

TEACHING AS TREATMENT: "LIFE SKILLS TEACHING"

TEACH **RESPONSIBILITY**

RESPONSIBILITIES / PRIVILEGES MATCH UP

TEACH **SKILLS**

PHYSICAL, EMOTIONAL, INTELLECTUAL

TEACH **EMPOWERMENT**

"LIFE ON YOUR OWN TERMS"

VISION STATEMENT

We value the right of all individuals to be treated with dignity and respect. We value the rule of law and its application in a fair and impartial manner. We value all of our members as our most important asset and commit to continued professional development and personal growth. We acknowledge the primacy of the patrol function in the delivery of police services.

We are committed to fostering a work environment that promotes excellence, accessibility, communication, cooperation and trust. We are committed to working with the community to identify and solve problems. We strive to conduct our business efficiently, effectively and economically, while recognizing changing needs. We shall protect and enhance the quality of life for all who live, work, and visit the City of Weslaco.



FIRST TIME OFFENDER PROGRAM

CONTACT:

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WESLACO POLICE DEPARTMENT

**901 N. AIRPORT DRIVE
WESLACO, TEXAS 78596**

FIRST TIME OFFENDER PROGRAM



MISSION STATEMENT

DIVERT JUVENILE FIRST TIME OFFENDERS
COMMITTING CLASS A, B MISDEMEANORS OR
A STATE JAIL FELONY (EXCEPT ANY OFFENSE
INVOLVING ASSAULT OR WEAPONS*) FROM
THE JUVENILE SYSTEM AND TO REDUCE
REPEAT OFFENDERS

WESLACO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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WESLACO, TEXAS 78596**

WHAT IS THE FIRST TIME OFFENDER PROGRAM?

The first time offender program is a skills education program designed to divert juvenile **FIRST TIME OFFENDERS** from the juvenile justice system and to allow the youth an opportunity to erase the arrest record.

TEXAS FAMILY CODE SECTION 52.031



ENROLLMENT CRITERIA

- Youth between age 10-16
- Referred by Westlaco Police Department
- First time offenders (Class A & B misdemeanors, state jail felonies)
- Parental cooperation and agreement to participate in the program



INTAKE PHASE

Individual meeting with youth & parent to assess youth's level of functioning at home, school, and in their free time.

DIRECT PHASE: (6-WEEK GROUP SESSIONS)

YOUTH SKILLS:

1. Physical Fitness
2. Being Prepared
3. Greeting
4. Attending
5. Observing
6. Listening
7. Decision-Making
8. Drug Abuse Education

PARENT SKILLS:

1. Contracting
2. Praise
3. Discipline
4. Communication
5. Drug Abuse Education

PARENT & YOUTH HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

90-DAY PROBATIONARY PERIOD:

No arrests or citations following completion of direct phase.

EXPUNGEMENT:

Record destroyed/no arrest shown on offender successful completion of the program!

SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE PROGRAM!

BACKGROUND

The first time offender program was created to help juveniles and their parents better deal with problems and to prevent future trouble and/or re-arrests.

PROGRAM GOALS

PREVENTION:

To assist families of juveniles who have run away from home for the first time, who are exhibiting behavior problems at home, at school or in their free time and connect them with community resources for counseling.

INTERVENTION:

To divert juveniles first time offenders (class A & B misdemeanors, state jail felonies) from the juvenile justice system and to reduce repeat offenders.

