



Alternative Measures (Diversion)

You should get legal advice before you do anything in court. You can often get advice from **duty counsel** (a Legal Aid lawyer at the courthouse). Tell the sheriff you want to speak to duty counsel.

If you are charged with a crime and you admit that you committed the crime, you may be able to deal with the charges without having to plead guilty or go to trial. You may be eligible for **alternative measures** (also known as "diversion"), which is a program of community supervision by a Probation Office.

If you wish to apply for diversion, please consider using the attached form. Try to have a lawyer review this before you submit it to the Crown.

Crown Counsel may agree to diversion if:

- the crime was not serious,
- you have no criminal record (or only a very minor record from a long time ago),
- you committed the offence, admit guilt, and take responsibility for your actions, and

- you are remorseful and willing to take steps so that you do not return to the court with new charges.

If you are Aboriginal, there are special diversion programs available to you. Ask courthouse staff where you can go for more information.

If Crown Counsel agrees to consider diversion, you will be asked to attend an interview to discuss whether you are a good candidate for diversion and what will be expected of you. In a diversion contract, you may be required to do any or all of the following things:

- write a letter of apology
- go for counselling
- do some community work service

You will have to complete these things within three months of agreeing to the contract. If you successfully complete your diversion contract, the Crown will "stay" your charge in court. This means you will not have a criminal conviction. However, the Crown, the Probation Office, and the police will know you have been "diverted" if you are ever charged with a crime again.



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(*please fill out this form and give it to the Crown)

Facts:

Name _____ Today's date _____

Court file # _____ Charge _____

Next court date _____ Court _____

Offence date _____ Where offence took place _____

Address (where mail can be sent) _____

Phone number (where you can get calls) _____

Personal history:

Birthplace _____ Birthdate _____

Immigration status _____ Aboriginal yes no

First language _____ Where raised _____

Marital status _____ Years together _____

Employed (where, and for how long) _____

Will a criminal record affect your job? yes no

In what way? _____

of people you support _____ Education completed _____

Associations and/or interests (list) _____

Health:

History of substance abuse yes no

Treatment history _____

Date started _____ Date completed _____

Health issues/disabilities _____

In counselling yes no Currently under a doctor's care yes no

Currently on medication (list) _____

Other information:

Why did you commit the offence? _____

Do you regret your actions? _____

What was your mental/physical state when the offence was committed? _____

List anything else about what happened that would help determine whether you should be considered for diversion _____
