. (Average of 100 days)
- ❖ Individuals pay a **\$250.00 fee** for program in lieu of citation or court costs.
- ❖ Successful participants avoid citation and criminal charges and in most cases the offense remains off Wisconsin Circuit Court Access or is dismissed.

ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

- ❖ Individuals receiving County or City citations for matters which could otherwise be a state statute violation.
- ❖ Individuals subject to criminal charges who are low to medium risk on the Proxy and are first time offenders.
- ❖ Individuals receiving their first underage drinking citation.
- ❖ Individuals are only eligible for the program one time.

ELIGIBLE OFFENSES

- ❖ Ordinance violations, Misdemeanor cases, and some low level Felonies with certain exceptions.
- ❖ Most common offenses:
 - Underage Drinking
 - Retail Theft
 - Disorderly Conduct
 - Obstructing
 - Possession of THC or paraphernalia

The program fee **must** be paid in full in order to be successfully discharged from the program. Payment plans are available. The Diversion Specialist will provide further information regarding this.

INELIGIBLE OFFENSES

- ❖ Cases involving infliction of major injuries or counseling needs such as domestic violence, sex offenses etc.



IF YOU FAIL TO CONTACT THE DIVERSION SPECIALIST BY THE NEXT BUSINESS DAY, OR FAIL TO ATTEND THE DIVERSION PROGRAM, YOUR CASE WILL PROCEED IN THE ORIGINAL MANNER AND YOU WILL RECEIVE A CITATION OR BE REFERRED TO THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR CRIMINAL CHARGES, WHICH WILL APPEAR ON WISCONSIN CIRCUIT COURT ACCESS.

CALL THE DIVERSION SPECIALIST (Kayce Lawcewicz) BY THE NEXT BUSINESS DAY AT:
cjs-web@chippewacountywi.gov

Business Hours:
M-Th: 7:30 am to 4:30 pm
Fri: 7:30 am to 11:30 am