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IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT

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CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

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HAYS COUNTY, TEXAS

ORDER ADOPTING A YOUTH DIVERSION PLAN

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 Municipal Court of the City of Dripping Springs 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 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. Public Inspection:

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

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED

SIGNED AND ENTERED on this 26th day of November, 2024.



**Marilyn Miller
Municipal Judge
City of Dripping Springs
Hays County, Texas**