

Youth & Family Information Guide



*A guidebook to help
your family navigate
the Pierce County
Juvenile Court process*

This booklet was developed by the
Family Council at Juvenile Court,
in collaboration with multiple court staff
and community partners.

The electronic version can be accessed on the
Pierce County Juvenile Court website.

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Introduction

Welcome to Juvenile Court

Our vision:

We want our community to be one that is safe and supportive, where all children are healthy and succeed in school, and where all children grow up to be productive and contributing adults.

Purpose of this book

This booklet will guide your family through the people and process of the court as well as inform you about available and helpful resources. It was developed with the input of parents and youth who have been through the court process before and is specifically designed to provide you the critical information you'll need to support you in this experience. This booklet is designed to be **interactive**. There are numerous places for you to write down notes. We have included this based on feedback from other parents and youth about what they would find useful in a booklet.

Alternatives for Youth & Families

Not all youth will go through a formal court experience. The next two pages show other ways a youth and family may be involved in Juvenile Court.

Diversion

Many juveniles referred to Juvenile Court are first-, second-, or third-time offenders who commit offenses such as shoplifting, malicious mischief or possession of alcohol. These youth may be eligible for an alternative to formal court processing known as diversion. Diversion allows the youth to take responsibility for their actions without obtaining a criminal record.

Youth who agree to participate in diversion will be scheduled for a group seminar/class (group advisement), Community Accountability Board (CAB) or individual appointment. Youth will enter into a written agreement about what consequences will be imposed for their behavior. The agreement may include restitution to the victim, community service, a fine, counseling, informational or educational classes, and other options. After successfully completing diversion, the youth may truthfully say that they have not been convicted of a crime.

More information is available on the Pierce County Juvenile Court website at: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=1112>

At-Risk Youth (ARY)

An At-Risk Youth (ARY) petition is a request from a child's parent or legal guardian to the Juvenile Court to help in maintaining the care, custody, and control of the child. The petitioner **MUST** have had contact with Family Reconciliation Services (FRS) and be able to provide a Family Assessment verification prior to filing a petition. The Family Assessment will be completed within 48 hours of contact being made with FRS. Please call FRS at (253) 983-6100 or 1-800-422-7517.

More information is available on the Pierce County Juvenile Court website at: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=1102>

Alternatives for Youth & Families

Child in Need of Services (CHINS)

The purpose of a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) petition is to obtain a court order mandating placement of a child in a residence other than the home of his/her parent because a serious conflict exists between the parent and child. The placement is temporary, and the goal of CHINS is reunification of the family. The petitioner MUST have had contact with Family Reconciliation Services (FRS) and be able to provide a Family Assessment verification with the Child in Need of Services petition. Please call FRS at (253) 983-6100 or 1-800-422-7517.

More information is available on the Pierce County Juvenile Court website at: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=1102>

Truancy

By law, children between the ages of 8 and 18 must attend school. If a juvenile skips school five times in a month or ten times during the school year, the school district must file a truancy petition against the child and/or the parents. The court will go through a process to determine whether the youth needs to appear in court as a result of a truancy petition. In some cases, truancy matters can be handled by truancy boards in the youth's home community.

More information is available on the Pierce County Juvenile Court website at: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=1105>

Juvenile Court Basics

Youth rights

It is very important to understand that while parents play an important role, they do not have rights in the juvenile court process. As the identified respondent (defendant), the youth is the only person who has rights under the law. These rights include:

Right to be notified of charges: The youth needs to know what they are being charged with. They will be informed of their charges at arraignment.

Right to have legal representation: The youth will be assigned a defense attorney to represent them in court, go over the case with them, and advise them of their options.

Right to cross-examine witnesses: If the youth goes to a trial/fact finding hearing (which is uncommon), the defense attorney may question witnesses brought by the prosecution.

Right against self-incrimination: Youth may not be required to testify against themselves.

Sealing Records

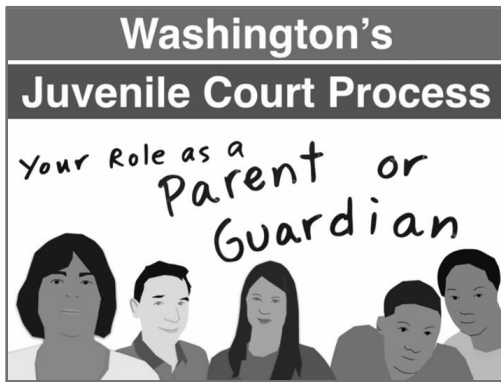
In Washington State, all juvenile court matters are public record. This means that even charges filed against the youth are available to the public. A record may impact a youth's ability to find employment. A youth can seal their record by filing a request with the court if they are eligible, based on criminal history.

TeamChild is an organization which provides legal services for youth. If you would like more information about sealing records, call TeamChild's Pierce County office at 253-274-9929 or visit their website at teamchild.org.

Juvenile Court Basics

Parent's role

While the parents do not have legal rights in the juvenile court process, they are still a critical part of the process. Parents provide information to the probation counselor and defense attorney to help the judge decide what consequences and programs to order for the youth. The parent is also an important source of support for their child during this process and is encouraged to attend court hearings.



Scan the QR code to watch a short video about the role of the parent or guardian in the court process.



