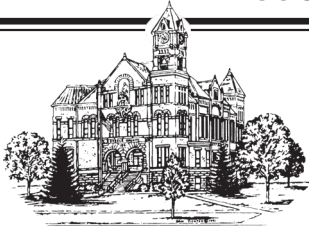


# STEELE COUNTY

## Attorney

JULIA A. FORBES, COUNTY ATTORNEY



TERESA DUDLEY, VICTIM SERVICES  
KATTY HERNANDEZ, PARALEGAL

December 22, 2023

Jeff Shorba  
State Court Administrator  
Minnesota Judicial Center, Suite #135  
25 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Elizabeth Lincoln, Director  
Legislative Reference Library  
645 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Biennial Pre-Trial Diversion Report 2021-2022

Dear Mr. Shorba and Ms. Lincoln:

Enclosed is Steele County's Biennial Adult Pre-Trial Diversion Report 2021-2022. Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Julia A. Forbes  
Steele County Attorney

STEELE COUNTY ATTORNEY  
BIENNIAL ADULT PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION REPORT  
2021 & 2022

**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 operations of its mandated pre-trial diversion program.

**Pre-Trial Diversion Program:**

The Steele County Adult Pre-Trial Diversion program provides eligible defendants with an alternative to confinement and a criminal conviction, reducing the costs and caseload burdens on district courts in the criminal justice system. Additionally, the pre-trial program minimizes the recidivism among diverted defendants, promoting the collection or restitution to the victim of the defendant's crime.

**Number of Offenders Participating in the Program during the Reporting Period:**

There were 33 referrals in the Pre-Trial Diversion Program in 2021 and 30 referrals in 2022 for a total of 63 referrals within the reporting period.

**Number and Characteristics of Offenders during the Reporting Period:**

The following characteristics have been documented regarding those offenders during the reporting period.

**2021:**

Gender:

13 female male offenders (39.39%)  
20 female offenders (60.61 %)

Age:

12 offenders age 18-25 (36.36%)  
21 offenders age 26 & older (63.64%)

Offense:

14	Assault
2	Theft
1	False Name
3	Traffic
1	Threats of Violence

3	Disorderly
1	Drugs
4	Damage to Property
2	Harassment
1	Fleeing from Peace Officer
1	911 Interference
<b>33</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

Currently in Diversion:	0
Successful Completions:	19
Dismissed:	1
Failed Diversion:	5
Diversion Criteria Not Met:	8

**2022:**

Gender:

- 15 female offenders (50%)
- 15 male offenders (50%)

Age:

- 8 offenders age 18-25 (26.66%)
- 22 offenders age 26 & older (73.34%)

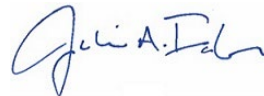
Offense:

2	Drug
7	Theft
1	HRO Violation
5	Assault
1	Fleeing from Peace Officer
2	Disorderly
1	False Name
1	Child Neglect
1	Check Forgery
9	Traffic
<b>30</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

Currently in Diversion:	8
Successful Completions:	10
Dismissed:	2
Diversion Criteria Not Met:	8
No Pre-Trial Supervision Ordered:	1
Closed – No Probation Ordered:	1

**Evaluation on Program's Effect on Operation of Steele County Criminal Justice System:**

The Steele County Attorney's Office together with Steele County Community Corrections created a policy to establish and operate a fair and just diversion program that promotes equal access of participation in the Pre-Trial Diversion Program on July 1, 2017. Since then, the program has offered offenders who meet qualifying criteria to remain out of the criminal justice system while accessing the supports probation has to offer. Victims have also been made whole by the payment of restitution as part of the Diversion agreement. Overall, the program reduced the burden upon the court system, prosecution, and public defenders. Of those who met the criteria, 76% successfully completed Diversion in 2021, and 45% of people who entered the program in 2022 have successfully completed Diversion with 36% still participating in the program.



Date: December 22, 2023

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Julia A. Forbes  
Steele County Attorney