

# La Joya ISD Police Department First Offender Program



*"Transforming Lives. Transforming Communities. One Child at a Time"*

# First Offender Specialist

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# The First Offender Program

The First Offender Program is for children between the ages of 10-16 who have committed for the first time a crime classified between a class "B" Misdemeanor and State Jail Felony. It excludes weapons and violence offenses. (Texas Family Code Section 52.031) Offences that are eligible for this new program include but are not limited to: Possession of Marijuana, Thefts, Criminal Mischief, and Graffiti.

# Programa de Primer Ofensas:

Este programa es para niños entre las edades de 10-16 que han cometido su primer delito clasificado entre una clase "B" delito menor y el estado cárcel delito grave.

Excluye cargos de armas y delitos de violencia.  
(Código Familiar de Texas Sección 52.031)

Delitos que son elegibles para este nuevo programa incluyen pero no se limitan a: La posesión de marihuana, Robos, Delito Criminal y Graffiti.



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# Reasoning for Creating the First Offender Program



- La Joya ISD Police Department
  - 2011-2012--- 289 cases
  - 2012-2013---245 cases
  - 2013-2014----279 cases
  - Note\* about 50% are marijuana cases.
  - “We don’t have problem kids but kids with problems”
  - Kids make mistakes!
  - Majority of times parents are not aware of certain situations.
  - Parents feel that if they knew they could have helped.
  - This program will give everyone a second opportunity.



# razones para la creación del Programa de Primera Ofensa

Departamento de Policía del Distrito de La Joya

11-2012 --- 289 casos

12-2013 --- 245 casos

13-2014 ---- 279 casos

Nota \* mas o menos 50 % son casos de marijuana .

"No tenemos niños con problemas pero tenemos niños que tienen problemas "

Los niños cometen errores !

La mayoría de las veces los padres no estan conscientes de ciertas situaciones.

Los padres sienten que si supieran las situaciones en que se encuentran sus niños; tal vez podrían haber ayudado.

Este programa dará a todos una segunda oportunidad .

Departamento de Justicia Juvenil del Condado de Hidalgo

14 ----- 196 casos

15 (Abril 7 ) --- 51 casos

# **Transforming Lives, Transforming Communities, One Child at a Time”**

**Currently the La Joya ISD Police Department First Offender Program is the first of its kind to be offered by an ISD Police Department in the State of Texas.**

**Featured by Texas A&M University College Station Association of Former Students**

**This program is breaking ground not only in the RGV, but state wide!**

**Furthermore, local municipalities and other ISD police departments are actively looking to utilize the La Joya ISD Police Department First Offender Program as a foundation to start their own programs.**

**The Program is written in a manner that allows any individual to run a program, and/or be used to start a program of their own.**

**Some of these entities include: The City of Mission Police Department, Edinburg CISD Police Department, McAllen ISD Police Department, Donna, Texas, to name a few.**

**Classes are open to the public (we do have parents utilizing it), with volunteer opportunities available**

**Furthermore, the La Joya ISD Police Department First Offender Program is branching out and seeking partnerships with local non profit groups (such as the AP Coalition, UNIDAD Coalition, and Behavioral Health Solutions of South Texas), as well as, UTRGV and STC.**

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# The First Offender Program

Voluntary basis--- not forcing anyone to do it.

Voluntary restitution- to the victim if necessary.

Voluntary community service, or other requirements can be assigned.

Educational, vocational training, counseling, and/or other rehabilitative services are available.

Periodic reporting by the child to La Joya ISD Police Department.

90 Day probationary period

# El Programa de Primera Ofensa

El programa es voluntario --- no se fuerza a nadie a hacerlo.

Restitución-Voluntaria a la víctima si es necesario.

Servicio comunitario voluntario.

Se les da educación, entrenamiento vocacional, consejos u otros servicios de rehabilitación a los participantes .

Se requiere presentación de informes periódicos o “Check-ups” por el niño en el Departamento de Policía del Distrito de la Joya .

Un período de prueba o (Probación) de 90 días.

# The First Offender Program



on Successful completion of this program:

Students participating in this opportunistic six week  
trial & subsequent 90 day probation period; will have  
their first time criminal offense permanently cleared by  
the La Joya ISD Police Department.

This will provide the individual with a second chance at  
a successful and hopeful future.

With this in mind, they would not have to worry about  
having a record when they are older. Additionally, they  
could avoid having to spend money in court cost.