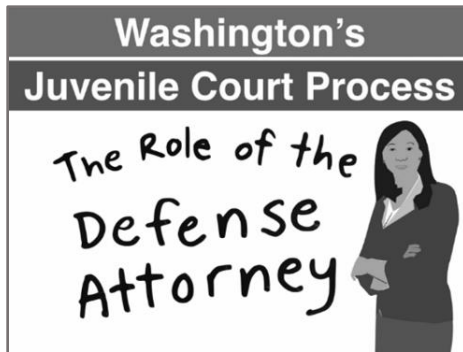
Who You Will Meet at Court

Defense Attorney

The defense attorney's role is to represent the youth in court, make sure the youth's rights are upheld, and advise the youth about what options are available to resolve their case. Although there are times when the youth may meet with the attorney before coming to court, it is common for the youth to meet the attorney for the first time in the court waiting room before the first hearing. The defense attorney represents the youth, so only very limited information can be shared with parents or family members. If a youth does not know who their attorney is, they may contact the Department of Assigned Counsel at (253) 798-6062.

Youth's Attorney: _____

Phone number: _____



Scan to watch a short video about the role of the defense attorney.



Who You Will Meet at Court

Probation Counselor

A probation counselor is assigned to all youth charged with an offense, even if the youth is not on probation. The probation counselor

- Gathers youth/family social history and make recommendations to the court regarding release conditions or detention of the youth.
- Assesses the youth's risk to the community, ability to show for future court hearings, and the parent/guardian's ability to supervise their child per the court-ordered release conditions while the case is pending.
- Supplies written reports for the judge and attorneys. These reports outline social information and make recommendations based on what is best for the community and youth. This occurs at various stages of the court case, including sentencing.

If a youth is put on probation, the probation counselor will meet with the youth and family regularly to check in on progress. Parents are strongly encouraged to be present at these meetings and to tell the probation counselor about the youth's positive and troubling behaviors. These conversations are not confidential and can be used to file new charges or probation modifications.

Youth's probation counselor:

Phone number: _____

Who You Will Meet at Court

Prosecuting Attorney

The prosecuting attorney's role is to make sure that public safety is protected. They will do this by filing charges against the youth and recommending what they think are appropriate consequences. The prosecuting attorney will often be a different individual in each hearing. The youth and family will not usually have any contact with the prosecuting attorney outside of court, although the defense attorney and prosecuting attorney may consult with each other about appropriate resolution for the youth's case.

Judge

The judge presides over the court hearings to make sure that proper legal procedure is observed, and also makes decisions around the outcomes of the case. The judge makes decisions about whether the youth will stay in detention, whether the youth is guilty or not guilty of the crime charged, and what the youth is ordered to do. The youth and parents will not have contact with the judge outside of the court hearings. Any information you would like to give to the judge should be given to the probation counselor, who makes recommendations to the judge.

Juvenile Detention Officer

A juvenile detention officer escorts youth who are detained to and from secure confinement for court hearings. Parents will also interact with juvenile detention officers when they visit their youth in the detention center.

Court Clerk

The court clerk is present at the hearings and records the hearing proceedings.

Detention (Secure Confinement)

Detention Center

The detention center, also called Remann Hall, has a mission to house juvenile offenders in a safe, secure, and humane living environment where they are cared for and supervised by professional, well-trained staff. While providing community protection, detention can also provide residents with an opportunity for constructive and positive change.

Programs & Benefits Offered to Youth

While in detention, youth receive the benefit of:

- School programming, including special education assessments and programming
- Suicide risk assessments, along with stabilization therapy
- Medical screenings, assessments, and treatment
- Other programs for detained youth include access to religious services, structured learning regarding a variety of topics dealing with societal issues, HIV/STD education classes, a structured gymnasium program, a book club, and a yoga program.

These community organizations provide programs/services to youth in detention: Sexual Assault Center for Pierce County, Catholic Community Services, Youth For Christ, Northwest Leadership Foundation, Remann Hall Book Club, Yoga Behind Bars, and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Detention (Secure Confinement)

Address:

5501 6th Avenue
Tacoma, WA 98406

Visiting Hours:

Monday-Friday:
6:00-7:00 pm **OR** 7:00-8:00 pm

Saturday, Sunday, and holidays:
9:00-10:00 am **OR** 10:00-11:00 am
6:00-7:00 pm **OR** 7:00-8:00 pm

You must arrive and sign in at least 15 minutes before the hour you wish to visit. You will not be permitted to visit if you are late. Bring photo identification.

Authorized Visitors

- Parents, attorneys, caseworkers and clergy may visit detained youth. A youth's counselor or therapist may visit for the purpose of doing therapy.
- All other visitors are exceptions to policy and must have prior permission and be at least 18 years of age. This process is initiated through the youth's assigned probation counselor and approved by detention administration. Good cause must be established for these exceptions.
- Siblings age six and under may visit with their parents, but it is strongly suggested that other arrangements be made for their supervision.

View the visitation rules at:

<http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/index.aspx?NID=1098>

Detention (Secure Confinement)

Telephone

Youth are allowed to make phone calls with staff approval. All phone calls are collect, so there is a cost with each phone call. The call will automatically disconnect after 15 minutes.

Mail

Youth may receive and send mail from detention. Incoming mail will be read and checked for contraband (items not allowed in detention). Mail which the youth cannot keep in their cell will be placed with their property. The Detention address for sending mail to the youth is:

Remann Hall
Youth's name
5501 6th Ave
Tacoma, WA 98406

Health Services

The Pierce County Juvenile Detention Center has a nurse and a primary care doctor who will see the youth if they are injured or are sick. Youth may request to speak to a nurse. While parents/caregivers can provide medical history and information about their youth to staff, health information obtained in detention is private and can only be shared under very strict guidelines.

