

Navigating the Juvenile Justice System in Maine

A Handbook for Young People and Families



Created by Young People and Families with lived experience in collaboration with THRIVE, Youth MOVE Maine, and Maine's Department of Corrections



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About Young People and Families-

This handbook would not have been possible without a dedicated and diverse group of young people and families whose insight was integral to the development of this guide. This group was able to use their experience with the juvenile justice system to provide feedback on working toward improvements for the future.

About THRIVE-

THRIVE is an independent non-profit agency that provides training and technical assistance on system of care principles and practices. THRIVE is working in partnership with the Department of Corrections, local agencies, families, and young people to improve services and supports.

About Youth Move Maine-

Youth MOVE Maine is a statewide, regionally based youth and young adult-driven organization dedicated to ensuring that all young people have a say in the decisions that impact their lives. YMM supports young people's efforts to improve policies in mental health, juvenile justice, and other systems of care, build skills for youth-adult partnerships and take leadership in raising awareness that makes a difference in others' lives and in their communities.

About Maine's Department of Corrections, Juvenile Services-

Juvenile Services aims to promote public safety by offering juvenile offenders necessary interventions, quality treatment services, and the development of skills and competencies to reduce the likelihood of re-offending. The department is also committed to ensuring accountability to victims and communities.

www.thriveinitiative.org

www.youthmovemaine.org



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Contact Information

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JCCO

Name:

Phone:

Reporting Instructions:

Attorney

Name:

Phone:

.....

Court

Date:

Address:

Time:

Introduction



Becoming involved in the juvenile justice system can be overwhelming and scary. Whatever emotions you may be feeling, you will probably be able to better understand and know more about potential outcomes of your involvement with juvenile services. This handbook is designed to help you learn about how the juvenile justice system works in Maine, and what resources are available to support you and your family. It was written to give

guidance on a very complex and confusing system, and to assist you in participating in the decisions that will impact you. You can use this guide from the time of arrest until time of release. This guide provides information about:

- What is going to happen as you go through the system
- Ways that you, your JCCO, and the juvenile court can work together
- Your rights and responsibilities while involved with juvenile services
- Expectations for behavior and consequences of probation violations
- Advocacy tips
- Resources and supports available in the community

There is space provided for you to take notes and record important information, like court dates and important contacts. It is easy to become overwhelmed with all of the information being given from many different people and places at many different times. Hopefully, this handbook will help to ease some of the confusion.

The information in this handbook is **not** legal advice. Always consult a lawyer before making any decisions regarding your case.

Rights & Responsibilities

Youth rights

- To know, in advance, of the place and time of all scheduled hearings;
- To be present at all hearings;
- To know the nature of the charges;
- To know, in advance, what information will be given to the judge;
- Disposition (sentencing) of your case without delay;
- To ask questions (cross examine) witnesses at all hearings;
- To require witnesses to come to court or get other evidence before the court;
- To offer information to the court at all hearings;
- To have a lawyer who does not have a conflict of interest, regardless of ability to pay;
- To not be required to testify;
- To have the state prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt;

Parent and Guardian rights

- To be notified if your child is arrested or held by the police
- To know why your child is in police custody and where your child is being held
- To have a lawyer for your child
- To be allowed to see your child, and be with your child during all questioning
- Your child should consult with an attorney before giving up his or her rights.



KIDS LEGAL is a statewide project within Pine Tree Legal Assistance. We specialize in legal services addressing the needs of low-income Maine children and youth. Our services are free of charge. We provide direct representation, consultations and group trainings.

Our Services:

- Represent children and youth individually or through their caretakers (but not in juvenile Court proceedings)
- Consult with attorneys and community providers regarding the rights of youth in Maine
- Train groups on legal issues affecting low-income children and youth in Maine
- Write client education materials on youth rights in Maine

Cases We Take:

- School issues including special education, discipline, enrollment barriers and truancy
- Legal issues facing unaccompanied youth
- Public benefits for minors
- Access to needed medical services
- Safety issues in some family law matters
- Teen parents (under 18) and legal issues they face

Contact Us:

- 1-866-624-7787 (toll-free)
- See our website: www.kidslegal.org



JUST DIAL 2-1-1

2-1-1 Maine, Inc. is a nonprofit organization formed in partnership with United Ways of Maine, the Opportunity Alliance, and the State of Maine to develop a health and human services information and referral service system to serve the entire State of Maine, every day and in times of crisis.

2-1-1 is Quick and Easy to Use:

We all know to dial 9-1-1 for medical and health emergencies. We also know to dial 4-1-1 for directory assistance. And now, finding the answers to health and human services information and resources is as quick and easy as dialing 2-1-1 or logging onto www.211maine.org.

Toll Free Line: 1 (877) 463-6207

To assist families looking for resources for relatives living in Maine, or if you are having difficulty dialing 2-1-1, an in-state/out-of-state toll free number is available. This line is staffed 24 hours a day by the 2-1-1 Call Specialists, to provide the same service to the public.

When should I dial 2-1-1?

2-1-1 represents a better and easier way to find answers to a wide range of issues including (but not limited to):

Counseling, Domestic Violence Programs, Emergency Shelter, Substance Abuse, Housing, Health Care, Legal Assistance, Maternal/child health services, Suicide Prevention, Child Care Assistance, Parenting Education Programs, Disability Services, Child Development, Children's Health & Insurance, Basic Needs -clothing, food and shelter.



How to Work Effectively with Maine Police during a Mental Health Crisis:

Tips for Families of Children and Youth with Mental, Emotional, or Behavioral Health Needs
Adapted from the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health Tip Sheets

(See Page 26-29)

MAINE CRISIS NUMBER 1-888-568-1112

This information is made possible by the work and collaboration of the G.E.A.R. Parent Network's Afterhours Family Assets Program, (AFAP). This group has been meeting over the past two years across the state. The AFAP was developed uniquely by families and parents to promote discussions and develop working relationships among law enforcement, families, youth and providers. We are a National Search Institute Developmental Assets Initiative and we are very grateful to the National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health and the International Association of Chiefs of Police for their direction and encouragement.

Parents: Is 911 in YOUR Crisis Plan?

In communities that are rural and encompass a large geographical region there are times when crisis providers may not be able to respond in a timely fashion. If the child or youth is exhibiting potentially dangerous or unlawful behavior people are often forced for safety reasons to call 911 for assistance. The National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health advises families raising a child with serious mental health needs to develop a crisis plan with their mental health providers.

Being a Good Advocate

To advocate means to speak or write in favor of; support or urge by argument; or to recommend publicly. An advocate is a person who speaks or writes in support of a person, cause, etc. It is a person who pleads for or on behalf of another –it means to fight for your children, to defend them.

Things to keep in mind when advocating for your child

Keep informed – information is power. The more you know about your child’s and his/her situation, the better you will be able to advocate on his/her behalf.

Start a folder or a file, or get an envelope or a box, where you can keep any papers about your child (Court documents, letters from services providers, letters from child’s lawyer, schools reports, etc.). Put it in a safe place where you can always find it.

Always introduce yourself to whomever you are talking with & let them know how you are related to the child (parent, relative, guardian, etc.)

Whenever you talk to someone, be sure to get their full name & their phone number/business card. Also, if you can, find out their position (counselor, community reintegration coordinator, law clerk, etc.).

Keep track of all calls and other correspondence. Be sure to include the date, the name of the person you corresponded with and the nature of the correspondence.

Join with other parents and families who are concerned about their children in the juvenile justice system – there is power

in numbers.