It would be as if the offense never occurred!

# El Programa de Primera Ofensa



**completar este programa con éxito :**

**Al terminar este programa, los estudiantes que participan, tendrán su primer delito borrado permanentemente del departamento de Policía del Distrito de La Joya.**

**Este programa le dará a el niño/a una segunda oportunidad en un futuro exitoso y lleno de esperanza .**

**Con esto en mente, no tendrían que preocuparse de tener un registro cuando sean mayores . Además, se evitaría tener que gastar dinero en el costo de la corte.**

# What the Program is NOT



*Chance*

THIS CARD MAY BE KEPT  
UNTIL NEEDED, OR SOLD

GET OUT OF JAIL  
FREE

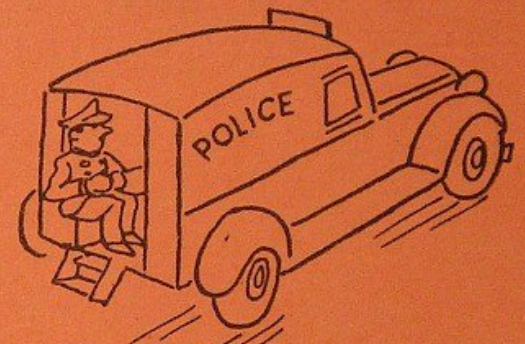


As a matter of fact; if  
we find out you are  
abusing this  
program.....

Don't think that when you turn 17  
your Juvenile Record will be  
"sealed". In Texas, it will cost you  
between \$4-10,000 and it is  
something that must be ordered  
by a judge. Even then, it can still  
be unsealed for certain  
background checks, and if you  
commit an offence as an adult!

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CHANCE  
Go to Jail.  
Move  
Directly  
to Jail



Do Not Pass "Go"  
Do Not Collect \$200

# The First Offender Program

**The First Offender Program was founded upon an idea that we, as a community, can better serve our troubled youth through education, and information.**

**This 18 week program derives from a program which offers at-risk teenagers an opportunity to experience a unique educational environment which will positively impact them and their families the rest of their lives.**

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# Programa de Primer Ofensas



El Programa de Primer Ofensas esta fundado sobre una idea que nosotros, como comunidad, podemos servir mejor a nuestros jóvenes con problemas a través de la educación y la formación .

Este programa de 18 semanas fue desarrollado a partir de un programa que ofrece a los adolescentes que han cometido su primer ofensa la oportunidad de participar en una experiencia educacional que tal vez pueda hacer un impacto positivo a los participantes y a sus familias por el resto de sus vidas.

# Mission Statement



The Mission of the First Offender Program is to bring about a long lasting, life-altering, positive change in the attitude, character and behavior of its participants by offering positive behavior support services through positive education and information. This will enable for better decision making by the attendees. The First Offender Program offers alternative thinking by means of incorporating **positive instruction** to identified at risk youth who reside within our education, moral and behavioral stricken communities.

# Misión del Programa



La Misión del Programa de Primera Ofensa es provocar una alteración de la vida , un cambio positivo duradero en la actitud , el carácter y el comportamiento de sus participantes ofreciendo servicios de apoyo comportamientos positivos mediante la educación y la información positiva . Esto permitirá a los participantes que hagan mejores decisiones. El Programa de Primer Ofensas ofrece pensamiento alternativo por medio de la incorporación de la enseñanza positiva a jóvenes que cometen su primer ofensa y que residen dentro de nuestro distrito educacional, y las comunidades.



**This Mission will be accomplished via the success triad of:**

- 1. Education,**
- 2. Leadership, and**
- 3. Self-realization (reality based).**

**The First Offender Program will provide an environment rich of instruction and use a modified 12 step program which offers a common sense approach dedicated to building the next generation of community leaders.**

- Esta misión se realizará a través de la tríada del éxito de:
  - 1.Educación,
  - 2.Leadership, y
  - 3.Realización de si mismo (basado en la realidad).
- El programa de primer ofensas proporciona a un rico proporcionará un ambiente rico enseñanza educativa y utilizar un programa modificado de 12 pasos que ofrece un enfoque de sentido común dedicado a la construcción de la nueva generación de líderes de la comunidad.

