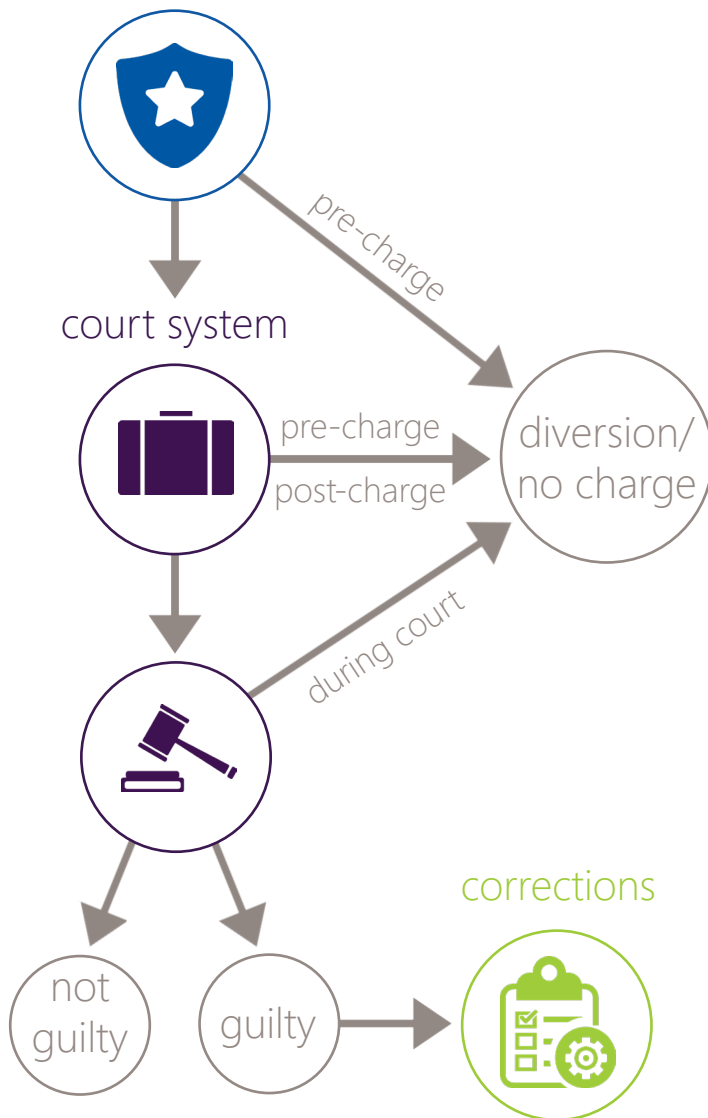


# Hennepin County

## Justice system alternatives to probation

The adult and juvenile justice systems in Hennepin County are made up of law enforcement, the court system, which includes Judges, prosecutors, and the Public Defender, as well as corrections — each serving a unique role throughout the justice process. During the justice process, diversion programs may be available for certain individuals. These programs, when successfully completed, hold individuals accountable and help them avoid future offenses by providing them with services, rather than charging them with a crime or finding them guilty.

### law enforcement



### When diversion occurs

1. Pre-Charge — before a citation or criminal charge is filed with the court
2. Post-Charge — after a citation or criminal charge is filed, but before the first court appearance
3. During Court — anytime after the first court appearance, often court-ordered by a Judge

### Benefits of diversion

1. Most of the time, if a person successfully completes the requirements of their diversion program, the charges will be dismissed or not filed at all
2. An opportunity to avoid having a criminal record — improving a person's chances of getting jobs, an education, loans, housing, licenses and other opportunities
3. Court processes can be time consuming and costly — with diversion, a case can be resolved earlier and with a timely and appropriate response
4. Studies show that diversion works better than court for young people without a prior record and for less serious offenses

# Diversion programs in Hennepin County

## Juvenile

### Law Enforcement, pre-charge

- Discretion to arrest
- Restorative resolution between caller and juvenile
- Diversion programs
  - Runaway Youth Diversion Program (Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Crystal)
  - Northern Star Diversion Program (suburban police)
  - Restorative Justice Programs (Minneapolis)

### County Attorney, pre-charge

- Curfew diversion through the Youth Connection Center
- De minimis offenses – letter to parents
- Petty drug diversion – 3rd Millennium Classrooms
- Formal diversion through Headway Diversion Program
  - Collaborations with Restorative Justice Collaborative, Center for Multicultural Mediation, and numerous community programs
  - Specialty programs – family violence and drug diversion

### County Attorney, post-charge

- Petty calendar diversion
  - Headway Diversion Program
  - Center for Multicultural Mediation
  - Restorative Justice Collaborative
- Delinquency diversion
  - Misdemeanors, gross misdemeanor and felony property and drug cases
  - Expungement of court record upon successful completion

### District Court, during court

- Status offenses – drug and alcohol diversion
- Arraignment calendar
  - Community Work Service hours or Sentence to Service restorative workdays
  - Brief intervention for chemical and mental health
  - Runaway intervention program
  - Mentoring program
  - HOPE-culturally specific prevention and intervention program

## Adult

### Law Enforcement, pre-charge

- Discretion to arrest
- Diversion programs

### County Attorney, post-charge

- Diversion option for low-level drug and property crimes, along with certain other crimes, for first-time offenses
  - Participation is voluntary and participant must not contest conduct to participate

### Minneapolis City Attorney, post-charge

- Pathways Gun Diversion Program
- Interact Diversion Program for misdemeanor obstruction of a legal process charges
- Shoplifting Diversion Program
- Restorative Justice Diversion Program for livability crimes
- Domestic Abuse Diversion Program

### Multi-agency, post-charge

- Restorative Court for low-level offenses charged by City of Minneapolis
  - Connects individuals with social workers instead of probation officer
- Driving Diversion Program, a statewide program through Diversion Solutions

### District Court, during court

- Community Work Service hours or Sentence to Service restorative workdays