Medication

Medication for youth must be brought in a labeled prescription bottle, and the prescription must be current.

Mental Health

Mental health services are provided by the organization Catholic Community Services. A mental health professional is on-call for risk assessment and stabilization. Youth may also talk to a youth partner, who is a certified peer counselor.

Alternative Detention Services

The primary function of the Alternative Detention Services (ADS) program is to provide an alternative to detention while ensuring public safety and holding youth accountable for their actions and behaviors. The ADS program allows youth to remain in the community and stay connected to community resources such as school, counseling, and drug/alcohol treatment.

Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM)

With Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM), the youth's compliance in the program is monitored electronically. The youth wears an ankle bracelet that is placed on the youth by a court employee. The youth is tracked in the community full time through GPS software to ensure they are where they are supposed to be.

Curfew Monitoring (CFM)

With Curfew Monitoring, the youth also wears an ankle bracelet, and they are tracked in the community to be in compliance with a set curfew.

Weekend Alternative Detention

Weekend Alternative Detention is a day program where youth focus on skill-building techniques to help prevent a new offense or future probation violation. The goal is to help youth recognize barriers to success and think of the consequences to their actions ahead of time.

For more information about Alternative Detention Services, please call 253-798-7897.

Court Process

The juvenile court process can take a few weeks to a few months. There are multiple hearings to attend, and depending on scheduling and other factors, these may happen weeks apart. **Also, once a family arrives at court for their hearing date, they may wait several hours before being called into court.** Everyone will have a unique experience; sometimes two or more of these hearings will happen during the same court appearance. Other times, each hearing will be a different court appearance. Also, some of the hearings happen in a courtroom and some will occur in the waiting room.



Scan to watch a short video about the juvenile court process in Washington State.



Court Process

Arrive Early & Dress Appropriately

Arrive early for your initial hearing. You or your child will need to sign in at Juvenile Court before the initial hearing, so leave plenty of time to find the appropriate place to sign. You will be directed to the area in which you will wait for the hearing.

Have your child dress nicely. Although they don't have to go all out and dress flashy for court, they should be neat and clean. This shows respect for a court of law and that they care about the outcome of the case.

Waiting Times

Plan to wait in lobby for a few hours. Many cases are set for the same time and they are heard one right after the other. Names are NOT called alphabetically. There is the chance that many cases will be heard before yours and that you will have to wait.

Paperwork

Court officials may have paperwork for you or need to meet with you before your hearing, so please listen for your name to be called.

Civil Matters

If you are coming to court for a civil matter (non-offender), please bring valid photo identification to ensure you are a party to the case. Due to confidentiality matters the Clerk's Office can't give information about civil cases unless they can prove that you are a listed party.

Court Process

Courtroom Conduct

Do

- Be respectful and quiet when observing in the courtroom
- Exercise self-control no matter what is said in the courtroom
- Turn off your cell phone or electronic device.
- Speak respectfully when addressing the judicial officer and other courtroom staff Answer “Yes, your honor” or “No, your honor” to the judicial officer’s questions
- Ask the questioner to repeat or clarify any questions that you do not understand
- Direct your answers to and make eye contact with the person who asks a question