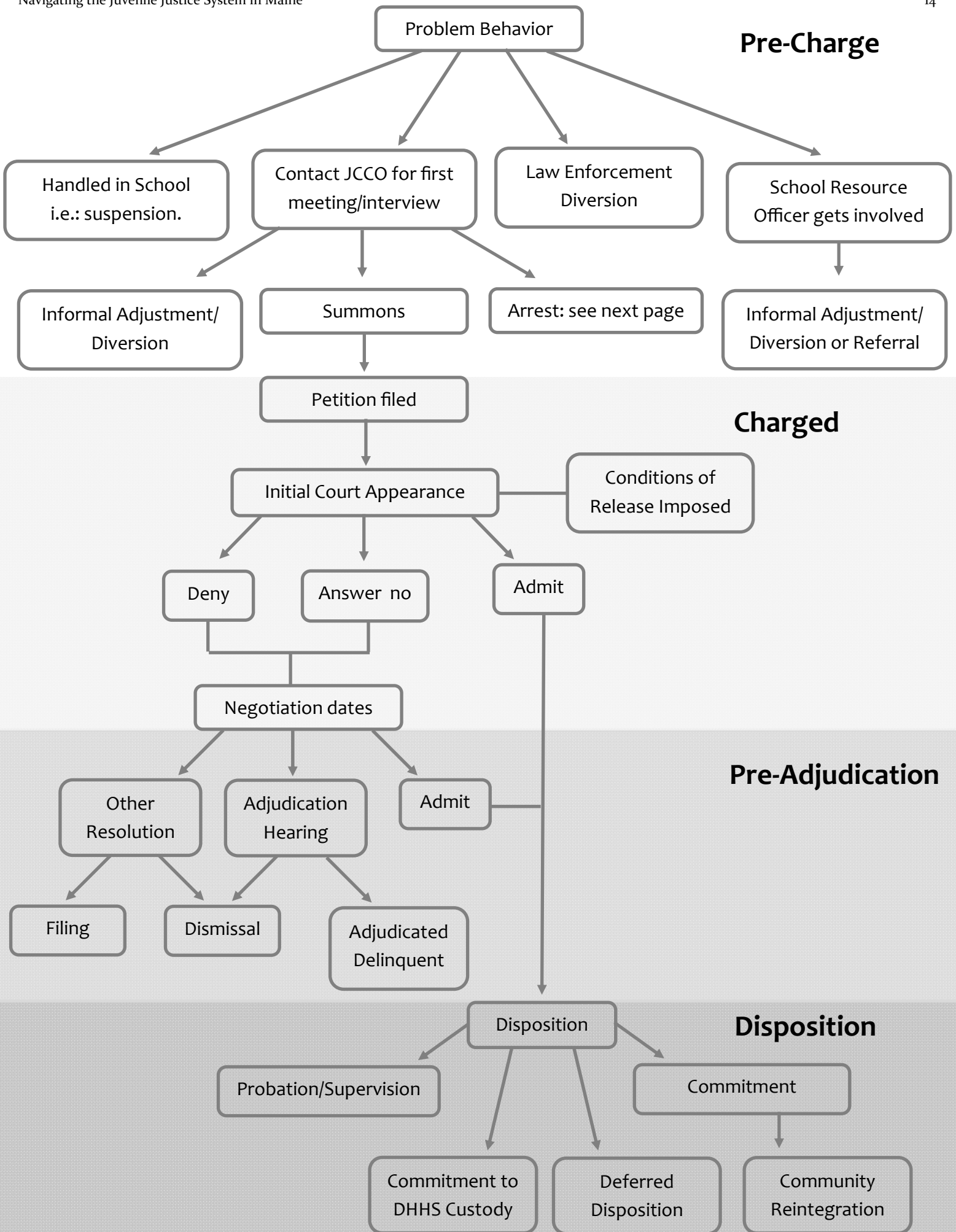
Be a role model for your child and keep your cool. A lot of situations may arise that make you angry and frustrated, but if you can take that anger and use it to be strong and clear in what you say, rather than attacking, you will more often have better results.

Attend and arrive for meetings and court dates on time. If you’re unable to go, let your lawyer or JCCO know in advance.

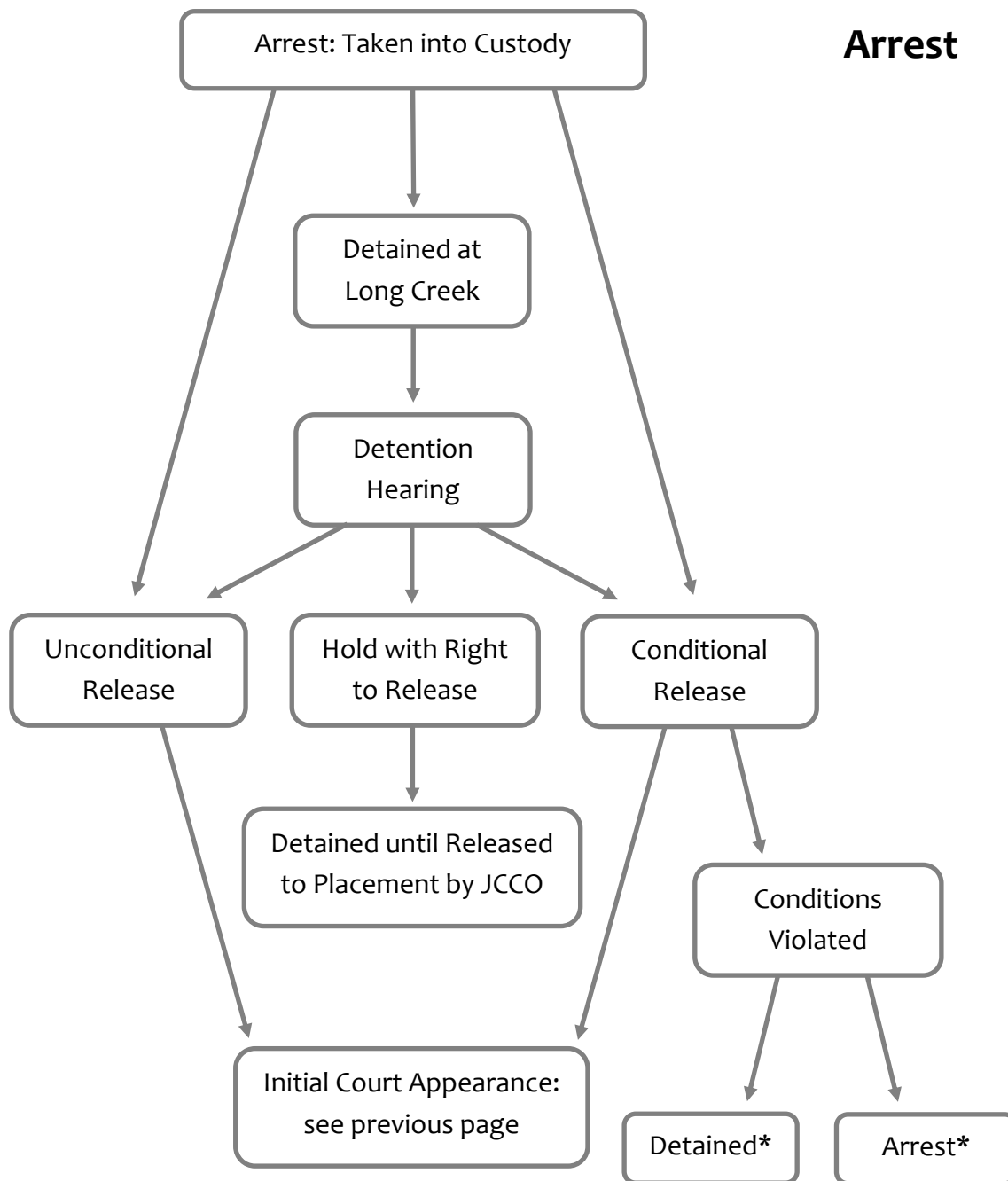
Even if it feels awkward or intimidating, speak up at meetings to provide additional information or to give input on your needs. Be persistent. Ask if you would like someone to support you or help express your needs.

The courts, DOC and their contracted service providers are required by State and Federal statute to provide interpreting services. If the primary language of the youth and family is not English, then a request should be made for professional interpreting services. This is also true for youth and parents/guardians who are hearing impaired and in need of an American Sign Language interpreter.





