

State of South Carolina  
**Thirteenth Judicial Circuit**

# ***AEP***

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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 offenders without prior alcohol offenses or a substantial criminal history. A person may only participate in the program once. Participation in AEP does not prevent future participation in the Pretrial Intervention Program (PTI) or Traffic Education Program (TEP).

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.

Out of county or out of state supervision is available under limited circumstances.

**A PERSON MAY BE CONSIDERED FOR AEP IF:**

- 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?**

Applications can be made in person Monday – Friday from 8:30 am to 11:30 am and 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

You may also request an application by telephone or by sending an e-mail including your full name, address, telephone number, and charge(s) and the name of the diversion program. Before applying, please determine if you have an application deadline.

**You must provide copies of the following items or the application cannot be processed: picture identification, social security card, a copy of the ticket(s) or warrant(s), and any paperwork from the court.**

## **WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS?**

- Twenty (20) hours of community service
- Eight (8) hour alcohol education class provided by a licensed counselor
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving Victim Impact Panel
- Random alcohol screens
- Any additional requirements assigned by the Solicitor's Office
- \$250 money order due at orientation

## **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.



W. Walter Wilkins  
Circuit Solicitor