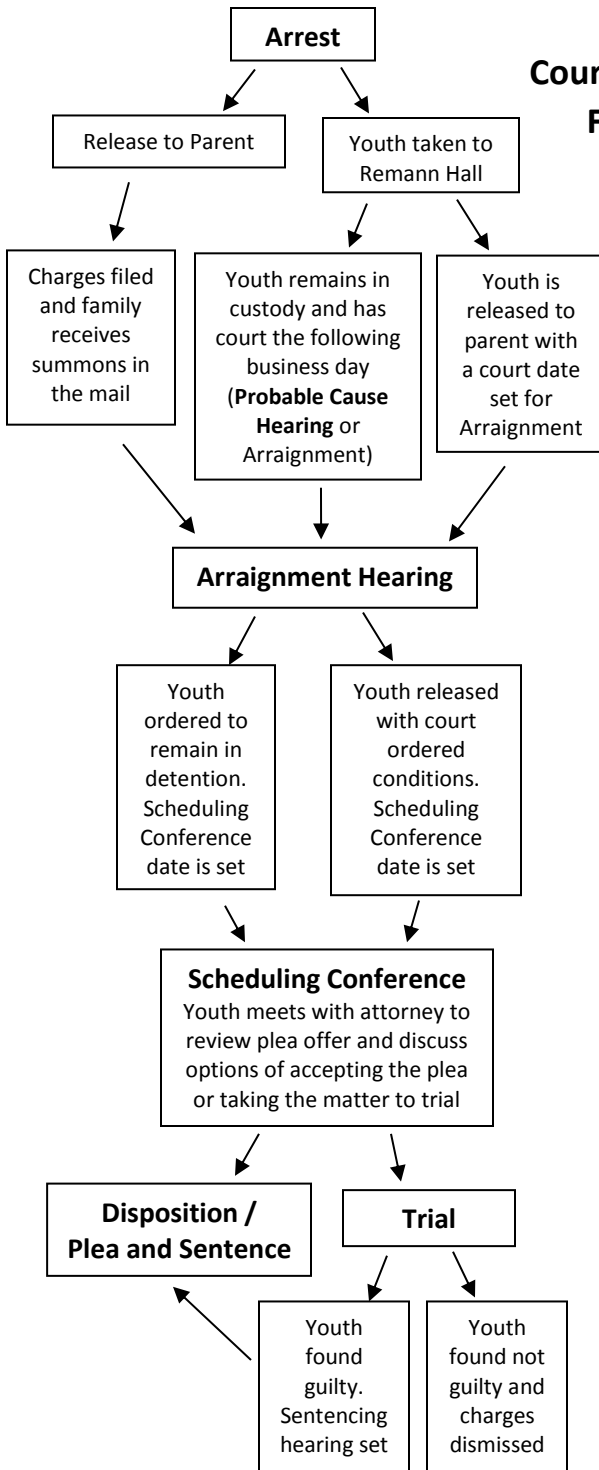
Do Not

- Chew gum or bring food or beverages into the courtroom
- Read the newspaper, listen to music, use your phone or laptop or talk to other people while waiting in the courtroom
- Make faces, roll your eyes, or otherwise show negative reactions to something happening in the courtroom
- Argue with the judicial officer or courtroom staff. Don’t act angry or short-tempered with the judicial officer even if you are upset by your case
- Interrupt
- React to the answer of witnesses or to the questions of the other parties to display your displeasure

Types of court hearings

The following pages show a flowchart of the court process, and explain the different hearings you may attend.

Court Process Flowchart



Court Process

Probable Cause Hearing

This is the first hearing for a youth who is in detention on investigation of a new charge. At this hearing, the court must determine whether enough evidence exists to believe that the youth was involved in the crime. This is called probable cause. While questions may be asked during this hearing about the crime, it is not the trial.

- The youth will be represented by an attorney at this hearing.
- The court determines whether there is probable cause in the case and then decides whether to release or keep the youth in detention.
- If the youth is kept in detention after the hearing, the Prosecutor's Office has 72 hours (3 days) to file charges. If no charges are filed in 72 hours (3 days), the youth will be released. Charges still may be filed later. If charges are filed, the youth will receive notice in the mail.
- If charges are filed, the youth will have an arraignment hearing within 72 hours.

Notes/Questions:

Next court date: _____

Court Process

Arraignment Hearing

The arraignment hearing is usually the first step in the Juvenile Court process for youth who have been accused of a crime. It is the hearing where the Prosecutor's Office officially notifies the youth that they have filed criminal charges.

- The youth's attorney will help the youth decide whether to enter a plea of guilty or not guilty. Most of the time, the youth's attorney will enter a plea of not guilty to begin the case. This allows the attorney more time to speak with the youth about the case, and preserves trial rights of the youth.
- After the arraignment, the court will decide if the youth should be released or kept in detention.
- The court may order the youth into Alternative Detention Services (ADS), to attend school, to follow a curfew, or to abide by home rules.
- The court will then set a scheduling conference date.

Notes/Questions:

Next court date: _____

Court Process

Scheduling Conference

The scheduling conference is a time for the youth to meet with his/her attorney to discuss the case. **This is not a court hearing.** The scheduling conference will take place in the lobby, not in a courtroom.

- The youth and a parent/guardian **MUST** be present.
- Scheduling conferences start at 1:00 p.m. Be prepared to wait.
- The prosecutor and defense attorney will meet to review the facts of the offense. The youth is included in this process.
- It will be decided if the youth will plead guilty or not guilty to the charges.
- If the youth intends to plead not guilty, a trial date will be set.
- If the youth intends to plead guilty, a disposition hearing will be set. A sentencing recommendation will be agreed upon to offer the court; this may include community supervision (probation), community service hours, fines, and/or detention time.
- Before leaving the building, your attorney will give you a copy of the scheduling conference decision setting your next court date.

Notes/Questions:

Next court date: _____

Court Process

Trial

If the youth feels that he/she is innocent of the crime(s) they are charged with, they can take the case to trial.

- Witnesses may be called to testify by the prosecutor and by the defense attorney.
- There is no jury for a trial. The judge makes the decision.
- If the judge decides that the youth is **NOT GUILTY**, the youth is free to go and the court process is over.
- If the judge decides that the youth is **GUILTY**, a disposition hearing will be scheduled to determine the youth's sentence.
- Before leaving the building, your attorney will give you a copy of a court order setting your next court date, if any.

Notes/Questions:

Court Process

Disposition

A disposition hearing can also be called a sentencing hearing, or a plea and sentencing hearing. The youth will have a disposition hearing either because they are pleading guilty or because they were found guilty at trial.

- At the hearing, the judge will review the case, ask questions, hear from all parties in the case, and speak to the victims of the crime if they decide to attend.
- The judge will consider the recommendations given by the probation counselor and the attorneys before sentencing the youth.
- Sentences are based on the criminal history of the youth, the seriousness of the crime, compliance during pretrial, and the amount of time required to provide services related to a youth's risk factors.
- Sentences may include community supervision (probation), community service hours, restitution and fines, counseling or detention time. If a youth is sentenced to detention, s/he can either be placed in secure detention or ordered to serve detention time on electronic home monitoring.

Notes/Questions:

Court Process

Probation Violation Hearing

If there is an allegation that the youth did not obey the court order while on probation, a probation violation hearing is held.

- The judge will hear evidence from the prosecutor and probation counselor that the youth allegedly has not obeyed the order.
- The youth's attorney may also present evidence during this hearing.
- The youth may admit or deny the violation of their court order.
- If the youth denies the violation, a contested violation hearing will be set.
- If the youth admits to the violation, the judge decides what sanctions, or punishment may be ordered.

