

## **Snohomish County Juvenile Court Diversion Program**

In the State of Washington, the Juvenile Justice Act of 1977 mandated diversion services for minor and first time juvenile offenders. The intent of the legislature is to hold youth accountable for their offenses, involve local citizens in the process, provide for the victim, and save the more expensive court services for chronic and repeat offenders.

Diversion is an alternative to the formal Juvenile Court Process. Youth, under the age of 18 years old, who are arrested for minor offenses may be eligible for Diversion. The Juvenile Court Diversion Program handles misdemeanors and gross misdemeanors where the youth has a criminal history of up to one prior Diversion Agreement. Diversion can also be offered to a youth that has no felonies as criminal history and whose current offense is a class C felony - property offense.

Citizens are the heart of the Diversion Program and are utilized through:

### **Community Accountability Boards (CAB)**

Volunteers from local communities within the county are trained by Juvenile Court staff members and appointed by a Superior Court Judge. These volunteers are then assigned to a Community Accountability Board within their neighborhood of work or residence. CAB members conduct a hearing to gather information about the youth, their situation and the offense. The CAB members then determine terms and conditions that the respondent should complete based on the type of crime, the victim's desired response, the circumstances surrounding the offense, and the respondent's particular situation and attitude. Washington State Law establishes these terms and conditions.

The traditional CAB is comprised of no less than three, or more than seven, volunteers who are trained by the Juvenile Court. The CAB consists of adult members from the local community in which the respondent resides. Meetings are generally held in a public building in an informal atmosphere. CAB members meet with the respondent and parent and question both to gain an understanding regarding the incident, circumstances and consequences. The CAB decides on appropriate terms and conditions of the Diversion Agreement within the scope of the law.

# Community Accountability Board Member

## Job Description

### 1) GENERAL

Upon completion of training requirements and acceptance into the program, a volunteer is appointed by the Juvenile Court Judge as a Community Accountability Board (CAB) member. The CAB will review assigned police reports and victim statements, interview a juvenile and parent regarding the offense and determine, within the scope of the law, an appropriate disposition.

### 2) SPECIFIC

- a) Determine the conditions of the Diversion Agreement.
- b) Determine the amount of restitution the respondent must pay to the victim.
- c) Refer the respondent to either informational and educational clinic or counseling program where appropriate.
- d) Facilitate the CAB Meetings as the rotation may require.

### 3) QUALIFICATIONS

- a) Possess an interest in youth and a commitment to the welfare of others.
- b) Experience with youth.
- c) Have a non-judgmental attitude.
- d) Ability to hold confidences and respect others' privacy.
- e) Treat youth and family with dignity and respect.
- f) Ability to work and problem solve with other volunteers.
- g) Ability to communicate effectively.
- h) Possess a sense of fairness for both the youth and the community.

### 4) DEMOGRAPHIC CRITERIA

- a) Live or work within the CAB's geographical area.
- b) The CAB as a whole must be representative of the community.

**If this describes you, please complete the attached application and send to:**

**SCJC Diversion Coordinator**

**2801 10<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Everett, WA 98201**

**Or contact us at (425) 388-7800 for further information.**

**Snohomish County Juvenile Court**  
**Denney Juvenile Justice Center**  
2801 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Everett, WA 98201  
(425) 388-7800

**Authorization for Diversion Program Volunteer Background Investigation**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last, First Middle Maiden

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as an applicant for a volunteer position with the Snohomish County Juvenile Court, do hereby authorize the Snohomish County Juvenile Court to conduct a background investigation and to obtain pertinent records which are related to the position. These references may include one or more of the following:

- Employment traits – present and or previous employers.
- Personal references (other than relatives or former employers).
- Police files in the jurisdiction where the applicant presently resides or has formerly resided.
- Any other follow-up records, documents or sources which may provide information relative to the volunteer position the applicant is seeking.

I understand my rights under Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a, the Privacy Act of 1974, and waive those rights with the understanding that information furnished will be used by the Snohomish County Juvenile Court in conjunction with volunteer procedures.

I hereby release from liability and promise to hold harmless, under any and all possible causes of legal action, the Snohomish County Juvenile Court or any of its officers, agents or employees from all liability and expense (including expense of litigation) in connection with or as a result of any of their statements, acts or omissions in the course of my background investigation. I also agree to release from liability and promise to hold harmless, under any and all possible cause of legal action, any and all persons or entities who shall furnish any information or opinions to the officers, agents or employees of the Snohomish County Juvenile Court.

In the event any adverse information is revealed, I understand that the investigation will compile the finding of fact and furnish me with an opportunity to challenge such information. I also understand that the Juvenile Court will keep all collected information confidential and will be the final authority in determining whether or not to disqualify my candidacy on the findings of fact on the background investigation.

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Applicant's signature

date

**Snohomish County Juvenile Court  
Denney Juvenile Justice Center**

2801 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Everett, WA 98201  
(425) 388-7800

**Diversion Program Volunteer Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last,
First
Middle
Maiden

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number
City
Zip

Home Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Message #: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ male / female (circle one) Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteer History:** (attach additional pages if necessary)

Agency	Supervisor	Dates volunteered	Phone number	Duties

**Education:**

Name of High School, College, University and/or Vocational School.	Dates attended	Years completed	Major	Type of Degree

**Most recent employment:**

Employer and Address	Supervisor	Dates employed	Position	Major work duties

Have you ever been terminated or asked to resign from an employment position? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been convicted of, or arrested for a crime? \_\_\_\_\_

(If "yes" to either question, please explain on additional piece of paper and attach.)

**Personal References:**

Name	Relationship	Address	Phone

(use addition paper as necessary)

I am interested in volunteering with the Diversion Program because: \_\_\_\_\_

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My previous direct experience with youth includes (parenting, clubs, programs, activities, etc):

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I am available (days, time of day, times per month): \_\_\_\_\_

I heard about this volunteer position through: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the answers made hereon are true. I authorize the Snohomish County Juvenile Court to contact personal and professional references regarding this application.

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Applicant's signature

date