

**District Courts**

**District Court of Brockton**

215 Main Street

508-587-8000

Jurisdiction: Abington, Bridgewater,  
Brockton, East Bridgewater,  
West Bridgewater and Whitman

**District Court of Hingham**

28 George Washington Blvd.

781-749-8580

Jurisdiction: Hanover, Hingham, Hull,  
Norwell, Rockland and Scituate

**District Court of Plymouth**

52 Obery Street

508-322-4500

Jurisdiction: Duxbury, Halifax, Hanson,  
Kingston, Marshfield, Pembroke,  
Plymouth and Plympton

**District Court of Wareham**

Rt. 28, Wareham

508-295-8300

Jurisdiction: Carver, Lakeville, Marion,  
Mattapoisett, Middleboro, Rochester and  
Wareham

**The Diversion Program**



Office of Plymouth County  
District Attorney

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[www.mass.gov/da/plymouth](http://www.mass.gov/da/plymouth)

**The  
Diversion  
Program**



**Timothy J. Cruz**

**District Attorney  
Plymouth County**

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**I**n today's society, first time offenders face many difficulties and pressures associated with growing up. Some first time offenders find themselves in court due to minor errors in judgment.

I feel that these offenders deserve a chance to learn a valuable lesson from their mistake. They need to pay their fair debt to the victim or the public, and earn a chance to be spared a criminal record. That is why this program is so important.

Since the program's inception, it has been shown that the overwhelming majority of the first time offenders who have successfully completed this program have learned valuable lessons of personal and community responsibility. They never again had any problems with the law.

My office shall continue our commitment to help these offenders who have made mistakes, and to prosecute those who present a danger to society.



TIMOTHY J. CRUZ  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### FOR PARTICIPANTS AND PARENTS:

**Q: What is the Diversion Program?**

**A: The District Attorney has the power to prosecute or not prosecute offenses. In appropriate circumstances this power is used to take eligible first time offenders out of Court and divert them to a program of community service and to make restitution to persons injured as a result of the offender's offense.**

**Q: How does the Diversion Program work?**

**A: The parent and first time offender meet with the diversion officer to design a diversion plan that will best address the offender's needs, the victim's needs and the community's needs. This might involve counseling, community service work, and/or restitution. The offender must sign a contract that specifically outlines his or her obligations. Once the offender has satisfactorily completed the Diversion Plan, the case is dismissed prior to arraignment. Once this process is completed, the offender's record remains clear and his/her obligation to the court and this office is ended.**

**Q: Who is eligible to participate in this Program?**

**A: To be eligible for the program, the offender must meet the following criteria:**

- 1. The offender must have no prior record**
- 2. The crime must be a non-violent offense**
- 3. The offender must illustrate a willingness to attempt a positive change**

**Q: What happens if the offender gets into more court trouble while in the program?**

**A: The program is terminated, and the offender would be arraigned on both the pending offense as well as the new offense.**

**Q: What does the program entail?**

**A: The diversion officer assigns an amount of community service hours. The offender is still responsible to pay any restitution owed to the victim of the offense. The purpose of the community service hours is to hold the offender accountable for their offense outside the courtroom.**

Plymouth County District Attorney  
**Timothy J. Cruz**

**The Diversion Program**