Arrest



As the Juvenile Justice flowchart shows, the typical process you can expect upon arrest depends upon whether or not you are released or detained. Once you have gone through the intake process with your JCCO, there are several potential outcomes: The case could be dismissed; your JCCO may recommend an Informal Adjustment or Diversion; or a petition will be filed to determine whether or not you will be adjudicated (found guilty). Instead of getting sentenced, your child receives a “disposition.” Expect that you may have several review hearings before your case is finally resolved.

Information



A Juvenile Case starts with a service of a summons or an arrest

The police may simply serve a summons if they believe that your child has committed an offense. A summons is **not an arrest**. Your child will not be taken into custody. Both you and your child must sign the summons and must go to Court when the summons indicates. If your child does not show up at Court, a bench warrant will be issued for his/her arrest. A summons is a piece of paper that says what your child is being accused of. It will also have a date and time of when your child must go to Court. It is however possible for a juvenile to be given a summons after arrest. It isn't necessarily one and not the other.

The parent or legal guardian must receive a copy of the juvenile summons either in hand, by mail or by leaving the summons with an appropriate person at the guardian's residence. Parents should know that the law requires they get notice of the juvenile's charges and court date as well.

It is important that at least one parent or a legal guardian appear in Court with the juvenile. Some judges will not proceed without a parent present and will reschedule the matter for a later date and issue another summons to the parent.

A youth under 18 who breaks the law may be charged with a **juvenile crime**. His/her case will be handled by the Juvenile Justice System, including Juvenile Community Corrections and the Juvenile Court. This is true even if the juvenile is emancipated. If a juvenile is adjudicated of committing a juvenile crime, that adjudication is not deemed a conviction of a crime under Maine Law. Your child is adjudicated if he/she formally "admits" to the juvenile crime in Juvenile Court or he/she is found, after a hearing by the Judge, to have committed the offense.

Some illegal acts committed by juveniles are NOT considered juvenile crimes by statute. For example, operating a motor vehicle without a license and most other motor vehicle related crimes are NOT juvenile crimes. Possession of tobacco by a minor is one example of a civil infraction that is NOT a juvenile crime. If a juvenile commits an illegal act that is **not** a juvenile crime, he/she will be given a summons to appear in the "adult" District Court or the Unified Criminal Court, and the case will be heard along with all other adult offenses. The confidentiality provisions that apply in Juvenile Court do not apply to matters handled in Maine's District or Unified Courts even if the person charged is a juvenile.

In certain juvenile cases, there may be a request by the State to have a juvenile tried as an adult. This is called a **"bind-over"** proceeding. The District Attorney may ask for a bind-over hearing if the youth is charged with a serious crime (a felony that involves violence or weapons, or a large amount of drugs). If after hearing, a bind-over is ordered by the Court, the case will be removed from juvenile Court and the youth will be treated as an adult. This is something that rarely happens in Maine.

Adjudication

As mentioned above, an adjudication is **not deemed a conviction under Maine law**. Often forms, such as job applications, housing applications, and college applications ask the person filling it out to check a box if he/she have ever been convicted of a crime. Even if your child has been "adjudicated" of a juvenile crime, the correct answer when asked if ever convicted of a crime is "No."

Information

An **Arrest** is being taken into custody by the police. **It means you are not free to leave.** If a youth is arrested, a police officer or Juvenile Community Corrections Officer (JCCO) must contact one of the youth's parents or a legal guardian and tell them where the youth is. A JCCO is assigned to every juvenile who is charged with an offense as soon as he or she is charged.

Police Questioning

Before questioning your child, a police officer must try to contact his/her parents or legal guardian. Your child must tell the police his/her real name and address. He/she does not have to tell them anything else. If he/she asks for a lawyer, the police have to stop questioning. You can also ask for a lawyer for your child. It is important to know that anything your child says maybe used against him/her later and that your child has the right to remain silent.

Parents

One of a child's parents or a legal guardian must attend all proceedings in the Juvenile Court. If there are good reasons why a parent cannot attend, tell the Judge as soon as possible.

Asking for a lawyer

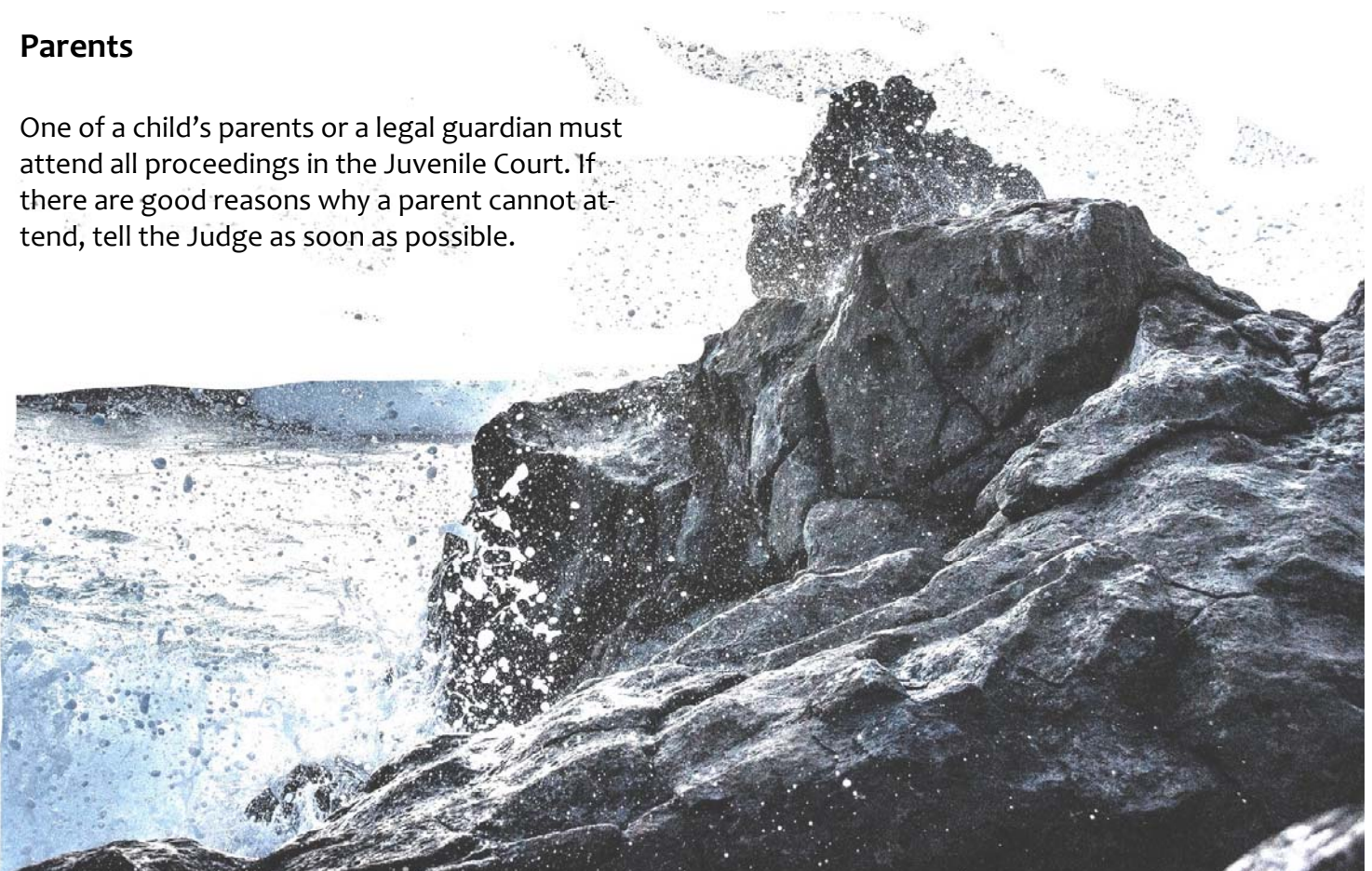
Your child has a right to a lawyer, and it is important to ask for one. Asking for a lawyer does not mean that you or your child thinks he/she is guilty.

Juvenile Community Corrections Officers (JCCO)

The JCCO is the "probation officer" or "juvenile intake officer." A JCCO can be assigned to any juvenile who is charged with a juvenile offense as soon as he/she is charged.

