

## **Arlington PACT: *Positive Alternatives to Court***

A diversion program sponsored by the Youth Health & Safety Coalition

Christine Connolly Sharkey, Director of Health and Human Services  
Cindy Sheridan Curran, Program Coordinator  
27 Maple Street  
Arlington, Massachusetts 02476  
Tel: 781-316-3170  
Fax: 781-316-3175  
[www.arlingtonma.gov](http://www.arlingtonma.gov)

### **Diversion Program PACT**

I, [name of program participant], am [age] years old. I was born on [date of birth] and currently live at [home address] with my [names of parent(s)/guardian and brothers/sisters]. I attend [name of school] as a [grade level].

I voluntarily chose to enroll in Arlington PACT and am committed to successfully completing the program.

I understand that I have been accused of [brief description of the youth's offenses].

I also understand that police officers from my local department have agreed not to charge me with any crimes because they feel that this program will give me an opportunity to learn from my mistakes and to help my community in the process.

I realize that if I do not follow through and complete all of my obligations in this agreement, criminal charges may be filed against me in court. If that happens, I could then be prosecuted and, if found guilty, punished by the court.<sup>1</sup>

At the same time, I also am aware that my participation in this program means that I give up certain legal rights – such as having my case brought before a judge or jury, and having my guilt or innocence determined in court where I would receive the assistance of an attorney, even if I could not afford one.

In any event, I do not want to end up in court. I want to join this program, which is why – as long as I am in the program -- I agree to:

- Cooperate with the staff of Arlington PACT;
- Speak truthfully to those people I meet in the program;
- Arrive on time and participate in all assigned activities (unless I notify the program director that I will be late for a good reason);
- Refrain from committing any other criminal offenses; and
- Successfully complete:
  - [number] hours of community service at [name of organization];
  - [other specific task, if applicable];
  - [other specific task, if applicable];
  - [other specific task, if applicable]; and
  - A one page essay on my experience in the program.

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<sup>1</sup> The correct legal term for being found “guilty” in the juvenile court system is “adjudicated delinquent.”

I also understand that the Program Coordinator may need to discuss my case with law enforcement, school, or counseling professionals. There may be other representatives from various services or organizations involved with my diversion program that the Coordinator needs to speak with. I recognize that the Program Coordinator will be guided by what is in my best interests when she discusses my case with any organization or person.

I have completely read this agreement, and any questions that I had about its terms have been fully answered by the Program Coordinator. I understand the agreement fully, and I intend to do my best to successfully complete my obligations under it. These are the reasons why I am signing it now.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Youth Program Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

I have also completely read this agreement and fully agree that its terms are fair and reasonable. Any questions that I had about its terms and conditions have been fully answered by the Program Coordinator. I understand this agreement, and I intend to support [name of participant] to successfully complete this program.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian of Youth Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Diversion Program Coordinator (or designee)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date