Notes/Questions:

Court Process

Revocation Hearing

If the youth does not follow the court order, a revocation hearing may be set in certain circumstances. Revocation hearings are done in **Deferred Disposition, SSODA, CMDA, and Option B cases.**

- At the revocation hearing, the judge will listen to the evidence provided by the probation counselor, prosecutor, and defense attorney.
- If the judge agrees that the youth has not been in compliance with the court order, the judge will revoke the deferred disposition and re-sentence the youth.
- In a suspended sentence, such as SSODA, CMDA or Option B, a youth who violates the court order may have their suspended sentence revoked and their original sentence imposed.
- The youth may receive community supervision (probation), community service hours, restitution and fines, counseling, detention time, or institution time.

Notes/Questions:

Court Process

Restitution Hearing

The restitution hearing establishes the amount of money the youth is ordered to pay their victims. Paying restitution means paying the victim back for their losses due to the crime.

- This can include costs to repair or replace damaged property, the cost of medical treatment, lost wages from being out of work, and/or the cost of counseling.
- The youth will also be ordered to pay another fee called the Crime Victim Penalty Assessment. This order happens at the disposition hearing. Payments are made in the same manner as restitution.
- Payments are made in person or by mail to the Court Clerk's Office located at Remann Hall, 5501 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA 98406.
- Payments sent by mail must be in the form of a money order or cashiers check. If the payment is made in person, you may pay by cash. **Please do not mail in cash.**
- Restitution is supervised by the court until the full amount is paid. After a youth turns 18 years old, any remaining balance may be sent to a collections agency, if payments are not made.
- If you have questions, please contact your attorney or your probation counselor. If you are the victim, please contact the Prosecutor's Victim Advocacy Unit at (253) 798-3342 or (253) 798-3420.

Notes/Questions:

Court Process

Additional Hearings

Detention Review: A detention review is held any time a party wants to change the detention status of a youth, i.e. to ask for release if the youth is in detention, to ask for a youth to be detained, or to ask that a detained youth be placed on a less restrictive option.

Omnibus hearing: This hearing is used to prepare for the fact-finding trial. It is usually held in the week before the week of trial. At this hearing, the prosecutor and defense attorney informs the court of the status of the trial preparation. The judge may also resolve outstanding issues that need to be decided before the trial can go forward. If there is more to be done for the parties to be ready for trial, this is often the time when the court will decide whether the trial should be continued (or postponed). If the parties are ready for trial, they will provide the information the court will need to conduct the trial appropriately.

Competency: A hearing in which the judge decides whether the juvenile is "competent" to be tried. A juvenile cannot be tried if he or she is not competent. To be competent, the juvenile must be able to understand the court process and be able to assist the attorney in his or her defense. If the youth is not able to accomplish these because of a mental condition, the youth cannot stand trial.

Declination hearing / Decline hearing: A hearing in which the judge decides whether the youth's case will be tried in juvenile court or transferred to adult court.

Motions: Any time a party asks the judge for a legal ruling on a specific issue, it is called a "motion". There can be motions on many different issues. They can be specially scheduled in front of a judge, or if they relate directly to a trial, they usually will be heard at the start of the trial.

Community Supervision (Probation)

The Community Supervision Unit supervises moderate- and high-risk youth who are placed on probation by the court. The needs of the youth and family are determined by a risk assessment process which is administered to every youth prior to being placed on probation. The risk assessment process enables the probation counselor, the youth and family to focus on certain domains in his/her life that contribute to the offending behavior. The youth and family are referred to services to address these areas.

Conditions of probation

Conditions of probation will vary from youth to youth depending on what the judge determines is appropriate. Common conditions of probation include attending court programs, attending school, and avoiding illegal substances. Sometimes the judge will also order counseling, drug/alcohol treatment, community service, or restitution.

Role of the Probation Counselor

The probation counselor will meet with or talk on the phone with the youth and parent regularly. The probation counselor is also a resource for the youth and family and can assist with talking to teachers and counselors and participate in encouraging the youth's progress in other areas.

While the probation counselor has the ability to request a probation violation hearing if the youth is not complying with probation conditions, it is much better for everyone if behavior issues can be resolved without having to return to court. Probation counselors have specialized training to work effectively with youth and are committed to helping them successfully finish probation and learn to make better choices.

Role of the Parent

Parents are strongly encouraged to know the youth's plan for probation and to attend all meetings with the probation counselor and the youth. The parent is an excellent source of information about how the youth is progressing or if the youth is struggling in certain areas.

Bench Warrant

What is a Bench Warrant?

A bench warrant may be issued by a judge when a youth violates conditions of the court order. Examples include a youth on runaway status or their whereabouts unknown for a period of 24 hours. Most often, the youth has simply failed to appear for their court hearing. Once a bench warrant is issued, however, the police can treat it like any other arrest warrant and use it to bring the youth back in front of the judge.

How do I quash my warrant?

A warrant can be quashed three ways:

1. Turn yourself into detention
2. Police arrest you on your warrant and book you into detention
3. Visit our Clerk's Office at Juvenile Court to set a court date to quash your warrant and continue with your hearing.

Number 3 is the preferred method. If you already have a probation counselor, you can contact them and request assistance in setting up a Warrant Quash hearing. Information about the Clerk's Office is on page 35 of this book.