To find out who your child's JCCO is, you can call:

Region I (Portland) 822-0092
Region I (Biddeford) 286-2683
Region II (Auburn) 783-5383
Region III (Bangor) 941-3130
Central Office 287-4362



Information

After Arrest

One of these things can happen after your child is arrested:

An **unconditional release** means your child is released from custody, he/she does not have to follow any conditions and he/she has to go to Court on his/her scheduled date if a summons is given.

A **conditional release** means your child must live at home or where the JCCO says, and must follow all conditions imposed on them until his/her Court date or until an informal adjustment contract is signed. If your child does not follow the conditions, he/she can be arrested or detained.

Detention means that your child is placed in one of two juvenile detention facilities in Maine (Mountain View Youth Development Center in Charleston or Long Creek Youth Development Center in South Portland). Juveniles can never be housed with adults.

Informal Adjustment

If a youth is a first time offender or the charges concerned are relatively minor, a JCCO may offer to divert the case from Court through an informal adjustment. With an informal adjustment your child's case could be resolved without having to appear in court. Instead, your child agrees to complete certain actions by a certain date. It can be no longer than six months. Both the Assistant District Attorney and any victims must be in agreement with diverting the case from Court. The first step toward getting an "informal adjustment" is scheduling a meeting with you, your child and the JCCO. This meeting should occur **before** going to Court. You can call your child's JCCO to schedule the meeting if you have not heard from him/her.



What your child says in this initial meeting regarding the alleged offense cannot be used against your child later. This is because as part of the informal adjustment process your child must admit what he/she did and explain what happened.

After meeting with you and your child, the JCCO will decide if it is better to have your child meet certain conditions instead of going to Court. The conditions of the informal adjustment are developed by the JCCO with input from the youth, the parents/guardians and victims. They can include community service, restitution or a letter of apology for the victim. If your child agrees to the terms and follows them, then the case does not go to Court. This out-of-court decision is called an "informal adjustment." If your child fails to complete the conditions of the informal adjustment, the case will be forwarded to the District Attorney for prosecution in the Juvenile Court.

Information

Initial Court Appearance

Unless your child had a detention hearing, this is his/her first appearance in the Juvenile Court. (If the juvenile agreed to an [“informal adjustment”](#) with the JCCO and has followed all the conditions, then he/she will not reach this stage).

At the initial appearance, the charge against your child will be read aloud and your child will be called upon to either: admit, deny or enter “no answer” to the charge(s).

Remember, have your child talk to an attorney first! In most Courts there will be a **lawyer of the day** at Court. This lawyer is there to talk to all the juveniles who are charged with a juvenile offense who do not have an attorney. The lawyer will talk to you and your child and will advise your child of his/her rights. Anything your child tells the lawyer is confidential. Your child is the lawyer’s client, not you. Your child should talk to the lawyer of the day before talking to the District Attorney. After talking to you and your child, the lawyer of the day may help settle the case.

If your child denies the charge, and you and your child want a lawyer for the rest of the case, you can either retain an attorney privately to represent your child, or you can fill out a financial affidavit asking the Court to appoint a lawyer to your child if you

can not afford to hire an attorney. The Court can appoint an attorney either free of charge or at low cost if you qualify financially.

If your child **admits** to the charge, it is like he/she pled “guilty.” By admitting to the charge, your child will be “adjudicated.” The Court will move to the “disposition” phase, which is the sentence phase.

If your child **denies or enters “no answer”** to the charge, make sure that you and your child meet with the child’s lawyer as soon as possible. Do not wait for your lawyer to call you and your child. The Court will schedule the first hearing. Several team meetings or ADA/attorney negotiations may be scheduled prior to a first hearing date. Consult with your child’s lawyer to see if your presence at these meetings is required or would be beneficial to your child. Prior to the first negotiation day you should schedule a meeting with you, your child and their attorney to discuss the case in further detail. There will not be a trial, so your child does not need to bring witnesses. Your child’s lawyer **must** be present at these hearings. This is a good time to bring in proof of counseling, community service, good performance at school, etc. This will help your child’s lawyer negotiate a better **disposition** for him/her.



Information



The Adjudication Hearing

Most cases are resolved by agreement and never go to formal trial (which is called an adjudicatory hearing in the Juvenile Court). But if your child denies the charge and requests an adjudicatory hearing, the State must prove that he/she committed the offense. If the parent has resources, the court can order the parent to pay. There are no jury trials in Juvenile Court, cases are only heard by a Judge. If the Judge finds that your child committed the offense, then your child is “adjudged”. Your child’s case will then move on to a “dispositional” hearing. The dispositional hearing may be on a different day from the adjudication hearing

Detention Hearing

If your child is detained in a detention facility, he/she must have a Court hearing within **48 hours**. This does not include weekends and holidays. At that hearing, the judge will decide if your child should stay in the detention facility

until a later date, or if he/she can be released (either conditionally or unconditionally) until then. If your child is detained, he/she is often referred to as a “hold for Court.”

The Court will appoint a lawyer for the day to represent your child at the detention hearing if your child does not already have a lawyer. It is important to have a lawyer at the detention hearing. The judge will be deciding if your child will be released from court with conditions or remain in a juvenile detention facility until the next hearing. This could take several days or weeks, if services or placements need to be arranged. If you qualify for a Court-appointed lawyer, you may ask the Court to appoint your child the same lawyer for both the detention hearing and for the remainder of your child’s case. Then you and your child will not have to start in with a new lawyer later on.

“Filed” Cases

One option of resolving your child’s case is by filing his/her case. Your child’s case is put on hold. Your child will be given conditions to follow for a period of time, usually six months or one year. One condition will always be that your child not get in trouble of any kind with the police. Other conditions may be going to school, doing community service, paying restitution, not having contact with certain people, and counseling. If your child follows all the conditions for the specified time period, his/her case will automatically be dismissed by the Court without the need to return to Court. If your child does not follow the conditions of a filing agreement the State can file a Motion to have the case brought back to Court for further hearings.

Information

The Disposition Hearing

Instead of getting sentenced, your child receives a “disposition.” The primary purpose of the disposition is to rehabilitate your child. The Court will order the terms of the disposition, but most dispositions are agreed to without a hearing. It is very important that your child has a lawyer represent him/her in negotiating a disposition.

The State, through the District Attorney, will make recommendations to the Court. Your child also has a right to argue for a specific disposition, and he/she can introduce evidence (school records, counselor statement, family testimony, etc.) to support his/her position. The Court may ask the JCCO what he or she thinks the disposition of your child’s case should be.

The Court may order that your child complete a **psychological evaluation** before making a decision on what his/her disposition should be. After the Judge hears all the evidence, he/she will decide on a disposition. The Judge’s decision is based on what is best for your child and the public. Even if your child has an agreement with the State, the Judge will still review it to make sure that your child’s interests and the public’s interests are protected.

A common disposition is a “suspended” disposition with probation. If your child violates the conditions of probation then he/she may be summonsed for the violation or may be detained if they pose a risk to community safety. The JCCO supervising your child may file a Motion to Revoke Probation and a Judge may determine that he/she needs to serve the suspended part of the disposition.

Sometimes the underlying suspended disposition may simply be 30 days or it may be an **indeterminate commitment to a juvenile correctional facility up to the age of 21**. This means that a youth is not given a specific period of time to be served at a juvenile facility but is committed to the custody of a juvenile facility until a specific age (for example: their 18th birthday). If your child is ordered to serve an indeterminate commitment, he/she may be released from the facility for community reintegration placement before the final date if he/she completes their treatment program. The treatment program includes counseling, behavior modification and education programs.

Community Reintegration

If your child finishes the detention facility’s program and is released early, he/she is still under the supervision of the Department of Corrections. If he/she violates the conditions given when released, your child can be sent back to the juvenile facility without a judicial review or Court appearance. He/she may have to redo the treatment program or possibly stay there until reaching the age of the original commitment.



