

WHAT GOES INTO AN AGREEMENT?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Accountability means repairing harm by addressing and meeting the needs of those who have been affected by the incident. We want to build up youth by engaging them in every decision and action throughout the Diversion process.

SKILL BUILDING

Through the Diversion process, we want youth to develop skills that will help them make decisions that lead to positive outcomes. We work to identify and address root causes of behaviors to avoid similar incidents in the future.

CONNECTION

Critical aspects of diversion are building relationships and connecting youth to individuals they trust in their community so when challenges arise, they do not have to face them alone.

Contact Us

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The Coventry Youth Diversion Team

COVENTRY YOUTH SERVICES



Restorative justice is transformative.

What is Diversion?

Diversion steers youth away from the juvenile justice system. It is a voluntary process that offers youth the opportunity to take accountability for an arrestable offense and repair harm caused by an incident outside of the court system. This process focuses on repairing relationships, building connections in the community, and working with youth to resolve the situation and support long-term success.

Who We Are

We are a team of community members. We know that youth make mistakes and want to support them in making better decisions. We offer them the opportunity to take responsibility for their actions and take steps to ensure it doesn't happen again.

To be eligible, youth must acknowledge they made a mistake and had agency in doing so.

The Process

Step 1: Intake

The responsible youth and their guardian(s) attend an intake meeting to learn about diversion, prepare for the Circle Discussion, and discuss the incident.

Step 2: Circle Discussion

During the Circle, the responsible youth and their guardian's will meet the Youth Diversion Team, use the Restorative Questions to discuss the event, and identify ways to repair harm to move forward from the incident. Collaboratively, the group will create an Agreement to address the needs of those impacted by the incident.

Step 3: Ongoing Support

The case will be open for 6 months with ongoing support from the YDT. The case will be closed once the Agreement is completed with a Check Out Circle to celebrate successes and acknowledge challenges.

We repeat what we don't repair.

-Carl Wikens

What is Success?

Success is built on accountability, skill development, and community connection. These three areas of influence can help youth achieve success not only in the diversion process, but throughout their lives. A youth is successful when they repair harm and address underlying behaviors.



The Outcome

Youth that complete the diversion process are less likely to reoffend or become repeat offenders. Youth acquire new skills and develop stronger connections in the community and at home.