Court Programs

Chemical Dependency/Mental Health Disposition Alternative (CMDA)

Chemical Dependency/Mental Health Disposition Alternative (CMDA) is an Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient Treatment program alternative for juvenile offenders complying with guidelines outlined in RCW

13.40.165.

- For youth granted the opportunity to participate, this program provides Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient Treatment and supervision services in a specialized caseload consisting of substance-abusing teenagers.
- Whether a youth is involved in a suspended commitment, deferred disposition, or local sanctions disposition, the framework of the program involves treatment and lifestyle change to promote a clean and sober living.
- An evaluation determines the level of treatment, which can include Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient Treatment or Intensive Inpatient Treatment.
- Youth are encouraged to participate in sober support meetings and obtain sponsors/mentors when available.
- Thirty to ninety-day reviews are held in open court and involve the treatment providers' reports and the probation counselor to discuss progress and recommendations for continued services. Probation violation hearings are scheduled when needed.
- Depending upon a youth's compliance and accountability towards the CMDA program criteria, he/she may successfully graduate, complete or face revocation from the program.
- Groups meet each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. at Remann Hall and surrounding communities.
- Court for CMDA youth is held the first and third Fridays of each month at 9:00 a.m.
- Youth are scheduled for court reviews every 30 to 90 days depending on how well they are doing in the CMDA Program.

Court Programs

Suspended Disposition Alternative – OPTION B

The Suspended Disposition Alternative, commonly referred to as Option B, provides an alternative disposition for youth who are facing a standard range commitment at a juvenile institution. Youth are assessed to determine their motivation in following through with programming and risk to the community.

- If the youth is eligible and deemed appropriate, they can be granted an Option B sentence.
- In these cases, the commitment is suspended and the youth is placed on probation. If the youth completes all of their court requirements during the probation period, the suspended commitment time is dismissed.
- If the youth reoffends or violates his court conditions, then probation may be revoked and the youth is required to serve their commitment time at a juvenile institution.
- Youth who are granted an Option B are required to participate in Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and/or the Aggression Replacement Training (ART) program.

Court Programs

Special Sex Offender Dispositional Alternative (SSODA)

The Special Sex Offender Disposition Alternative (SSODA) is a two-year probation program focused on sex offender therapy. Typically, youth granted a SSODA sentence serve a two-year probation term in lieu of serving their standard range commitment time at a state institution (Juvenile Rehabilitation [JR]), hence a “suspended sentence.” If a youth is out of compliance with the probation requirements and/or treatment, his/her probation sentence can be revoked and the youth is sentenced to serve the maximum standard range sentence at the institution.

There are several factors considered determining a youth’s eligibility for SSODA, primarily:

- Psychosexual evaluation results
- Polygraph results
- Family support and ability to supervise (supervision requirements are strict)
- Youth’s motivation to comply with SSODA conditions

All above factors are part of assessing a youth’s “risk to community” and ability to be “rehabilitated” in the community.

Court Programs

Functional Family Therapy (FFT)

Functional Family Therapy (FFT) is an evidence-based, in-home family therapy designed to match to the family needs and strengthen family relationships. The sessions are free and are held at times which are convenient to the family's schedule. Many families have a total of 12 weekly sessions. The probation counselor determines through an assessment if a family is eligible for this program. FFT is most effective when the entire family is involved in the service.

Aggression Replacement Training (ART)

Washington State Aggression Replacement Training (WSART) is an evidence-based, skills training program for moderate- and high-risk offenders on community supervision. Youth will learn pro-social thinking and behavior skills to reduce aggression, decrease criminal activity, and become aware of errors in their thinking that lead to poor decision-making. The class is three days a week for ten weeks, and classes are held at sites throughout the county.

Coordination of Services – “Building New Bridges”

Coordination of Services (COS) is a research-based, educational program for low-risk offenders. COS teaches skills for better family relationships and provides information about services available in the community. Youth attend this 2-day weekend seminar along with their parent or caregiver. The program is designed to help juvenile offenders avoid further involvement with the criminal justice system.

GOAL – Girls Only Active Learning

Girls Only Active Learning (GOAL) is a gender-responsive adaptation of Aggression Replacement Training. The program addresses risk and needs for adolescent females, and it is being evaluated for effectiveness in six counties in Washington State. The program is for girls (ages 12-17) who are experiencing conflict or behavior problems at home or at school, and girls who are involved in or at risk of being involved in the justice system.

Court Programs

Alliances

Alliances is a 9-12 month, specialized juvenile probation program for youth with a mental health diagnosis that is affecting multiple areas of their life. This program is different from standard probation in that we connect youth and families in team planning and focus on individualized needs and goals. Youth and families will work closely with a team that includes a parent partner, youth advocate, probation counselor, the youth's therapist, and a care coordinator.

Pathways to Success

Pathways to Success is a unique, 9-12 month, specialized juvenile probation program for African American youth. It is different than standard probation in that youth and families are part of a support team and play an important role in determining what will work best for individual and family needs. The support team includes a youth advocate, parent partner, probation counselor, and a care coordinator.

Work Crew

The court operates two work crews – one for Diversion and one for Community Supervision (probation) youth. The work crews partner with small businesses and non-profit organizations to offer youth an opportunity to give back to the community with service hours.

