

STANDING ORDER NO. 4

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**IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT
CITY OF SUNSET VALLEY
TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS**

ORDER ADOPTING A YOUTH DIVERSION PLAN

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that this Standing Order No. 4 [Order Adopting a Youth Diversion Plan] shall apply to all pending and future cases in the Municipal Court of the City of Sunset Valley, Texas ("Court") involving non-traffic offenses committed on or after January 1, 2025 by eligible youth offenders.

The following Youth Diversion Plan is adopted in accordance with Subchapter E and Article 45.306 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

A. Purpose

The purpose of this Youth Diversion Plan is to provide structured alternatives to formal judicial proceedings for youth offenders. The Court prioritizes individualized justice, with a focus on fostering accountability and positive development. The Court seeks to balance the interests of the community with the unique circumstances of each child to advance the following objectives:

1. Reduce recidivism and the occurrence of problem behaviors through intervention without having to criminally adjudicate children.
2. Identify at-risk youth, including youth with mental health needs, substance use disorders, or intellectual and developmental disabilities and, where appropriate, make referral to early youth and intervention services under Subchapter D, Chapter 264 of the Texas Family Code.
3. Authorize diversions of children charged with certain offenses punishable by imposition of a fine from criminal adjudication that emphasize accountability and responsibility of the parent and the child for the child's conduct while also promoting community safety.
4. Increase collaboration between governmental, educational, and non-profit organizations.

B. Philosophy

The Court is committed to individual justice in individual cases. Recognizing that every child's situation is unique, the Court will evaluate each case on its merits, considering the best interests of the child and the community.

C. Strategies

Aiming to foster personal responsibility and repair harm, the Court will utilize community service and, when appropriate, restitution as its core diversion strategies, in conjunction with other strategies per Article 45.305 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. These strategies may be customized by the Court in consultation with interested parties and their representatives.

D. Designation of Youth Diversion Coordinator:

The individual holding the position of Court Clerk in the City of Sunset Valley is designated as the Youth Diversion Coordinator.

E. Public Inspection:

This order and subsequent orders shall be maintained on file for public inspection.

SIGNED AND ENTERED on this 24 day of June, 2025.



Kenton D. Johnson, Presiding Judge
City of Sunset Valley Municipal Court