Possible Outcomes



Commitment to a DOC juvenile facility– All juvenile commitments must be for an indeterminate period of not less than one year and up to age 21. This means the court sets the maximum amount of time a juvenile can spend in the facility, but DOC determines whether the juvenile can be returned to the community sooner. If a juvenile is released sooner than their "maximum release date," they are usually released on "community reintegration" and are required to abide by certain conditions. Although some youth are detained at Mountain View Youth Development Center, all juveniles committed to a juvenile correctional facility are housed at Long Creek Youth Development Center in South Portland.

Community Service– Must be completed for a recognized non-profit agency. Juveniles should confirm with their JCCO or the DA's office that the place they want to do the community service is approved before completing the work.

Deferred disposition– Youth progress is reported to court and reviewed after several months at which time the disposition is determined.

Department of Health and Human Services custody– The court may place the juvenile in the legal custody of the Department of Health and Human Services or the custody of a relative or other person. If the court is considering placing the juvenile in the custody of someone other than the parent(s), the parents must receive notice and are entitled to legal representation themselves. The court will appoint an attorney to represent any parent who is financially eligible for court-appointed counsel.

Dismissal– of your case

Filing– No DOC supervision or disposition. Case is reviewed by the court in one year. The petition is dismissed if no motion to restore the case to the docket is filed. That is the instrument that keeps the petition from being dismissed.

License suspensions– Juveniles adjudicated of OUI are subject to a mandatory 6 month license suspension ordered by the court. A juvenile who commits illegal transportation of liquor by a minor is subject to a mandatory 30 day license suspension regardless of whether the juvenile is adjudicated or the case is diverted from court. A juvenile's driver's license MAY also be suspended for up to 6 months if the juvenile is adjudicated of a drug offense including possession of marijuana.

Participation in treatment services– Participation in treatment services is almost always a condition of probation as the only way the court knows that the juvenile is engaged with counseling is through DOC supervision.

Restitution– The court may order you to pay the victim (s) for his or her losses (for example, to repair or replace property). The judge will consider the amount you can reasonably earn and pay.

Payment of a fine– The mandatory minimum fines for some offense such as possession of alcohol or OUI do NOT apply to juveniles.

Restorative justice– Juvenile courts are increasingly ordering juveniles to participate in restorative justice programs. Organizations and programs vary throughout the state, but restorative justice is a big part of many juvenile court dispositions.

Unconditional discharge– A disposition that means the adjudication remains, but the court is not ordering the juvenile to do anything after leaving court.

Court Appearance

When your child goes to Court:

First impressions mean a lot. People will judge your child by how he/she looks - it's unfair but true. When your child goes to Court, he/she will be "judged." How your child presents him/her self is very important.

Depending on why your child is at Court, it could be his/her freedom, where he/she lives, his/her right to drive and his/her money that is on the line. As much as your child may not like dressing differently from how he/she usually does, it is important.



What your child should not wear to Court:

hats anything referring to sex, violence, cigarettes, drugs, or alcohol (real or fake) anything with profanity hooded sweatshirts winter coat anything that looks like a cell phone or pager tank tops pajamas flip flops shorts short miniskirts (more than 2 inches above the knee) shirts that show any part of her belly or her cleavage pants that fall below his/her underwear untied sneakers/shoes anything dirty, with holes or with patches t-shirts any weapons including pocket knives no cigarettes in pockets or purses

Tattoos/Piercings::

It is better for your child not to wear any facial piercings or show his/her tattoos. If your child's tattoo has any naked body parts, swear words, drug or alcohol references or violence, make sure it is covered.

Speaking to the Judge



In addition to what your child wears, how he/she acts will also make an impression on the Court.

- Stand when talking to the Judge
- Stand up straight
- Sit up straight in the chair
- Keep your hands out of your pockets
- Speak clearly and loudly so the Judge can hear you
- Look at the Judge when talking to him/her
- Answer verbally - don't just nod, the proceedings are being recorded.
- Do not mumble
- Address the Judge as "Your Honor"

What your child should not do:

- Smoke cigarettes near the Court. Even outside, the judge, your child's probation officer or another law enforcement officer can see your child and possibly summons him/her for possession of tobacco by a minor. This would be a new charge.
- Discuss his/her case with friends or anyone in the hallway
- Talk about the party he/she just went to or how hung over he/she feels
- Talk about things that he/she has gotten away with
- Talk about how he/she is going to "celebrate" later

Final Tips for your Child:

- Arrive at Court on time.
- Stay focused on what is happening in Court. You can think and talk about other things later.
- Be respectful toward everyone you meet in Court - including clerks, judges, lawyers, witnesses.
- Treat Court as the serious event that it is.

For more information, contact a private attorney who handles juvenile defense matters

Who's who?

You'll meet lots of different people while involved with the juvenile court system and it's important to understand the role each person you will work with plays. Here are some key players you'll want to pay attention to:

JCCO— Your assigned Juvenile Community Corrections officer who is employed by the Department of Corrections to work with you and your family on successfully completing your disposition .

Judge— The judge is the person who presides over court and will conducts juvenile hearings.

District Attorney (DA)— An independent elected official who is part of the executive branch of government whose authority is completely independent of the court. The DA office is responsible for prosecuting or proving the charges against you.

Court Appointed Attorney— If you and your family cannot afford a private lawyer, you can fill out a financial aid form asking the court to appoint a lawyer. If you are eligible, the lawyer will then represent your interests for the rest of your case.

Private Attorney— Private attorneys are lawyers that you and your family pay for to represent your interests.

Lawyer of the Day — A lawyer available for your initial appearance to help you understand the process and to discuss your case. They can tell you what the DA's office is recommending and give you legal advice. You should always talk to the lawyer of the day before talking to the DA or making any decisions.

There is absolutely no charge to the juvenile or family for the lawyer of the day's assistance, regardless of whether the juvenile and/or family qualify for court-appointed counsel



Prepare for Court

If you have a lawyer, make sure you speak with them before your court date about what the plan for court is. Be prepared to speak if needed. You have a right to speak with the judge. Just make sure you discuss this option with your lawyer. Sometimes talking to the judge may be harmful to your case. You should always know what you are going to say and be on the same page as your lawyer.

Make sure you follow all of the terms of your supervision or probation (for example, keeping your curfew, attending school, or having a clean drug test). You can also work with your lawyer to find people who can speak positively about you in court.

Always show up for your scheduled court dates. When you go to court, dress professionally, as if you were going to an interview or some other formal occasion. Don't chew gum or wear a hat. Do everything you can to make a good impression. Unfortunately, judges can and often do make snap decisions based upon how you dress and behave.

How serious is it?

Crimes were traditionally classified as felonies (serious crimes punishable by more than one year in prison) and misdemeanors (less serious crimes punishable by one year or less in jail). Maine no longer uses these categories, but classifies crimes as follows:

- Class E: Crimes punishable by up to six months incarceration and a \$1,000 fine
- Class D: Crimes punishable by up to 364 days incarceration and a \$2,000 fine
- Class C: Crimes punishable by up to 5 years incarceration and a \$5,000 fine
- Class B: Crimes punishable by up to ten years incarceration and a \$20,000 fine
- Class A: Crimes punishable by up to 30 years incarceration and a \$50,000 fine

Some crimes fall outside of these classifications. For example, murder is punishable by a term of imprisonment of between 25 years and life. Special rules may also apply. For example, convicted organizations may be sentenced to pay fines in excess of those listed above. It should be noted that juvenile crimes are not classified specifically as “juvenile crimes”, but as “a juvenile crime that would be a Class __ if committed by an adult.”

What does your status mean?

Informal Adjustment- A voluntary arrangement between a JCCO and a young person that addresses damages done to a victim without filing a petition for court.

Probation- A legal status in which a young person has been adjudicated of a crime and is allowed to stay at home or be put in another placement. A JCCO is assigned to work with the young person and their support system to make sure they are successful in the community. If a violation of probation occurs, the JCCO will respond as necessary.

Detention- the holding of a juvenile in a locked, secure facility against his/her will to leave.

Commitment- Legal status when the court orders custody of a juvenile to be in a locked facility to receive treatment, education, and supervision.

For a full list of definitions, go to page 35.