Court & Family Partnership

Family Council

The Family Council is an advisory group of family members and young adults with experience in the juvenile justice system. The Council was formed under a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation to assist court staff with program and policy changes. The Council meets monthly, and voting members are compensated. Applications are accepted year-round. Contact FamilyCouncil.PCJC@gmail.com

Court Programs – Community Partnerships

The Juvenile Court partners with community organizations to provide opportunities to youth in the court system.

Arts Connect

Arts Connect is a program in partnership with the Hilltop Artists Program, for girls in Pierce County who are involved with diversion or on community supervision. A team of adults, including professional artists and a probation counselor, lead weekly classes. Hands-on projects are generated from group discussions and writing activities about identity, society, and healthy lifestyles. A family style dinner is served each class, and girls can arrive early for homework help or to talk with mentors.

Tacoma Community Boat Builders

The program provides opportunities to youth who are involved in diversion or community supervision. In addition to boat building, youth are learning practical math skills, patience in wood working, water safety, and each youth builds a toolbox they take with them upon graduation of the program.

Evening Reporting Center

Staff from Juvenile Court and the YMCA partner to provide 4 hours of life skill building activities every Friday. The center is located at the YMCA at University of Washington Tacoma campus. Youth who come to the center also have the option to participate in the YMCA's Teen Late Nite program.

Educational Advocate Program

The Educational Advocate Program, offered by the Puget Sound Educational Service District, provides educational support to teens involved with juvenile justice. The goal is to re-engage youth in an educational program and improve academic success. For more information, call 253-778-7839.

Juvenile Court Directory

Main Juvenile Court number	253-798-7900
Adoption Services	253-798-7976
At-Risk Youth/Child in Needs of Services	253-798-7900
Community Supervision (Probation)	253-798-7900
Clerk's Office	253-798-7973
Dependency Services	253-798-7900
Detention (Secure Confinement)	253-798-7900
Diversion	253-798-7981
Prosecutor	253-798-3400
Remann Hall School / Day Reporting School	253-571-2670
Truancy	253-798-7900
Volunteer Services	253-798-3837

Other phone numbers:

Clerk's Office

Location: Remann Hall, 5501 6th Ave., Tacoma, WA 98406

Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 253-798-7973

Services available in the Clerk's Office:

Set hearings for existing court cases

- Quash a bench warrant
- Motion to reinstate driving privilege
- Motion to lift sex offender registration
- Motion to restore firearm rights
- Motion to seal offender record

File new petitions or legal documents on existing cases

- At-Risk Youth
- Child in Need of Services
- Emancipation of Minor

Other services

- Purchase plain or certified copies of documents
- Make payments for restitution/fines, detention/attorney costs and fees Note: The Clerk's Office accepts only cash, cashier's checks or money orders
- Request information about upcoming court dates
- Apply for legal counsel on dependency/termination cases
- Request archived records to be retrieved

Community Resources

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Asian Counseling Services	253-301-5250
BRIDGES: A Center for Grieving Children	253-403-1966
Catholic Community Services Counseling Center	253-502-2696
FAST and Wraparound (Optum)	253-292-4200
WISe	253-208-1016
Comprehensive Life Resources (public health)	253-396-5800
CRISIS LINE for Pierce County (24 hours a day)	1-800-576-7764
Community Counseling Institute	253-759-0852
Consejo Counseling and Referral	253-414-7461
Good Samaritan Behavioral Health	1-888-445-8120
Greater Lakes Mental Healthcare (public health)	253-581-7020
Hope Sparks Tacoma	253-565-4485
Puyallup	253-845-0864
Kwawachee (Puyallup Tribal Health Authority)	253-593-0247
Pacific Lutheran University Couple & Family Therapy Center	253-535-8782
Sexual Assault Center for Pierce County	253-474-7273 or 1-800-756-7273
Sea Mar Behavioral Health Tacoma	253-396-1624
Puyallup	253-864-4770
Gig Harbor	253-280-9888

Community Resources

Family and Youth Services

<p>A Common Voice Parent-to-parent support in navigating youth-serving systems: juvenile justice, mental health, and special education. One-on-one and group support is available. acommonvoice.org</p>	253-537-2145
<p>Community Youth Services – Pierce County Drop-in resource center for ages 12-24, and a young adult shelter for ages 18-24. Crisis Residential Center provides emergency, short term shelter for youth ages 12-17. CommunityYouthServices.org/piercecounty.shtml</p>	253-256-3087 253-212-3432
<p>Educational Advocacy The Puget Sound Educational Service District provides educational support to teens involved in juvenile justice, to re-engage youth in an educational program & improve academic success.</p>	253-778-7839
<p>Oasis Youth Center Drop-in and support center dedicated to the needs of LGBTQ youth ages 14-24. oasisyouthcenter.org</p>	253-671-2838
<p>REACH Center One-stop service center for young people ages 16-24 looking to advance their educations and careers. Also provides support to young people experiencing homelessness. http://reachtacoma.org</p>	253-573-6590
<p>Team Child Provides civil and legal advocacy and community education to help youth access community-based services. teamchild.org</p>	253-272-9929

Community Resources

South Sound 2-1-1

Operated by United Way of Pierce County, South Sound 2-1-1 is a comprehensive information and referral line serving Pierce, Thurston, and Lewis Counties. By dialing 2-1-1, callers can talk to a live Information and Referral Specialist, Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Specialists can guide the caller to programs that meet their unique needs.



The most requested resources include rent assistance, housing and shelter programs, dental care, health care programs, holiday gifts, utility assistance, transportation, food, clothing, furniture, house goods and employment.

