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# WASHINGTON COUNTY ATTORNEY BIENNIAL ADULT PRETRIAL DIVERSION REPORT 2003 and 2004

#### **Purpose of Report**

This report is made pursuant to Minnesota Statute §401,065 which requires each county attorney to report biennially to the state court administrator and the legislature on the operation of its mandated pretrial diversion program.

# **Pre-Trial Diversion Program**

The Washington County Adult Pre-Trial Diversion Program is offered as an alternative to criminal prosecution with the goals of providing responsible alternatives to criminal prosecution and conviction, reduction of recidivism, restoration of the victim and reduction of prosecution costs. The program is available to first-time offenders who have had a criminal complaint filed against them who submit a Diversion Application and meet the criteria for diversion established by the Washington County Attorney's Office.

## Number of Offenders Participating in the Program during Reporting Period

There were 122 individuals that applied to participate in the Pre-Trial Diversion Program in 2003 and 2004. Twelve defendants were rejected by the Washington County Attorney's Office as they did not meet the Program criteria.

# Number and Characteristics of Offenders Successfully Completing Program during Reporting Period

1

The following characteristics have been documented regarding those offenders who successfully completed diversion:

Gender

38 male offenders (62%) 24 female offenders (38%)

Age

33 offenders (53%) ages 18 - 25 29 offenders (47%) age 26 and older

#### Offense

Theft-related	34	55%
Identity Theft	4	6%
Forgery	10	16%
Stolen Property	3	5%
Property Damage	8	13%
Gambling	2	3%
Drugs	1	2%

# Number and Characteristics of Offenders Failing Program during Reporting Period

The following characteristics have been documented regarding those offenders who failed diversion:

#### Gender

- 17 male offenders (60%)
- <sup>1</sup> 11 female offenders (40%)

## Age

14 offenders (50%) ages 18-2514 offenders (50%) age 26 and older

#### <u>Offense</u>

Theft-related	13	55%
Identity Theft	1	6%
Forgery	4	16%
Stolen Property	5	5%
Gambling	2	3%
Drugs	2	2%

# Evaluation on Program's Effect on Operation of Washington County Criminal Justice System

In 2003, 1,211 cases were referred to court either by complaint, citation or indictment. If there were no diversion program that total would have been increased by slightly more than 2%. In 2004, 1,371 cases were referred to court either by complaint, citation or indictment. Adding in the cases that were successfully diverted would have been a little more than a 3% increase. The two years combined would amount to more than a 5% increase during the reporting period of cases handled successfully in the diversion program. Not only does the diversion of these cases lessen the burden on the current court caseload for all those involved in the Washington County criminal justice system, it is a means to restore the victim on their monetary loss on these property crimes.

How many individuals were participating in your adult pretrial diversion program on December 31, 2004? (One-day count) 6

How many individuals entered your adult pretrial diversion program during calendar years 2003 and 2004? (Biennium total) 110

How many individuals successfully completed your adult pretrial diversion program during calendar years 2003 and 2004? (Biennium total) 70

2

How many individuals were terminated from your adult pretrial diversion program as program failures during calendar years 2003 and 2004? (Biennium total) 35

Doug Johnson

1/25/06





# Office of the Washington County Attorney

Doug Johnson County Attorney

January 25, 2006

Sue Dosal, State Administrator Court Services Division State Court Administrator's Offices 105 MJC 25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, St. Paul, MN 55155

VIA FACSIMILE & U.S. Mail

Re: Biennial Adult Pretrial Diversion Report - 2003 and 2004

Dear Ms. Dosal:

Enclosed herewith is Washington County's Biennial Adult Pretrial Diversion Report 2003 and 2004.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

DOUG JOHNSON, COUNTY ATTORNEY WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Doug Johnson County Attorney

DJ/tgs Enclosure