Oakland County Pre-Booking Jail Diversion Program

Pre-booking Jail Diversion is the process by which persons, who have committed a non-violent misdemeanor offense and are believed to have a mental illness or a developmental disability, are referred for a mental health evaluation by Law Enforcement Personnel.

This diversion from the criminal justice system occurs when the person suspected of having a mental illness or developmental disability has contact with law enforcement. When a police officer encounters someone he/she believes may have a mental illness or developmental disability and this person has committed a non-violent misdemeanor, the officer may choose to divert the individual from the criminal justice system and into treatment. The diversion is a voluntary process and if the individual agrees to be diverted he/she will sign a Jail Diversion Notice form. This form serves as an agreement between the officer and individual that charges will be dropped if he/she is compliant with the treatment plan established by the health provider. The form also serves as a release of information so the health provider can communicate compliance or non-compliance to the arresting officer. If the individual is non-compliant with the treatment plan that is set up with their service provider, the officer will be notified within 30 days by jail diversion staff and may file charges.

Jail diversion cases shall be given priority status by the health provider agency. This will allow the officer to return to patrol following a brief “hand-off” to the intake staff. A copy of the jail diversion notice form must be faxed to the Jail Diversion Coordinator by the health provider agency.