

Stow Municipal Court
Underage Alcohol/Marijuana Diversion Program

The Court has reviewed your case and record and has determined that you may be eligible for a diversion program that would allow you to avoid a conviction on your record. The benefits of this diversion program are set forth in the chart below. IT IS ULTIMATELY UP TO THE JUDGE OR MAGISTRATE AS TO WHETHER YOU QUALIFY OR HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE PROGRAM.

	<u>UNDERAGE POSSESSION OR CONSUMPTION</u>	<u>DIVERSION</u>
FINE	Up to \$500 (typically \$250)	\$300 program fee
COURT COSTS	Up to \$285	None
SEALING OF RECORD	\$100	Included in above program fee
JAIL TIME	Up to sixty days	No jail if program completed
RECORD	Reportable criminal conviction for employment and school	Charge dismissed and sealed. No conviction for employment or school.

To be eligible for the program, you must:

- Be accepted in the program by the prosecutor.
- Be charged with a misdemeanor offense involving the underage possession or consumption of alcohol or possession of marijuana;
- Satisfactorily complete the program application;
- Be a first offender with no prior felony conviction, misdemeanor drug conviction or other serious misdemeanor conviction at any time, or an alcohol related conviction within the last three years;
- Not be in another diversion program or having completed any other diversion program, nor in the process or having a prior offense sealed or having previously had an offense sealed;
- Have no pending cases in any court;

To complete the program, you must over a four (4) month period:

- Complete an online course or other curriculum assigned by the Court;
- **Pay the \$300 Program fee within 30 days of initial interview**
- Attend one approved substance abuse meeting or session (NA, AA, etc.);
- Perform sixteen (16) hours of court approved community service;
- Write an essay of at least three (3) pages in length on your experience in the program;
- Not be charged with any other criminal or serious traffic offense during the program;
- Not possess or consume alcohol or any substance illegal in the State of Ohio while in the program;
- Submit to and pass random drug screens.
- Attend all diversion meetings.

*****Note: if you fail the Diversion Program, your Program fee (\$300.00) will not apply to any fines and costs that may be imposed. *****