

District Attorney Marc Bennett
18th Judicial District of Kansas



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WICHITA, KAN. – The Sedgwick County District Attorney's Office has started a new diversion program that will be offered to persons charged with Driving While Suspended and/or No Insurance. This program is only available to those who have not had a DWS in the past five years. The total cost of the program is \$263.00, and defendants who successfully complete the program will have their case dismissed.

Traffic diversion enables qualified adults to avoid a conviction while being held accountable for their violation of traffic laws through payment of costs, fines, and education programs if warranted. Upon the successful completion of the program, charges are dismissed.

Guidelines for the new diversion program and applications are available at <https://www.sedgwickcounty.org/district-attorney/forms/>.

Previously, those charged with driving while suspended or no proof of insurance had the alternative to return to court a number of times for up to a year to demonstrate their driving privileges were reinstated and they were now currently insured. Those efforts could lead to amended charges or reduced fines, but they still resulted in a conviction and several trips to court resulting in missed work, transportation hardships, etc.

In light of all that 2020 has brought us, this program is well-timed to lessen the number of people coming to the courthouse each day and to offer an opportunity for people to avoid convictions and other adverse consequences caused by short term financial hardships.

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