Changes you might want to make while on supervision:

Don't smoke

Don't drink

Curfew

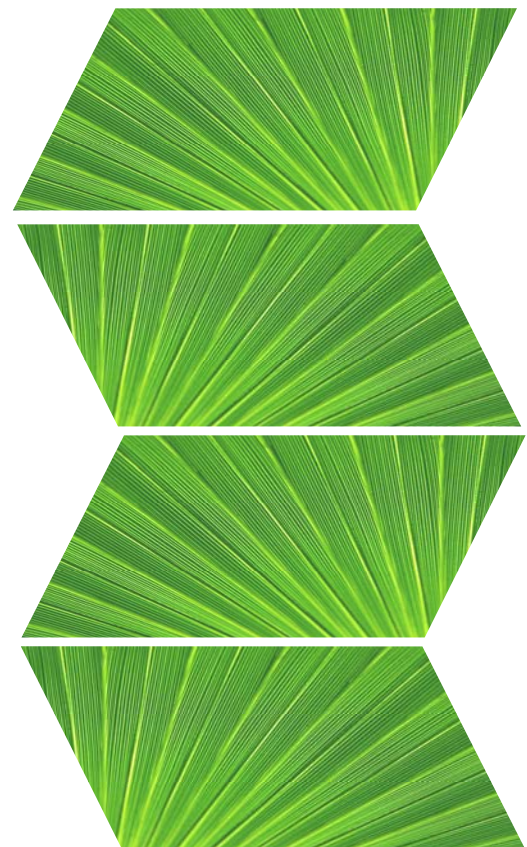
Go to school

Listen to your JCCO

If you aren't sure if you should do it, be sure to check.

Questions to Ask Your Lawyer

- What experience do you have in juvenile law?
- What costs will I be expected to pay? What if I can't pay?
- What sentence could my child get if he/she is found guilty?
- What are the steps we will face, and how long does it take to get through the court system?
- Will you keep me informed about the case and my child's options?
- Can I be present when you meet with my child? Can I speak with you privately?
- Can the charges be reduced? Will I have a say in any plea or plea agreement?
- Can we appeal after a plea bargain sentence?
- How can I make sure my child is getting his/her medicine, medical and psychological care while in custody?
- If my child has already done some time in detention for this offense, does that count in any sentence?
- What services can the court offer that may help my child or my family?
- Will I be responsible for these costs?
- What happens if the judge releases my child and I don't want my child at home?



Thoughts from someone who has been through what you're going through.

If you had to give advice to someone in entering the Juvenile Justice system for the first time, what would it be?

- *For anyone going into court or a facility as a young person - I recommend going in with your head up with a positive attitude. In my experience, I didn't always get what I wanted, but also in a way; it was what I needed at that time.*
- *Try your best to work hard and to not get in more trouble, because it's really difficult to work stuff out, and work on yourself as a person when you have extra charges.*
- *The most important thing is to keep your head up and think positively. When you keep a good attitude and stay positive about the future—you will find that your reality matches your perceptions.*

“When you make a mistake, there are only three things you should ever do about it: admit it, learn from it, and don't repeat it.”

-Paul “Bear” Bryant

Crisis Plan

What to include

- Child or youth's name, age, diagnosis, current medications and dosage
- How to help the child control his or her behavior
- Who to call for help if the child is unable to control potentially dangerous or unlawful behavior
- Parent or guardian's name and contact information
- Health care providers' name(s) and contact information

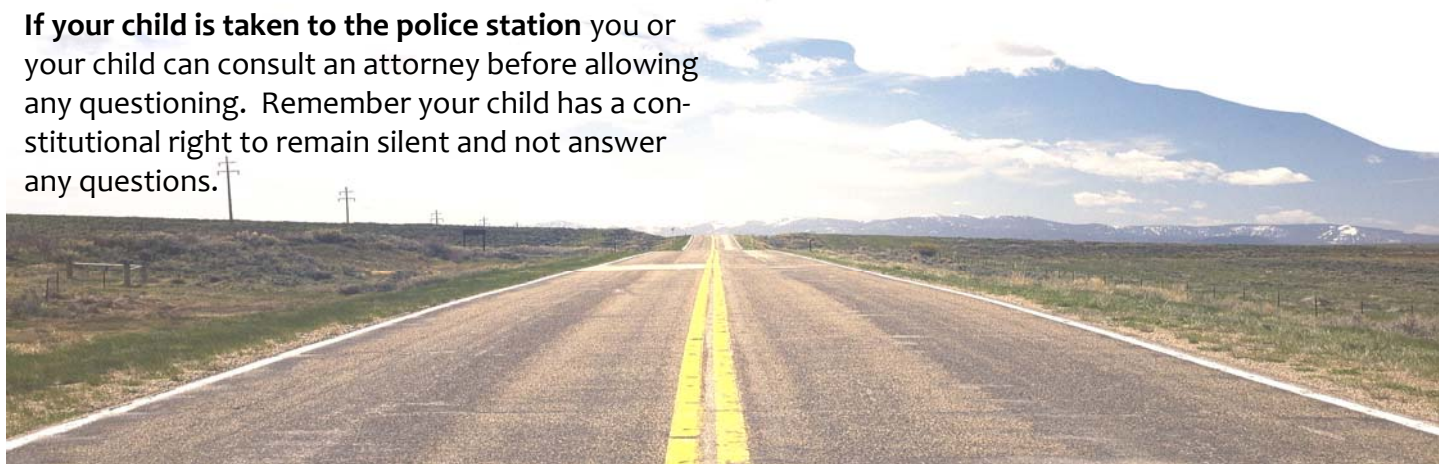
Many children and youth are able to list what others can do to help them regain control when they are in crisis. Those who are able should help to develop their own crisis plans. And, should know what steps will be taken to keep them and others safe in the event they are not able to gain control.

Before a 911 call becomes necessary, call your local police department or sheriff's office to ask if they have officers trained to deal with children or youth in crisis and how to get them to respond when you need them. (NOTE: If they have not received training, contact your local Federation chapter and encourage them to reach out to the department with information, resources and training.) Ask what to expect if you were to need assistance from your local enforcement officers.

If your child is taken to the police station you or your child can consult an attorney before allowing any questioning. Remember your child has a constitutional right to remain silent and not answer any questions.

If your child is arrested then Parents must give their permission before their minor child can be questioned by the police. After an arrest police can only question your child with your approval and they are required to stop questioning once an attorney is requested. If your child is arrested the Police should read you and your child their Miranda rights before attempting to questioning your child. You should consider consulting an attorney before giving your child permission to speak to the police.

After the arrest the local Juvenile Community Corrections Officer (JCCO) will be contacted by the police department. He may contact you for more information. Cooperate with the JCCO. If your child is arrested it doesn't necessarily mean that he or she will be taken to a detention facility. The JCCO will work with you and the police to determine the most appropriate outcome. Your child may be released to the custody of a parent or guardian with a *Conditions of Release in place and may include a strict curfew and/or other conditions. Make certain your child knows the importance of this agreement and follows these conditions. If your child has an IEP and is taken to a detention facility, insist that the IEP is continued and updated as needed to include necessary assessments and reentry planning.*



Crisis Plan

Youth: Is 911 in YOUR Crisis Plan?

Sometimes when a young person in mental, emotional or behavioral crisis appears to be a potential threat to him or herself and/or to others or is engaged in unlawful behavior, law enforcement officers are called to help.

How can you prevent a 911 from happening?