# Class Program (Sub-Topics)

Children accepted in the First Offender Program will be **REQUIRED** to attend **two hour classes (with their parent / guardian)** held at The La Joya ISD Police Department on **consecutive Saturdays** for 6 weeks. These educational classes will **commence at 10:00 AM and conclude 12:00 Noon**. These classes will cover sub-topics which will include but are not limited to:

1. Violence prevention
2. Drug and alcohol resistance
3. Respect
4. Leadership skill development
5. Teamwork
6. Life Skills & The Importance of an Education
7. Anger Management
8. Discipline
9. Decision making
10. Positive choices

\*Instruction is provided for the students and adults (when able)\*



# Programa de Clase

Las clases se enfocaran en temas que incluyen pero no se limitan a:

- **Prevención de la violencia**
- **Resistencia a las drogas y alcohol**
- **El respeto**
- **Liderazgo**
- **Desarrollo de habilidades**
- **Trabajo en equipo**
- **Habilidades para la vida**
- **Control de la ira**
- **Disciplina**
- **Formando decisiones**
- **Como hacer decisiones positivas**



# Curriculum



The course curriculum will be facilitated by high-quality instructors and may include educational field trips to enhance and broaden the education of the student at various valley wide locations, (locations to be disclosed at a later date).

In addition, participants will attend Saturday morning guidance meetings with police officers and First Offender Program staff. Attendees will be subject to other positive re-enforcement activities like team building and communication skills. The team building will consist of meetings with community leaders, positive community role models, truant officers, substance abuse counselors and other dedicated community professionals wanting, willing and able to assist in the team building and communication process.

The La Joya ISD Police Department First Offender Program core curriculum is constantly being updated in order to provide the best learning environment for our students and parents.

# Plan de estudios

- El programa del curso se verá facilitado por instructores de alta calidad y puede incluir excursiones educativas a diferentes lugares aquí en el valle para mejorar y extender la educación del estudiante ( los lugares o excursiones serán dados a conocer en una fecha posterior ) .
- Además, los participantes asistirán a clases educativas el sábado por la mañana con los agentes de policía y personal del Programa de Primer Ofensas. Los participantes podrán participar en actividades positivas, actividades en cómo mejorar trabajo en equipo y la comunicación. La formación de equipos consistirá en reuniones con líderes y modelos de conducta positivos de la comunidad, oficiales de policía, consejeros de abuso de sustancias y otros profesionales de la comunidad que se dedican, desean, están dispuestos y capaces de ayudar en el proceso de trabajo en equipo y la comunicación.



# Six Week Class Schedule Break Down (Short Version)



What is a fault in someone's character, and what type of faults have I experienced in my past? Deciding to change my life, character, and behavior in a positive direction. Learning to resist violence, control my anger, and learning how to earn respect from others/ respecting myself.

How my past actions affect not only my future, but all of those around me. Understanding the consequences of my actions, and writing out the faults leading up to my offense. Learning how to make long term goals, and understanding how to reach them.

Recognizing who else is affected by my faults, starting the process of rebuilding the trust I lost, learning to say I am sorry, and following through with actions to prove it. Finding the courage to apologize to my parents/ guardians, and show them I want to change.

Learning to serve others, while learning new outlooks on life and friends. Understanding what is a good and bad influence/ friend, and learning how to get involved in my school and community. Committing to what I need to change in my life in order to not reoffend. Committing to making a positive change in my life by creating a contract with myself and parent/ guardian.

Learning from our past, understanding the mistakes we made, and understanding the lesson they teach us. Understanding the problem solving process, and learning new tricks to make better decisions in the future.

This week is a makeup week where we go back into detail on topics we did not have enough time for. We also utilize this week to view videos about drug and alcohol resistance. Our parents also receive additional information on drug and alcohol abuse/ prevention. (Other topics and activities can also be covered during this week)

## Filosofías de las 6 semanas (versión corta)

¿Qué es una falla en el carácter de una persona, y qué tipo de faltas he experimentado en mi pasado? Tomar una decisión de cambiar mi vida, el carácter y la conducta en una dirección positiva. Aprender a resistir la influencia / controlar mi ira, y aprender cómo ganar el respeto de otros / respeten a mí mismo.

Comprender cómo mis acciones pasadas afectan no sólo a mi futuro, pero todos los que me rodean. La comprensión de las consecuencias de mis acciones, y escribir los fallos previos a mi ofensa. Aprender a hacer más a largo plazo, y la comprensión de cómo llegar a ellos.

