



Adult Diversion

Alternative Measures

What is the Adult Diversion Program?

The Adult Diversion Program (also known as Alternative Measures) is intended to:

- hold eligible adults accountable for their actions at the community level;
- provide **timely** and **effective** alternatives to the traditional criminal justice system; and
- prevent and reduce future crime, by providing the **right services** at the **right time** for those who require them.

Who is Eligible for the Adult Diversion Program?

- the person is 18 years of age or older; evidence exists that an offence has been committed;
- the person takes responsibility for their actions; and
- participation is in the best interest of the person responsible for causing harm and the community at large.

How does the Adult Diversion Program work?

Adults can be referred to the Diversion program **before** being charged with an offence (pre-charge). Successful completion of the pre-charge program will result **in no charges** being laid. However, if the adult is not successful in completing the program, they may be charged with the original offence and be processed through court.

Adults can also be referred to the Diversion program at several points in the court process **after** charges are laid (post-charge). In this case, court proceedings are postponed to allow for participation in the Diversion program. When the adult meets the requirements of the post-charge program, **charges are withdrawn**. However, if the adult is not successful in completing the post-charge program, their case will proceed through the court process.

Adults who take part in the Diversion Program will have accountability and intervention plans in place, which focus on connecting the adult to appropriate community-based services. These plans will address the adult's risk factors and provide accountability measures, which will hold the adult responsible for their actions at a community level. Examples of accountability measures may include, but are not limited to:

- paying restitution to the victim;
- completing a period of community service;
- participating in special information/education sessions; and
- providing personal service work for the victim.

Where appropriate, Adult Diversion clients may also benefit from a **Restorative Justice** approach. These restorative processes provide safe opportunities for everyone impacted to communicate, address their needs, and collaboratively participate in the resolution. Restorative processes emphasize healing in persons harmed, the meaningful accountability of persons responsible for causing harm, and the involvement of community members in creating healthier, safer, and stronger communities.

What role does the adult/person responsible for causing harm play?

To take part in the Adult Diversion Program, eligible adults:

- must **consent** to take part in the program;
- must **accept responsibility** for their actions;
- must **respond in a timely manner**;
- will answer questions as part of the **screening and assessment process**;
- will need to **meet with the Diversion coordinator** and the Alternative Measures Committee;
- will need to **sign a program agreement**; and
- must **complete the agreed-on accountability measure(s)** and intervention plan.

What role is played by the victim(s)/persons harmed?

Victims have the right to voice their concerns related to the offence committed and how they would like it to be addressed. While the views of the victim(s) are always considered before making an Adult Diversion program referral, these views do not preclude an adult from being referred to the Adult Diversion program. The victim(s) may also choose to participate in any processes established to facilitate reconciliation between themselves and the offender. The victim(s) also has the right to request information about the identity of the offender and to be informed of how the offence has been dealt with.

For more information, visit
www.gnb.ca/diversion