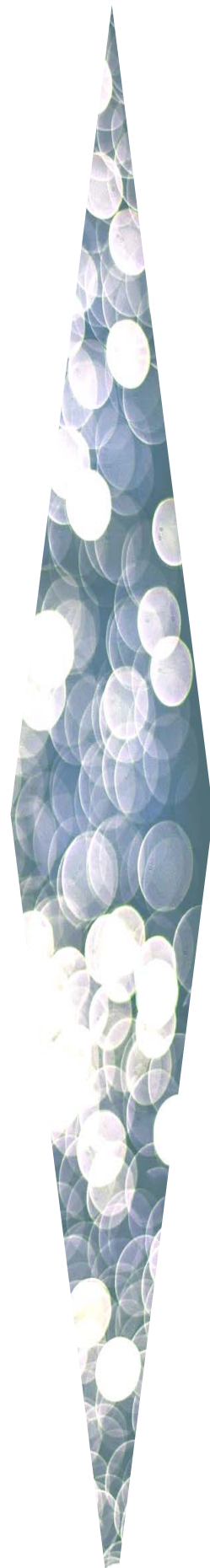
Help your family and friends know how to support you when you need to calm yourself and change your behavior. Create a list of ways they can help you and get that written into your crisis plan. If you are a student with an IEP, ask that this list be included in your IEP. And, ask that it be shared so all of your teachers, school resource officers, and other school personnel know how to help you.

If you are approached by the police:

- The officer needs to see that you are following his or her directions
- The officer needs to see that you are not going to hurt him or her or anyone else
- Keep your hands visible to the police officer
- Make no sudden movements or loud noises
- If the officer feels you are not able to control yourself, he or she may handcuff you
- Ask the officer to call your parents and let them know where you are.

If you are taken to the police department:

- Try to be polite and cooperative as possible. Remain calm.
- Ask your parents to be contacted to come to the police department.
- Remember you have the constitutional right to remain silent and do not have to answer any questions. You may request a lawyer if you are questioned by the police.



Police Intervention

When you call for police assistance:

1. Remain as calm as you possibly can. Take deep breaths, count to 10, and DON'T Panic.
2. Provide only facts as quickly and clearly as possible.

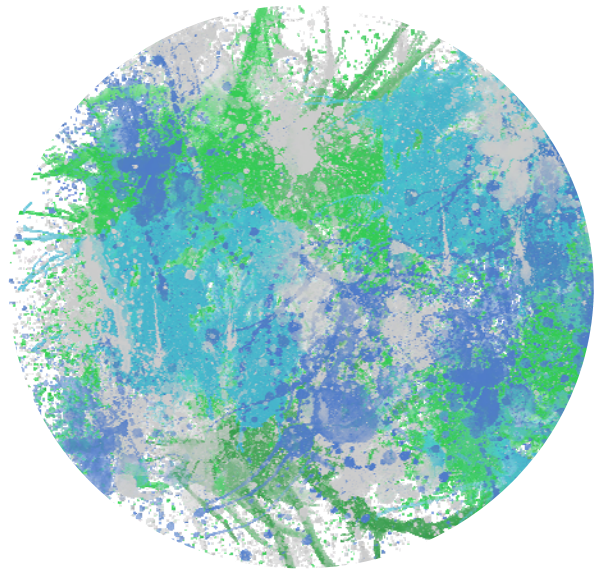
Example: I am calling from [address]. My 13 year old son is threatening to cut his sister. He has [diagnosis] and may be off of his medication and under the influence of alcohol. There are 4 of us in the house: my mother, my son and daughter and myself. None of us are able to calm him down. We need assistance.

3. Identify weapons in the vicinity or in your child's possession and alert the dispatcher.
4. Be specific about what type of police assistance you are asking for.

Example: We want to protect ourselves and get my son to the emergency room for a psychiatric evaluation, but cannot do that by ourselves. Please send help.

5. Answer any questions the dispatcher asks. Do not take offense when you are asked to repeat information. This is done to double check details and to help better assist you. Stay on the phone with the dispatcher until they say it is OK to hang up.
6. Offer information to the dispatcher about how the officer can help your child calm down. (Refer to previously filled out family info sheet)
7. Tell the dispatcher any additional information you can about what might cause your child's behavior to become more dangerous – suggest actions the officer should avoid.

REMEMBER: Your primary role in this situation is to be a good communicator. Your ability to remain calm and provide factual details is critical to the outcome of this situation. Every effort will be made to have a qualified professional respond to your situation.



Police Intervention

What to do When the Police Arrive

1. Be in a neutral position, if at all possible, when the officer arrives where you can identify yourself and provide any additional information before he encounters the youth who is out of control. For example, wait for the officer by the curb or in the front yard and state that you are the person who placed the 911 call.
2. Never rush toward or yell at the officer. Remember the responding officer will still be trying to assess who is in danger, who has information, and who is the person making the threats.
3. Have information available. Some family members have prepared index cards with diagnosis, medications, and provider contacts to give officers. Tell the officer if you have such written information but don't try to hand it to him until he tells you to do so.
4. Let the officer take charge and provide answers to his or her questions. Their mandate is to gain control over the situation for the safety of all involved.
5. Continue to provide information about what you know will help your child to de-escalate; what may cause him or her to become more agitated or threatening; and what resources may be immediately available (providers or emergency care facilities) as appropriate. In some cases, family members have arranged for an off-site person with intimate knowledge of their child's situation to stay on the line with the dispatcher in order to continue to provide the responding officers with guidance.

REMEMBER: Your ability to provide clear, concise and detailed information in a calm and effective manner can only help provide

For more information on issues related to youth and law enforcement:

National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

www.ffcmh.org or call 240-403-1901

State of Maine's Federation Chapter;

The G.E.A.R. Parent Network www.gearparentnetwork.com or

1-800-264-9224 (toll free in Maine)

The CMHS National Gains Center

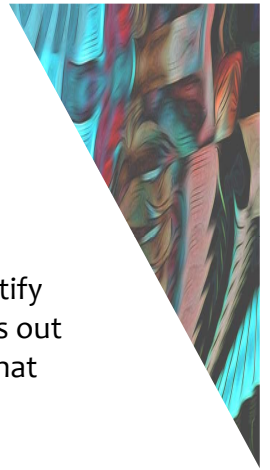
www.gainscenter.samhsa.gov or call 1-800-311-GAIN (toll free)

National Conference of State Legislatures

www.ncsl.org or call 202-624-5400 (Washington, D.C.) or

303-364-7700 (Denver, CO)

The National Center on Mental Health and Juvenile Justice



Problem Resolution

Youth and Family Guide to Resolving Concerns

The purpose of this section is to improve communication between you and your JCCO and make sure that you understand your rights, who to talk to if you have a concern, and the processes in place to resolve your concerns. Although this information is focused on how to handle your concerns, feel free to let the department or your JCCO know when things are going well, too!

Concern

- A matter of interest or importance to someone; anxiety; worry.
- Has occurred occasionally (once or twice)
- Most youth and family concerns fall into this category and will be resolved through this process.
- Example: JCCO not calling back or taking too long to respond; inappropriate comments



Action: Talk to your JCCO to express your concern; alternatively, you may contact the Regional Correctional Manager (RCM), the JCCO’s direct supervisor, if you are not comfortable speaking with your JCCO.

DOC Response: JCCO will acknowledge receipt of concern and discuss with RCM. Conversely, RCM will acknowledge receipt of concern to the youth/family (e.g., email or call) and discuss matter with JCCO. Additional steps may be taken at RCM discretion.

Complaint

- A situation that is unsatisfactory that happens consistently and has not been addressed
- A complaint should be lodged when a concern is expressed over the same issue and would be the next step to take if an issue was not resolved through the process outlined above.
- Examples: JCCO consistently does not respond to youth or family inquiries; needed paperwork is filed in a manner that adversely impacts service eligibility; JCCO does not follow-through on stated actions.



Action: A verbal or written description of the complaint submitted to RCM and Regional Correctional Administrator (RCA) but not a formal declaration of grievance.

DOC Response: A letter sent to youth and family outlining the department’s course of action and rationale.

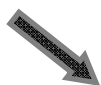
Problem Resolution

Grievance

-A formal allegation process regarding an action perceived to be in violation of rights or Departmental policy/procedures. This is the course of action when a complaint has not been resolved satisfactorily or the allegation is extremely serious. A grievance would be a persistent or extremely serious complaint.

-An action that is perceived to be in violation of rights or violation of Departments policy or procedures.

-Example: no response (written or documented) to a compliant (even if to say it cannot be addressed), inappropriate physical contact, boundary violations (uncomfortable with JCCO contact whether verbally or physically), racial/ethnic slurs,



Action: Contact RCM/RCA to request an official Grievance form per DOC Policy 29.01. Grievance to be submitted in writing to RCA/RCM within timeframes outlined in policy.



