

Juvenile Diversion Program

WHAT IS IT?

The Juvenile Diversion Program provides first-time non-violent juvenile offenders with early intervention services as an alternative to the official court system and a permanent record. The program teaches youth that their actions have consequences and that the choices they make now will affect them the rest of their lives. Delinquent acts may consist of curfew violation, unruly behavior, truancy, shoplifting, and disorderly conduct.

We are proud to announce, that since the beginning of our Juvenile Diversion Program, there has been many success stories of troubled youths who have turned away from criminal behavior. Many of these juveniles have moved forward with their lives and are now forever removed from the delinquent acts of their past. We believe strongly that a juvenile offender's behavior can be corrected as long as it is addressed promptly and appropriately, and along with the support of parents, counselors, and our department. We will continue to strive for the future success of our youth and ensure a positive outcome will be reached.

HOW IT WORKS

The program requires participation from both the juvenile and the parents. Police officers can elect to refer first-time non-violent offenders to the Juvenile Diversion Program. The juvenile must be between the ages of 9 and 17 and live in the area, or be a student in the Cardinal Local School District.

Participation is voluntary, and a referral to the Geauga County Juvenile Court is the alternative for a juvenile who does not meet the conditions set forth by the Middlefield Police Department. Parents must also comply with the requirements of the program. This may include a referral for parental skills training, family counseling, or participation in a drug/alcohol treatment program. If both the juvenile and parents successfully fulfill the requirements of the program, the police referral will be expunged when the juvenile reaches age 18.

For any further inquiries regarding our Juvenile Diversion Program, please contact the Middlefield Police Department at 440-632-3527.

