

General Court Processes and Services

Formal Calendar

Any offense is eligible to be placed on formal calendar if the court finds that is the appropriate way to handle the case. If placed on the formal calendar a preliminary hearing will be scheduled and the juvenile will be required to attend with his parent(s) or guardian(s). The charge will be read and the juvenile will be given the right to council (obtained or retained) or a trial by a Judge or a jury. The juvenile can also admit to the charge(s) at this hearing if that is what the juvenile chooses. If the youth is placed on the formal calendar under probation, the probationary term usually lasts a minimum of 6 months and can last longer depending on the probationer's compliance with court orders.

Consent Calendar

A case may be eligible to be placed on the Consent Calendar if the charge is neither a felony nor an assaultive offense. In order for the case to proceed on the Consent Calendar, all the parties involved in the case must agree to this process, including the delinquent, Defense Attorney, and the Prosecuting Attorney. Consent Calendar is non-public and is destroyed upon the youth's 17th Birthday. Consent Calendar usually lasts for a period of six to twelve months. If at any point the juvenile violates their consent calendar agreement, their caseworker can ask for the case to be placed on the formal calendar.

Diversion

Diversion is an option the court has if the offense the juvenile is charged with is either a status offense (truancy, runaway, incorrigible) or a misdemeanor and the court feels that is the appropriate way to handle the matter. Upon the juvenile office reviewing a petition, a determination will be made on whether or not to schedule a Diversion Conference. At the Diversion Conference the Juvenile Director will go over the terms of the Diversion Agreement and the youth's history to see if the case would be best handled informally through a Diversion Agreement. The Diversion Agreement is a list of rules the minor will be expected

to follow while on Diversion. If the youth successfully completes the Diversion Agreement they will have no juvenile record and the case is eligible for destruction upon their 17th Birthday.

Truancy Services

If a youth is in violation of the Michigan Law regarding school attendance and the youth is referred to the court by their school, the court will look at treating the youth through a truancy agreement. If a truancy agreement cannot be reached or is not followed, the case will be referred to the prosecutor's office where a formal petition may be filed resulting in the youth and the parent(s)/ guardian(s) being brought before the court for a hearing.