

Mission

To provide a positive alternative to formal court processing for motivated first-time juvenile offenders. Through structured activities and community service, the program aims to reduce the recidivism rate among these participants.



Vision

To provide a community-based opportunity for first-time juvenile law offenders to be successful in school, at home and to become productive, law-abiding members of their community.

 **Lutheran Family Services**
of Nebraska, Inc.

Juvenile Pretrial Diversion service locations

290 Clay Street, PO Box 684
Tecumseh, NE 68450
(402) 335-3111
Fax: (402) 335-4002

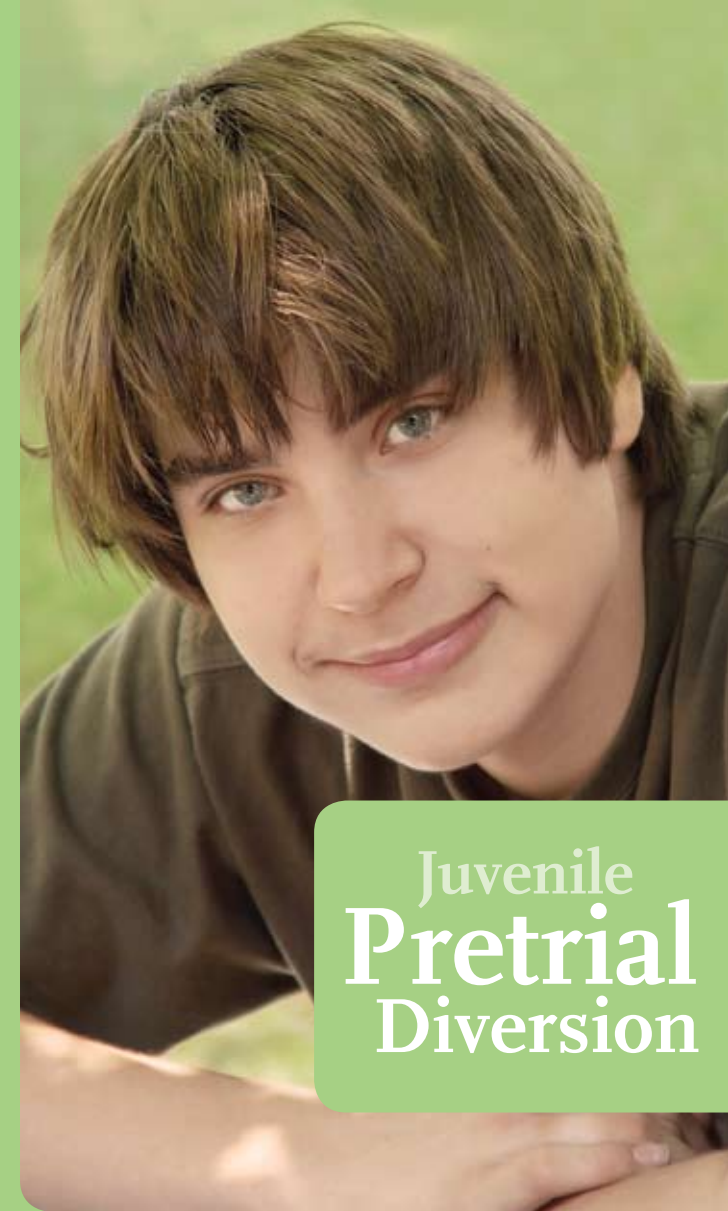
612 "G" Street
Pawnee City, NE 68420
(402) 852-3141
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www.lfsneb.org

This program is administered by Lutheran Family Services, in cooperation with the Nemaha, Johnson and Pawnee County Attorneys. This project is supported in part by Grant #06-JJ-01 awarded by the Nebraska Crime Commission.



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Juvenile
**Pretrial
Diversion**

Nemaha, Johnson
& Pawnee Counties

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What is the Juvenile Pretrial Diversion Program?

Juveniles who reside in Nemaha, Johnson and Pawnee Counties in Nebraska and are charged with an offense can be diverted from further involvement in the court system to the Juvenile Pretrial Diversion Program, a positive alternative that can provide more appropriate methods of intervention. Juveniles must successfully complete the program requirements in order to earn a dismissal, or its equivalent, of the diverted case.

Program Goals

- Prevent youth from any further participation in criminal behavior and activity
- Develop responsible alternatives to the juvenile justice system for eligible offenders
- Reduce recidivism
- Reduce costs and caseload burdens on juvenile courts and the criminal justice system
- Promote the collection of restitution to the victim of the offender's crime

Benefits

- *Youth* – participating in diversion avoids the stigma and labels associated with a juvenile court record. It also offers youth an opportunity to develop important social skills
- *Families* – are able to strengthen relationships with youth through improved communication skills

- *Communities* – benefit as youth develop positive attitudes and a sense of responsibility toward their community
- *Juvenile/Criminal Court System* – benefits through reduced caseloads, increased efficiency, and lowered court costs

Participation

Youth interested in the Juvenile Diversion program do not have to make a plea of guilt, but must:

- Accept responsibility for the offense
- Acknowledge the extent of their involvement
- Be willing to comply with the program requirements

Eligibility Requirements

- 20 years of age or under
- A first-time offender
- The County Attorney declares the youth eligible

Program Requirement Examples

- Pay a participation fee per citation
- Pay restitution, reimbursement, personal or property damages
- Complete community service as approved by diversion staff
- Participate in educational/skill-building classes as assigned by diversion staff



- Write a letter of apology
- Complete other program requirements as assigned by diversion staff
- Not receive additional citations during enrollment in the Juvenile Diversion Program

Diversion services are tailored to the individual. The duration of involvement depends on the juvenile and the nature of the offense committed.

After the youth successfully completes the program, the prosecuting attorney agrees not to file any charges on the offense that was diverted. If the youth withdraws from the program without successfully completing the requirements, the prosecuting attorney may file criminal charges. Program fees are non-reimbursable.