PETERBOROUGH CROSSOVER YOUTH PROGRAM

**CONSENT FORM**

From: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name of young person)

To: The Crossover Youth Program

* I have been told that I am eligible to participate in the Crossover Youth Program.
* I understand the purpose of the Crossover Youth Program is to provide me with the help and services I need while I have charges in Youth Court and to reduce the chances of me returning to court with further charges
* In order to help me, these services may need to share information about me, to better understand who I am and what I need. Some of the agencies that may need to share information include the following:

Children’s Aid Society/DBCFS Youth Probation Services

John Howard Society Canadian Mental Health Association

Kawartha Family Court Assessment Service Youth Shelters

Catholic/Public Board of Education Elizabeth Fry Society (incl. Bail Program)

Peterborough Police & OPP Nogojiwanong Friendship Circle

Niijkiwendidaa Anishnaabekwewag Peterborough Youth Services

Educational/School Program Other:

* As a participant of the Crossover Youth Program, I give my permission for the agencies to share information and to discuss my needs and progress, only for the purposes of the Crossover Youth Program. I understand that the sharing of information will stop once my charges are no longer before the court or if I choose not to continue in the Crossover Youth Program.
* I identify as Indigenous, First Nation, Métis, Inuit, Status or non-Status and I request an Indigenous Advocate to assist me throughout my involvement in the Program (see back page)
* I have been given a chance to talk with a lawyer (duty counsel or retained counsel) to discuss the Crossover Youth Program.
* I would still like to participate in the Crossover Youth Program

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***What is the Crossover Youth Program?***

The Crossover Youth Program has been developed to help young people who have faced involvement in the criminal justice system (for example, if you’ve been charged with a criminal offence), who have had involvement with the Children’s Aid Society or Dnaagdawenmag Binnoojiiyag Child and Family Services (DBCFS).

The goal is to provide you with services that may help you build supports and skills for your future with the hope that it will reduce the chances of you coming to court again.

***What information about me is shared with the Crown?***

The Crown Attorney is responsible for proving a charge against a person. They also have the discretion to approve youth charges for diversion, Extrajudicial Sanctions (EJS) and other ways in which a charge could be resolved. In order to make those decisions, your lawyer, duty counsel or other participant within the Crossover Youth Program may share information about you that would be necessary to help the Crown make a decision about how to proceed with your case. You should be informed ahead of time about what information will be shared and you should be asked about your opinion about the extent of the information to be shared.

***What is an Indigenous Advocate?***

If you identify as Indigenous, First Nation, Métis, Inuit, Status or non-Status, you have the right to ask for an Indigenous Advocate. An Indigenous Advocate understands the significance of your background and culture and has knowledge about rights you have as an Indigenous youth. Your Advocate can help you at court, assist you while meeting with service providers, and help you with voicing your concerns and wishes throughout this process. The Advocate may have very good ideas about how best to address issues that have been identified in a culturally relevant format, respectful of your culture and community.

***What if I no longer want to be part of the Crossover Youth Program?***

It is your decision to enter into this Program and it is your decision if you no longer wish to participate. We ask that you give the Program a chance by giving us time to help you, but if you no longer wish to be part of the Program, you can tell your lawyer or advocate at any time. If you choose to stop the Program, you will proceed through court in the normal course, with the guidance of your lawyer or Duty Counsel.

***Will I have a say in what happens during my involvement in the Crossover Youth Program?***

Yes! Your voice really matters and it is very important you share your thoughts and feelings with the people who are trying to help you. If you are nervous to talk, feel free to write your thoughts on paper or ask to speak to your lawyer or advocate in private so they can then share your wishes and thoughts with the Program.