

**Youth Diversion Plan**  
Effective January 1, 2025

H.B. 3186 (88th Legislative Session), the Texas Youth Diversion and Early Intervention Act, increases opportunities for early identification of at-risk youth and for redirecting children accused of certain Class C misdemeanors. Currently, municipal and justice courts can only order diversion strategies after a case has resulted in a conviction or deferral of disposition. H.B. 3186 makes these strategies available at the front end of a case where they can be more effective. This aligns municipal and justice court practices with those used by juvenile probation and juvenile courts. The bill also recalibrates and expands opportunities for collaboration and financial resources in both rural and urban parts of Texas. H.B. 3186 requires the adoption of a youth diversion plan for every municipal and justice court no later than January 1, 2025.

**1. Contact the court**

Youth and Parent/Guardian contact the court/Youth Diversion Coordinator to schedule the intake process for criminal charges (non-traffic offenses only).

**2. Eligibility**

Coordinator meets with youth and parent/guardian to determine eligibility for diversion.

**3. Questions**

After eligibility is established, youth will complete a basic questionnaire to help identify the best diversion strategies. May be followed up with an additional questionnaire.

**4. Strategies**

The coordinator will determine the best diversion strategies, based on information from the questionnaire, the offense, and what is in the best interest of the child.

**5. Agreement**

The diversion coordinator will document the written strategy and explain the details with both the youth and the parent/guardian. If the youth and parent/guardian agree to the terms they will sign the Youth Diversion agreement.

**6. Tools and Resources**

The Coordinator will provide to the youth and parent/guardian, the necessary tools and resources to assist them with successfully completing the terms of the written Youth Diversion Agreement.

**7. Successful Completion**

The Youth will show proof of successful completion of the terms of the agreement, and if successful the court will file dismissal of the charge pursuant to the agreement.

**8. Unsuccessful Diversion**

If the youth was unsuccessful to complete the terms of the Youth Diversion agreement, the court will file for a hearing and non-compliance of the agreement.