

LOCAL AGENCIES INVOLVED

- Asheville Police Department
- Buncombe County Office of the Sheriff
- Hands-On Asheville
- Access Family Services
- Goodwill Career Services
- Green Opportunities
- Wolf Creek Academy
- Light A Path
- Youth Villages



JUVENILE MISDEMEANOR DIVERSION PROGRAM



Other JRC Services

- Case management
- Career and educational navigation
- Diversion services
- Evidence-based classes & education
- Volunteer service coordination
- Expunction support
- Public benefits access
- Re-entry services

Justice Resource Center

60 Court Plaza 15th Floor/
Asheville, NC 28801

Monday – Friday, 8 am - 5 pm

By Phone: (828) 250-6401

By Fax: (828) 250-6427

Online: buncombecounty.org/jrc

By email: jrc@buncombecounty.org

We are a place where people involved with the justice system can access meaningful services to help them on a path to stability and wellness.



A PLACE OF OPPORTUNITY

Why It Matters

North Carolina is the only state that prosecutes all 16 and 17 year olds charged with criminal offenses in the adult system. Even when charges are dismissed, if the arrest and court records are not expunged, the incident and juvenile's record of arrest follows him or her into adulthood creating significant impediments to employment and education. The direct and indirect (or collateral) consequences of an arrest in the adult legal system can also impact public benefits, housing, licenses and legal residency status.

Mission

In coordination with the Buncombe County Courts, Law Enforcement, and Buncombe County Schools and Asheville City Schools, the Juvenile Diversion Program may offer adolescents (age 16 -17 or age 18 if referred by School Resource Officer) an opportunity to engage in meaningful and effective community programs in an effort to avoid/minimize various collateral consequences as a means to divert participants from of obtaining a misdemeanor crime.

Vision

To prevent negative criminal justice involvement and avoid collateral consequences that would affect the participant's quality of life.

Services Provided

Diversion plans are tailored to the needs of the participant and can include up to 15 hours of programming: community service, a court session, case management, and skill building classes. The team can recommend the addition of assessments or other services as indicated.

Court Session

Participants will attend a court session to review incident, update the Judge on progress and discuss collateral consequences.

Court sessions will be facilitated by the District Court Judge, assisted by the District Attorney and Assistant District Attorney, Public Defender and/or a member of the Defense Bar.

Benefits of Program

- Educate participants and parents on collateral consequences and community resources
- Immediate consequences for incident
- Referral to needed services
- Avoidance of adult criminal record
- Avoidance of court costs/legal fees
- Ability to obtain employment, seek admittance into military, and apply to colleges and financial aid without a criminal history

Referrals and Enrollment

All referrals are made through law enforcement. Rather than issuing a citation or making an arrest where probable cause exists, law enforcement officers will complete an Incident Report which begins the diversionary process.

Eligibility

- Age 16-17 at time of offense
- No prior adult misdemeanor or felony charges in North Carolina (can have a juvenile record)
- Any Misdemeanor crime. (Exceptions: No offenses with sexual component, No offenses involving a firearm, No assault charges other than Simple Affray or Simple Assault, No traffic offenses)
- Final discretion on JMDP referral remains with law enforcement officers and the District Attorney's Office

Compliance

Participants have 90 days to successfully comply with the diversion plan terms.

If compliance is met, no charges will be filed. If compliance is not met, the JMDP Coordinator will notify Law Enforcement who has the discretion to formally file charges.

For more information, call

(828) 250-6407