Comprender cómo conociendo que más se ve afectada por mis faltas, mirando el proceso de reconstrucción de la confianza que perdí, aprender a decir lo siento, y seguir adelante con las acciones que lo demuestran. Aprender a encontrar el valor para pedir disculpas a mis padres / tutores, y mostrarles que quiero cambiar.

Aprender a servir a los demás, mientras enriquecen a cabo se ve en la vida y los amigos. La comprensión de lo que es una buena y mala influencia / amigo, y aprender cómo participar en mi escuela y la comunidad. Ponerse de acuerdo con lo que tengo que cambiar en mi vida con el fin de no reincidir.

Comprometiéndose a hacer un cambio positivo en mi vida mediante la creación de un contrato conmigo mismo y el padre / tutor.

Comprender de nuestro pasado, la comprensión de los errores que hemos cometido, y la comprensión de las lecciones que nos pueden enseñar. Comprender el proceso de resolver problemas, y aprender nuevos enfoques para hacer una mejor decisión en el futuro.

Esta semana es una semana de maquillaje en el que volver a entrar en detalle sobre temas que no tuvimos tiempo suficiente para. También utilizamos esta semana para ver videos sobre drogas y resistencia al alcohol. Nuestros padres también recibieron información adicional sobre el abuso de drogas y alcohol. (Otros temas y actividades también pueden ser cubiertos durante esta semana)

## **Final Class Completion Speech Requirements:**

Students must state whether or not they are ready to leave their past decisions, behaviors, and character behind, and start fresh as they move into their 90 day probation.

Each student must pledge to everyone present that they will not commit any further offenses and be willing to change parts of their lives to show they mean it.

Each student must indicate what lessons they have learned throughout their six weeks at the La Joya ISD Police Department First Offender Program (this should be a specific list). Each student is required to list 3 things that they have removed from their lives, and or 3 things they are going to change in their lives.

Students are expected to thank their Parent/ Guardian for bringing them to the 6 classes. These statements must be made in the front of the class, before dismissal. This is to demonstrate the child's skill set in public speaking, and as reinforcement for all the curriculum they have already received.

Each student will also be made aware of the mandatory check in policy; that is now to be implemented for all students entering their 90 day probation.

Failure for a student to comply with this policy can result in an extension of the 90 day probation period, having to complete additional classes, and or be required to complete the outpatient program in addition to program prerequisites.

# Updated check in policy terms

Subject to change and modification at any time

Students of the La Joya ISD Police Department First Offender Program are required to participate in a mandatory check in system once they start their 90 day probation period, or during a school holiday lasting at least 1 week including weekends.

During this time period students are required to make contact with the First Offender Specialist at the La Joya ISD Police Department between the hours of 8 AM-12 PM and 1 PM-5 PM Tuesday through Friday. Alternatively, accepted check ins will also include: leaving a voice mail for the Specialist if they are unable to check in, the student may stop by before, or immediately after a scheduled First Offender Program class on Saturday (no later than 12:15 PM), or the student may contact the specialist via email with an update on how things are going at home, in school, with their friends, and if they are having any issues with school or extracurricular activities.

Once a student has completed the La Joya ISD Police Department First Offender Program, the student is required to check in with the First Offender Specialist once every 2 weeks. This is meant as a means to keep track of the students until they graduate or reach the age to be considered an adult (17 years old).

For parents of the program it is highly encouraged for them to also check in weekly, or twice a week for the same purposes of being proactive to prevent recidivism. This is currently not a requirement in the policy, but this may change in the near future.

Failure for a student to comply with this policy can result in an extension of the 90 day probation period, requiring to complete additional classes, and or be required to complete an outside outpatient program in addition to program prerequisites.

# Thank You For Your Time

## Questions?

Again I thank you for your time and attention and I will be contacting some of you for your assistance with presentations to our students and/or parents. I would appreciate it if you can provide me with your contact information today so that you can help assist our students and parents.

If I can be of any assistance, or you would like to volunteer feel free to contact me at....

David L. Torres

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# Gracias

Preguntas?

Una vez más les doy las gracias por su tiempo y atención y estaré en contacto con algunos de ustedes por su asistencia como voluntarios a nuestros estudiantes y / o padres. Si puedo ser de alguna ayuda o les gustaría ser voluntario favor de hablar con mi amigo....

**David L. Torres**

**Especialista primera vez Delincuentes**

**Departamento de Policía del Distrito de La Joya**

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