



## YORK COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

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### Is ARD For Me?

#### How to prevent yourself from having a criminal record

If you are charged with a criminal offense and you want to keep yourself from having a criminal record, the ARD Program may be your answer. A record for a criminal conviction can lessen job opportunities (teaching certificates and nursing licenses for example).

The ARD Program is a pre-trial diversionary program administered by the District Attorney's Office. If determined by the District Attorney to be eligible for the program court costs and fees, community service hours, and any appropriate suspension of your motor vehicle driving privilege, counseling and or restitution with standard probation conditions may be ordered. Following successful completion of the program a dismissal order will be entered expunging the criminal charges.

*Many ARD applications are denied because applicants do not answer the question regarding violations of the law accurately. If you have any doubts as to whether something should be included in your answer, include it. Prior contact with the criminal justice system does not necessarily result in your being denied admission. However, providing false, misleading, or incomplete information will.*

*Also, should you have contact with law enforcement, after you have filed the application and before the court hearing admitting you to the program, that contact must be reported in writing to the ARD office within 72 hours after the contact.*

To apply for ARD you should contact the office of the Magisterial District Judge as soon as possible. You may wish to waive your Preliminary Hearing and request an ARD Application. The judge and court staff cannot provide you with legal advice but should be able to assist you with basic questions.

The ARD Application should be filed at the District Attorney's office at the above address as soon as possible after your Preliminary Hearing, and **within thirty (30) days of the court arraignment set by the MDJ**. The DA's Office hours are 8:00AM-4:30PM.

Please visit [www.yorkda.com](http://www.yorkda.com) for a listing of ineligible offenses or contact the District Attorney's Office @ 771-9600 with any questions.

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