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The Alcohol Education Program (AEP) is a State Legislated Diversion Program which allows the defendant to be diverted from court. The program is designed for first time offenders with magistrate/municipal court alcohol offenses. A person may only participate in the program once. Participation in AEP does not prevent future participation in the Pre-Trial Intervention Program or Traffic Education Program.

Upon successful completion of the program, the charge will be dismissed and the participant may apply for an expungement. A person who fails to complete the program requirements will be terminated from the program and the case will be returned to court for prosecution.

In state transfers to other offices are available and out of state supervision is available under limited circumstances.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- The offender must be at least 18 years old and is no older than 20 at the time of arrest.
- No significant prior criminal activity or prior alcohol related convictions.
- No prior participation in AEP.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Applicants must appear in the court of jurisdiction prior to the court date and complete a referral form. The following items **must** be presented when attending orientation at the AEP Office.

- Picture identification
- Social security card
- \$250 money order made payable to AEP

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- Complete twenty (20) hours of community service at a non-profit agency
- Participate in an eight hour alcohol education class provided by a licensed counselor (\$100)
- Attend Mother's Against Drunk Driving Victim Impact Panel (\$50)
- Pass random alcohol and drug screens

MESSAGE FROM THE SOLICITOR

The Alcohol Education Program provides resources to educate our young adults on the negative consequences of alcohol abuse and addiction in our community. I believe this program will start the process of changing thoughts, behaviors and actions which will allow young adults to make responsible decisions. Our goal is to equip them with tools needed to resist social pressures of underage drinking.

It is my hope that this program will give young adults the courage to make wiser choices. If a young adult believes that choices made today will impact their future, we not only change their current circumstances but we improve our entire community.

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