

OFFICE OF THE BUTLER COUNTY ATTORNEY
DIVERSION PROGRAM FOR 1ST OFFENSE PARKS AND WILDLIFE CASES

A. IN GENERAL:

The Butler County Attorney has established a Diversion Program for first time parks and wildlife cases. The County Attorney's decision to grant diversion will be based upon the following criteria as well as the other statutory factors, including whether diversion will be in the interests of justice and of benefit to the defendant and the community.

The burden is on the defendant to initiate the application process and thereafter follow proper procedures. If you are granted diversion and successfully complete the same, the diverted charges will be dismissed. **IF YOU HAVE RETAINED COUNSEL OR COURT APPOINTED COUNSEL, PLEASE TURN IN THE APPLICATION TO YOUR ATTORNEY.**

B. CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY:

All defendants applying for diversion under this program shall be eligible **unless** one or more of the following factors exists.

1. Defendant was under 16 when offense committed. Violators under 16 will be charged as juvenile offenders. If the District Court enacts a diversion program for juvenile offenders pursuant to K.S.A. 38-1635, juvenile may qualify for that program.
2. Prior fish and game conviction.
3. Prior felony conviction or diversion for any offense.
4. Defendant was belligerent, obnoxious, or un-cooperative with the law enforcement officers involved.
5. Defendant fails to submit the diversion application in a timely manner, or the defendant provides false or misleading information in the diversion application.
6. Diversion is not in the best interest of the community.

NOTE: If one or more of the above factors exist, diversion may and will generally be declined. However, the County Attorney's office reserves to right to grant diversion (unless prohibited by statute) even where the criteria for eligibility are not met. The County Attorney must approve such variance decisions.

C. PROCEDURE:

1. **Submit the attached diversion application**, completely filled out, dated and signed.
2. Following receipt of the diversion application, the County Attorney's Diversion Coordinator will receive the file from the secretary. The Diversion Coordinator will then review the file and advise the prosecuting attorney whether the applicant meets diversion eligibility criteria. This review process should not take more than 2-3 days.
3. If the defendant is accepted for diversion, the agreement will be prepared by the Diversion

Coordinator and signed by the prosecutor. A date and time will be scheduled for the defendant and attorney (if any) to come to the CA's office and sign the agreement. This **diversion conference** will be with the CA Diversion Coordinator.

The diversion conference will generally be the same date and time as already scheduled for the defendant's next court appearance. However, instead of going to court, the defendant and counsel will come to the CA office for the diversion conference. Defendant must pay the **\$50.00 diversion fee** at time of signing.

4. Once the defendant and his\her counsel (if any) have reviewed and signed the diversion agreement, the CA Diversion Coordinator will file the agreement and give copies to the defendant. The Diversion Coordinator will send a file-stamped copy of the agreement to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI).

5. Thereafter, it is the responsibility of the defendant to ensure that all conditions of the agreement are fulfilled in a timely manner. The defendant must report in person to the CA Diversion Coordinator at the date and time set out in the agreement for the **compliance conference**.

6. At the **compliance conference**, the CA Diversion Coordinator will go through whatever paperwork the defendant provides. If all requirements of the agreement were completed in a timely manner, the Diversion Coordinator will prepare a **journal entry of dismissal with prejudice**. Diversion Coordinator will send a file-stamped copy of the journal entry of dismissal to the KBI.

7. If the defendant fails to complete one or more of the requirements of the diversion agreement in a timely manner, the prosecutor shall seek revocation of the diversion agreement unless a decision is made to modify the terms of the agreement to allow the defendant more time to comply. If the decision is to seek revocation, the file will be transferred back to the secretary.

D. CONDITIONS/ REQUIREMENTS:

1. All court costs including filing fee, witness fees (if any), court-appointed attorney fees (if any), etc.

2. A diversion fee of \$50.00 payable when agreement signed.

3. The minimum scheduled fine for the offense(s).

4. Demonstrate current compliance with whatever regulation or statute was violated by bringing Diversion Coordinator documentation from the Parks and Wildlife office.

5. Complete any and all other special conditions of the diversion agreement, including that the defendant will not violate any laws during the pendency of the diversion.

6. Stipulate to certain facts upon which the charges were based and upon which the case will be tried if the diversion agreement is for some reason later set aside.

6. The **length** of the diversion shall be **90 days** unless extended by agreement of the parties.