

## Welcome to Newaygo County Circuit Court Juvenile Division

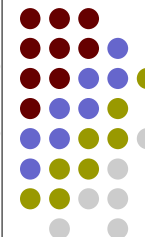
The Newaygo County Circuit Court Juvenile Division prides itself on having diversified and gender specific programming for youth involved in the Court system in Newaygo County. There are two program types.

**Diversionsary Programs:** This programming group focuses on first-time offenders in the Court system. Diversionsary programming currently includes: Alcohol Diversion, Drug Diversion, Shoplifting Diversion, and Tobacco Diversion. A new program in the formative stage is the H.A.L.T. (Helping Adolescents Liberate from Truancy) Diversion Program. These programs are facilitated by Cynthia Bulk, Diversion Program Facilitator.

**Probationary Programs:** These programs are specifically for juveniles who are on some form of juvenile probation. These groups include a Drug Education group and an Anger Management Group. Additional gender specific programming is available to probationers. The G.I.F.T. (Girls Influencing their Futures Together) Program and COMPASS Program are designed to treat the needs of youth focusing on female and male teens. The IMPACT program is a court observation program. These programs are facilitated by the Probation Department.

## Newaygo County Juvenile Diversion Programs

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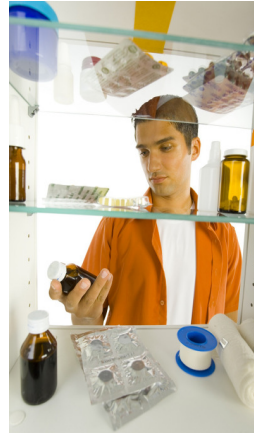
# Newaygo County Diversion Programs for Youth At A Glance.....



The Newaygo County Circuit Court-Juvenile Division has several different diversion programs for Newaygo County youth.

## How do we get started?

In the majority of cases the Court receives a petition from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. Then each petition is individually assessed by the Juvenile Division's Director of Juvenile Services, Laura Watkins. Ms. Watkins decides which cases are appropriate for what diversion programs. Other factors are also considered including whether the petitioned youth has previously been in a specific diversion program. Petitioned youth can be referred to each diversion program one time at the discretion of the Juvenile Division.



## What Programs are available?

### **Drug & Alcohol**

**Diversion:** Youth in this program have been petitioned by the Prosecuting Attorney's office on their first alcohol and/or drug offense. The duration

of this program is about four months. Participants in this program are required to successfully complete the following items: signed contract, community service, random drug testing for participants with drug offenses, challenge education, participation fee, school compliance, refrain from criminal activity, and family and individual meetings to address alcohol and/or drug issues.

**Shoplifting Diversion :** Youth in this program have been petitioned by the Prosecuting Attorney's office on their first shoplifting offense. The duration of this program is one month. Participants in this program are required to complete the following components: signed contract,

participation fee, refrain from criminal activity, family and individual meetings, home study kit, school compliance, community service, and a verification quiz.

**Smoking Diversion:** Youth in this program have been petitioned by the Prosecuting Attorney's office on their first smoking offense. This program's duration is approximately one month. Participants in this program are required to successfully complete the following items: signed contract, participation fee, community service, school compliance, refrain from criminal activity, and family and individual meetings.

**HALT (Helping Adolescents Liberate from Truancy) Diversion:** This program is still in the initial phase and is being started in conjunction with area schools. Youth in this program may be petitioned by the Prosecuting Attorney's office and/or public schools for first time truancy offenses or issues. This program will be approximately four months in duration. Components for this program include: signed contract, community service, challenge education, school incentive building and compliance, no criminal activity, participation fee, and family and individual meetings.

