

MORRISON COUNTY JUVENILE DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Morrison County Diversion Program is designed to provide meaningful consequences to juveniles for their illegal acts and to help them understand problems which may have caused their involvement in these acts. This program is an alternative to the Court process. It allows the juvenile and his/her parents to avoid Court appearances and having a Juvenile Court record. Certain consequences of the Court, such as probation, or placement outside of the home, will not occur in this program. The Diversion Program may require the child to pay restitution to their victims, and/or participate in educational programs, or other appropriate programs. Community Corrections may make recommendations for counseling services for juveniles or their families beyond the scope of the Diversion Program. Any participation would be voluntary. However, if Community Corrections feels that such counseling is necessary, and not just advisable, that may be cause for not being accepted into the Diversion Program.

Morrison County Community Corrections receives referrals to the Diversion Program from the Morrison County Attorney. These referrals are made after the County Attorney has determined there is reason to believe the child has been involved in illegal behavior. The referral is reviewed by Community Corrections to determine if the child is eligible for the program before an intake conference is scheduled. The intake conference is a meeting between the child, parent(s), and Corrections personnel. It is NOT a Court Hearing. At this conference, the program is explained, and if appropriate, a contract is developed. This will require the child to complete community work, make restitution, or other appropriate consequences. The Diversion Program lasts 90 days, and all juveniles would be required to remain totally law abiding during this time.

Participation in the Diversion Program is voluntary. In order to participate, a child must:

1. **ADMIT INVOLVEMENT IN THE ALLEGED OFFENSE.** (This does not mean the child is admitting to an offense, as no charges have yet been filed, and this is NOT a Court Hearing.)
2. **AGREE TO ACCEPT THE CONSEQUENCES FOR HIS/HER ACT.**
3. **AGREE TO MAKE RESTITUTION, IF APPROPRIATE.**
4. **HAVE NO PRIOR COURT APPEARANCES.**
5. **BE A RESIDENT OF MORRISON COUNTY.**

*If your child does not meet the criteria, or does not wish to participate in this program, please notify Morrison County Community Corrections at (320) 632-0304 prior to the Intake conference. The matter will then be returned to the County Attorney for the filing of a juvenile petition.

If the victim of the offense has suffered a loss or damage, Morrison County Community Corrections will determine the appropriate amount of restitution. Failure of the juvenile to make reasonable restitution or otherwise abide by the Diversion Program Contract, will result in the child being discharged, unsatisfactorily, from the Diversion Program. If that happens, the matter will be returned to the County Attorney with a recommendation that charges be filed.