

Revised: 08.2024

PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM DIVERSION

Diversion serves as a mechanism to avert youth from formal court processing while still holding them accountable for crimes committed and harm caused. Diversion usually involves a referral to a community-based service, such as a social service agency. Diversion can occur at multiple decision points, including prior to and after the filing of a written allegation. The ultimate goal of diversion is to prevent the collateral consequences of an adjudication of delinquency, while also achieving Pennsylvania's Balanced and Restorative Justice mission.

In Pennsylvania, several statutory alternatives to an adjudication of delinquency exist. These alternatives fall into two broad categories: Pre-Petition Diversion and Consent Decree.

88%

Cases Diverted From Adjudication Were **SUCCESSFUL***



75%

Of All Cases Resulted in a **NON-ADJUDICATION OUTCOME**



81%

Youth Scored as **LOW** Risk to Re-offend Were **NOT ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT**

LOW

82%

School-Related Written Allegations Were **NOT ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT****



Pre-Petition Diversion

Examples of Pre-Petition Diversion



Community Service



Fines/Costs Only



Warned & Counseled



Informal Adjustment



Youth Aid Panels

Consent Decree

Form of diversion outlined in statute that occurs after the formal filing of a petition. A consent decree typically lasts 6 months but can be extended if needed. Youth avoid an adjudication of delinquency if they successfully complete the terms and conditions of the Consent Decree.

84%

Youth Entering the System for the First Time Were **NOT ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT**

Note: Data Is Based on 2023 New Allegation Dispositions.
*Success Is Defined as No New Written Allegation Within Six Months of Disposition.
**Based on Written Allegations Received During School Year 2022-2023.