

## DeKalb County Juvenile

### Court Mission:

To protect the best interest of the child and the community, to restore the lives of children who have been neglected or abuse, to redirect children who have admitted to or have been found in violation of the law to become law abiding, productive citizens, and support the continuity of families by leaving children in their homes whenever possible.



The Youth Diversion Program is one of many first offender programs known to DeKalb Juvenile Court.

It is our sincere hope that every juvenile positively benefits from the Youth Diversion Program (YDP), as the goal of YDP is to restore and redirect youth as positive members of their communities.



Desiree Sutton Peagler, Chief Judge

Linda Bratton Haynes, Judge

Vincent Crawford, Judge

Fatima A. El-Amin, Judge

Constance Hawkins  
Youth Diversion Coordinator  
4309 Memorial Drive  
Decatur, GA 30032  
(404) 294-2633

Email: [chawkins@dekalbcountyga.gov](mailto:chawkins@dekalbcountyga.gov)

## DeKalb County Juvenile Court

### Youth Diversion Program



**“GIVING NEW MEANING TO  
A SECOND CHANCE”**

**DeKalb County Juvenile Court  
4309 Memorial Drive  
Decatur, GA 30032**

# The Youth Diversion Program

## WHAT IS THE YOUTH DIVERSION PROGRAM ?

The Youth Diversion Program (YDP) is a program for youth who are first time offenders who have admitted to a minor offense and agreed to participate in the program. The complaint is heard before a panel of volunteers who will determine how to make the juvenile accountable for their actions. Once consequences have been assigned, a member from the panel elects to mentor the youth for up to 90 days. The complaints against them can be dismissed once consequences are adhered to. The Youth Diversion Program is one of many First time offender programs known to DeKalb Juvenile Court.

## PURPOSE:

The Youth Diversion Program's purpose is to provide a community based alternative to the formal court process in which first time misdemeanor offenders will be held accountable and make citizens aware of the needs of youth in their community and to encourage them through training and support to address those needs.

The primary objectives of YDP are to:

- Provide youth accountability for their actions
- Divert youth from further involvement within the juvenile justice system
- Educate youth on the impact their actions have on themselves and other (i.e., victims and the community)
- Build programs that directly respond to the community's issues of disorder, crime and violence

## Why is YDP Important?

The Youth Diversion Program uses local community accountability boards (panels) as alternative to the formal juvenile offenders. The intent is to hold youth accountable for their offenses, allow the court to spend the necessary time and resources on the more serious and chronic offenders, and involve local citizens who represent the community's best interest in the process.

## YDP Volunteers

YDP volunteers are trained to serve on 1 of 7 community panels throughout DeKalb County. Our sites are located in : Decatur, Clarkston, Stone Mountain, Lithonia, Atlanta/DeKalb, South DeKalb and Chamblee.

