



YOUNG ADULT DIVERSION COURT - YADC

MISSION

Establish a Young Adult Diversion Court (YADC) Review Probation Program. The program will target 17-20 year old offenders who are sentenced under a diversion statute and who are deemed “at risk” of losing the diversion opportunity, thereby resulting in a criminal record. The YADC program will consist of an innovative collaboration between community organizations and the Court, partnering to create a probation program with structure for individual support, family support, access to counseling services, enrollment in education, encouragement of personal development and responsibility of the individual to themselves and to the community. A YADC post-probation programming component, provided by the community partners, will be offered to continue relationships created during the probation program in an effort to foster the on-going growth and success of the graduate participant.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of creating the YADC program is to address the myriad of issues faced by program participants which serve to undermine their ability to successfully complete a traditional probation program. Ultimately the goal is for the defendant to successfully complete the probation program without a criminal record and without recidivism.

YADC – INTRODUCTION

The Young Adult Diversion Court (YADC) is a newly conceived innovative approach to probation. Created in conjunction with the 8th District Court and multiple community based agencies, YADC fundamentally restructures the traditionally punitive probation system into a process of self-actualization, where youth are empowered to find their voice, their self-worth, explore their role in their families, neighborhoods and community, work toward establishing their identity, and to assume personal and community responsibility. YADC is an energetic program designed to address not only the symptoms, which are the charges that brought the individual to the court’s attention, but to fully unveil and address the underlying issues that manifested in the criminal behavior.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible for admission into the YADC program an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Individual must be on probation under a diversion status or pending sentence on a delayed sentence.
2. Individual must be 17-29 years of age.

THE PROGRAM

Individuals entering the YADC program will be required to attend one afternoon each week for Programming along with weekly meetings with their Probation Officer. Participants are also required to report for bi-weekly court review sessions with the YADC Judge. In addition, group community service projects occur randomly throughout the year and require an afternoon of service.

REFERRAL PROCESS

Individuals will enter the program by way of a referral from their current Probation Officer or an order of the sentencing Judge. Probation programming is provided in partnership with the Court and community based agencies. Programming is structured to provide the participant with individual support, family support, access to counseling services, enrollment in education, encouragement of personal development and responsibility to themselves and to the community.