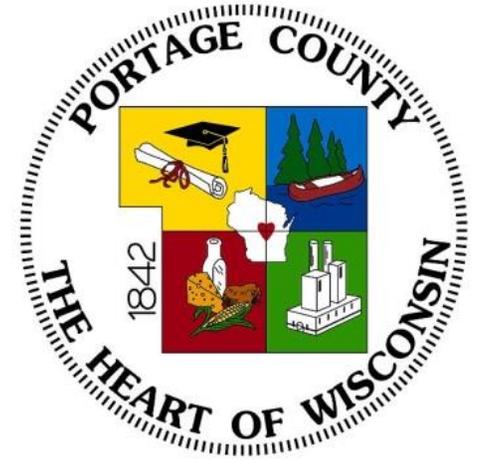


For more information about the
Portage County Diversion Program,
Contact:

Diversion Program Coordinator
Bryan Peil
District Attorney's Office
1516 Church Street
Stevens Point, WI 54481
Phone: 715.346.1300



Portage County Diversion Program

Portage County District
Attorney's Office



Guiding Principles for Diversion

The Portage County Diversion Program is a collaborative effort between criminal justice partners to enhance future success for low-risk individuals arrested for the first time. Research suggests this population is generally “self-correcting” and introduction to formal criminal justice intervention can be counterproductive to the goal of reducing recidivism.

The Program is beneficial to offenders as it provides them an opportunity to avoid a criminal record. The Program is beneficial to courts, prosecutors, and law enforcement agencies as it saves court time and resources associated with trials and court hearings, thereby preserving limited resources. Taxpayers benefit from reduced court costs and increased public safety by allowing prosecutors to focus on violent and high-risk offenders.

Program Purpose:

- Divert low-risk first time offenders from formal criminal justice intervention
- Enhance individuals’ chance for positive change at earliest possible time
- Preserve limited resources that can be used to re-direct attention towards high risk individuals

Eligible Participants must:

- Be subject to criminal charges for the first time
- Be deemed low-risk based on history and RISK/NEEDS assessment
- Be at least 17 years old or waived from juvenile jurisdiction

Program Requirements:

- Participants will sign a contract known as a Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA) or Deferred Entry of Judgment (DEJ), and must remain offense-free during the duration of program.
- Participants are required to comply with the conditions of agreement implemented by the Diversion Coordinator
- Participants must pay a program fee of \$250 before admission
- Individuals can only participate once

DEJ vs. DPA:

- A “DEJ” is arranged after a formal filing of a criminal complaint and requires approval of the court. A defendant must plead guilty or no contest to the charge(s). Outcomes could include dismissal or amendment of charge(s). Length can range from 6-36 months
- A “DPA” is arranged before charges are filed. If the participant completes programming (6-12 months), their charges are never filed

Program Incentives:

- Successful participants avoid citations, criminal charges, and/or criminal convictions
- Offense information may not appear on CCAP
- May enhance prospects for employment, housing, financial assistance, etc. due to NO criminal charge or conviction

Eligible Offenses:

- Misdemeanors such as Disorderly Conduct; Obstructing or Resisting Arrest; Retail Theft; Operating after Revocation(OAR), Possession of THC and/or Drug Paraphernalia
- NOTE: This list is not all-inclusive. Eligibility will be made on a case-by-case basis.

Ineligible Offenses:

- Juvenile Cases
- Operating While Intoxicated Offenses
- Cases Involving Serious Bodily Harm or Injury
- Cases involving outstanding Restitution (Restitution needs to be paid up-front for consideration)