Glossary

Adjudication – A court decision, by the judge, that the youth is guilty of a charged offense.

Allegations – Something that a person says is the truth, but hasn't yet been proven (the offenses that the prosecutor accuses the youth of committing are allegations until proven in court).

Arraignment – the court hearing where the accused youth is formally advised of the charges against them and of their rights (the accused person enters a plea of guilty or not guilty).

ART – Aggression Replacement Training. A Pierce County program which has three classes per week for ten weeks to improve decision-making skills, anger control and moral reasoning.

ADS – Alternative Detention Services. Programs that are developed with the understanding that alternatives to secure detention ensure a youth's appearance at future court hearings and minimizes the likelihood of new offenses while the youth is in the community.

Attorney – A trained legal professional licensed to represent people in court, also called a lawyer.

Charge – The act that a youth is formally accused of committing.

Conditional release – Occurs when a respondent is released from court custody under supervision of a parent, social worker, or court service officer. There are usually specific conditions to the release that if violated will return the youth to court custody.

Continuance – A postponement of a court hearing.

Counsel – Another name for an attorney.

Court-appointed counsel – An attorney who is appointed by the court to represent the youth.

Crime – See Offense.

Cross-examination – Questions asked of a witness by the attorney for the party who did not call the witness to testify.

Curfew – When a child is required by law or court order to be at home or off the streets by a certain time of day.

Glossary

Custodian – The person who has the legal right to control what a child does and also the responsibility to meet a child’s basic needs (parents, guardians, or the state can have custody of a child).

Declination or decline hearing – The process of determining whether the case of a youth with certain serious charges will be transferred to an adult criminal court, where they will be tried, and if convicted, sentenced as an adult.

Detention – A locked facility where youth wait for their next court hearing or placement.

Disposition – The juvenile justice system’s version of a court sentence (a judge decides the disposition at a hearing).

Diversion – When a youth is referred to juvenile court as a first-, second-, or third-time offender with certain misdemeanor crimes, the case may be handled outside of the court process. This is sometimes handled through a community based accountability board.

Due process – Courts must follow a fair and just process; for example, they must give youth notice of hearings and the right to present their side of an argument.

Evidence-Based Programs (EBP) – carefully studied treatment programs that have research that proves their effectiveness.

Felony – An act or serious crime that carries the potential punishment of long term detention (less serious crimes are called misdemeanors).

FFT – Functional Family Therapy, a short-term family-based prevention/intervention program for moderate- and high-risk youth.

Guardian – An adult who has the legal right to make decisions about and care for a child. A guardian can be the child’s parent, family member, an unrelated adult, or the state.

Hearing – Court meetings that may take place in the court waiting room with the attorney or in a courtroom before a judge.

Interrogation – The questioning of a respondent, suspect or witness.

Glossary

JR – Juvenile Rehabilitation is a division of DSHS that serves Washington State's highest-risk offender youth. Youth may be committed to JR custody by any county juvenile court. Juvenile courts follow prescribed sentencing guidelines to determine which youth will be committed to JR. These youth typically have committed serious crimes or multiple lower-level offenses.

Jurisdiction – The court's power to hear and to decide a case against a youth.

Juvenile – Any individual who is under the chronological age of eighteen years.

Miranda Rights or Miranda Warnings – Warnings that are received when a youth is arrested, that advise the youth of the right to remain silent and the right to have a lawyer.

Misdemeanor – A criminal offense that is less serious than a felony.

Offense – An act that if committed by an adult would be considered a crime.

Plea bargain – When a youth's lawyer and the prosecutor make a deal to resolve an offense charge; usually the youth agrees to plead guilty in exchange for a reduction in the number or severity of charges.

Predisposition report – a report prepared by a probation counselor for the Judge's consideration at the Disposition Hearing. This report includes a review of the youth's behavior and family history

Probable cause hearing – A hearing held after the youth is brought into detention in which the judge decides whether the court has the authority, based on available evidence, to continue proceedings against the youth.

Probation – Youth who are placed on probation by a judge are assessed by juvenile probation counselors (JPC) to determine the level of supervision needed in the community, to ensure progress is being made toward conditions of a court order, and that appropriate services are provided to the youth and family.

Glossary

Probation Counselor – a juvenile court professional whose duties include preparing reports for the court and supervising youth under the court’s jurisdiction.

Prosecution – The process of bringing a person to trial for criminal charges.

Prosecutor – A county attorney who charges a juvenile respondent with a crime and proceeds to obtain an adjudication.

Public defender – An attorney appointed by the court to represent a juvenile respondent who is unable to hire an attorney.

Recidivating / Recidivism – Repeated criminal adjudications.

Respondent – A youth under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court who is accused of violating any federal, state or municipal law.

Restitution – Payment to a victim for damage or loss caused by the defendant.

Status offenses – Behaviors which are only illegal for individuals under age 18, such as running away from home. Adults cannot be charged with status offenses.

Statute – A law that was adopted or passed by the state legislature.

Subpoena – A legal document requiring the person named in the subpoena to appear on a stated day and time at a specified court to give testimony in a case.

Trial – A hearing where the prosecutor and the youth’s defense attorney will question witnesses on the details of the crime of which the youth has been accused. The judge will decide, based on the law and the evidence presented, whether the youth is guilty or not guilty of the alleged offense.

Testimony – A statement or declaration made to establish a fact or facts and given under oath.

Truant – A child or youth with five unexcused absences from school in one month or 10 in a school year.