DOC Response: A Review Officer will respond to the grievant within 25 days of the grievance being filed.

Corrections Glossary

Please be aware that this is written to give a common understanding of most juvenile terms and is not meant to give a full legal definition of terms

The purposes of the Maine Juvenile Code per Title 15 MRSA are:

1. To secure for each juvenile such **care & guidance**, preferably in his/her own home, as will best serve his/her welfare & the interests of society.
2. To **preserve and strengthen family ties** whenever possible, including improvement of home environment.
3. To **remove a juvenile from the custody of his parents only when his/her welfare and safety or protection of the public would otherwise be endangered or where necessary to punish a child adjudicated as having committed a juvenile crime.**
4. To secure for any juvenile removed from the custody of his/her parents the necessary **treatment, care, guidance and discipline** to assist him/her in becoming a responsible and productive member of society.
5. To provide procedures through which the provisions of the law are executed and enforced and which will assure the parties **fair hearings** at which their **rights as citizens** are recognized and protected.
6. To provide **consequences** which may include those of a punitive nature, for repeated serious criminal behavior or repeated violations of probation conditions.

ADA- Assistant District Attorney.

Adjudication- Juvenile is adjudicated when found to have committed the offense by the Court, or when the child admits to the charge(s). Adjudication is similar to but not equal to a conviction.

Aftercare/Community reintegration- Juvenile has been fully committed to a juvenile facility and has been sent back into the community with conditions and is supervised by a JCCO.

Aggravating factors – in relationship to crimes, things that may increase the seriousness of a crime-use of weapon, physical injury to a victim, value of damage.

Arraignment/First/Initial Appearance- This is the date that appears on the summons where the juvenile is officially charged with the crime by the Court.

Arrest Warrant- A document issued by a judge for the purpose of locating, arresting, and/or holding the juvenile for the Court. Juvenile warrants often have a clause that allows the JCCO to release the juvenile.

Bail- Maine law **prohibits** juveniles from being released on bail. Instead, a Juvenile Community Corrections Officer must be contacted if police are requesting conditions of release or detention of any juvenile arrested on either a juvenile offense or non-juvenile offense. Conditions of release may NOT be imposed on a juvenile who commits a crime that is not a juvenile crime, as the Juvenile Code does not apply. That said, if a juvenile is arrested for a non-juvenile crime, there is statutory authority for a JCCO to order detention.

Bind-over- A legal process that results in the child being prosecuted as an adult in adult Court.

C-5- A legal disposition by the Juvenile Court placing a youth in DHHS custody. Reasons for a C-5 may vary but the Court must find that in-home treatment has been tried and the child's needs can't be met in the home.

Case Manager- A person who develops a case plan for treatment and services to address the needs of a youth. A case manager can be assigned to youth with mental health or other needs. The JCCO is considered to be the primary case manager of a youth if no other case manager has been assigned to them and is responsible for developing a case plan.

Case Plan- A plan to address the needs of a youth by targeting his/her specific areas of need with specific actions or services. In a DOC case plan, the aim is to reduce the youth's risk of future juvenile crimes.

Civil Violation- A legal charge for which the Court cannot impose confinement in a juvenile correctional facility. i.e., - possession of marijuana less than 1 ¼ ounces, possession of alcohol by a minor, possession of drug paraphernalia, curfew or tobacco violations. A disposition of a fine, community service or a combination or both can be imposed.

Cognitive Behavioral Treatment- This treatment is aimed at changing the thinking and attitudes behind criminal behavior. Research is showing that teaching new cognitive skills and rehearsing them is much more effective in reducing recidivism than straight punishment.

Commitment- Legal status whereby custody of a juvenile is given to the Department of Corrections and the juvenile is placed in a juvenile correctional facility. Commitment is usually imposed to a certain age (up to the age of 21) which would ensure no less than a year in a juvenile facility if conditions of probation are repeatedly violated or a new offense is committed.

Conditional Release – means the child must live at a JCCO approved placement, (usually home), and must follow conditions (curfew, attend school, etc.) imposed on them until his/her Court date. If he/she does not follow the rules, he/she can be arrested or detained.

Detention Hearing- A juvenile Court hearing for the purpose of holding a juvenile in a facility for a violation of law and meets the criteria and purpose of the juvenile code. Must be held within 48 working hours of a juvenile being held, excluding weekends and holidays.

D.H.H.S. - Department of Health and Human Services- Formerly DHS- the Maine State Department charged with serving youth, elders and family. Includes CBHS, Maine Care, food stamps, and child protective services.

Disposition – Action ordered by the Juvenile Court as a result of adjudication. May include placement at a correctional or treatment facility; probation; fines, restitutions or community service work.

Diversion- JCCO decides to keep minor charges out of the Court system with an attempt to help juveniles make better decisions while holding them accountable for their actions.

D.O.C.- The Department of Corrections, the State of Maine department charged with dealing with Juveniles in the corrections system.

Extradition/Interstate Compact Proceedings A legal Process in which a person charged with an alleged crime in one state is residing or found in another state and is returned to the charging state. The Interstate Compact Administrator, a representative of the Department of Corrections, will facilitate return of juveniles between states.

(The term “extradition” is generally not used in juvenile proceedings. Instead, the return process is pursuant to the Interstate Compact statutes, and is facilitated by the Interstate Compact Administrator who is a representative of the Department of Corrections.)

EBP (Evidence Based Practices) - DOC works to make sure that youth and families are referred to programs that are known to work for reducing repeated crimes. This includes assessing the youth and family and looking at what they believe they need to help them.

Felony- A Class A, B or C crime if committed by an adult, usually a significant crime such as Burglary, Aggravated Assault, or Gross Sexual Assault.

FFT- Functional Family Therapy: Family based prevention & intervention program therapy for youth who have demonstrated acting out behaviors. Designed to improve family communication and problem solving skills and includes phases that build on each other. These phases include engagement, motivation, assessment, behavior change and generalization (Sexton & Alexander, 2001).

Filing- A charge can be filed with the Court for up to 1 year at the request of the District Attorney's office. It can be filed with or without conditions. If the time period is completed without problems the charge is automatically dismissed.

Informal Adjustment (IA) - A supervision status where the Juvenile and guardian has met with the JCCO and agreed upon supervision and conditions to avoid a charge going to Court. Cannot be more than 6 months but can be very creative. Conditions may vary by case. The DA's office, the referring law enforcement agency, and the victim must be notified of the informal adjustment. The ADA can override the decision to handle the case out of Court. If the juvenile violates the agreement, the JCCO can send the case to Court.

Intake- An initial meeting with the Juvenile and Parent/guardian after the JCCO has received notice of a charge against a juvenile. For the purpose of information gathering and evaluating the situation, the JCCO is looking to see if they can divert the charge or what recommendations they need to make if the charge is sent on to Court.

Interstate Compact- An agreement by states that can allow a person on probation/parole to reside in another state and be supervised by the receiving state. (DHHS has a similar but different process for youth in DHHS custody). The Interstate Compact for Juveniles proceedings also apply to juveniles who have runaway and left their home state even if the juvenile has not committed a crime. In fact, the ICJ process is the only way a runaway juvenile can be returned if they have run away from their home state.

Jail- with regards to juveniles anyone under the age of 18 cannot be held in an adult facility. Anyone over the age of 18 may be held at an adult facility even when dealing with a juvenile charge.

JASAE- Juvenile Automated Substance Abuse Evaluation- A self reporting tool that serves as a quick evaluation of a juvenile's substance abuse issue.

JCCO- Juvenile Community Corrections Officer.

Juvenile Court- Whenever a Court deals with charges covered in the Maine Juvenile Code it is considered a Juvenile Court. It can be held in any district Court. Many cases on the juvenile docket are confidential and not open to the public. More serious or repeated juvenile crimes may be open to the public.

Juvenile Summons- Juvenile version of the Uniform Summons and Complaint used by police. The police issue the summons at the time they charge the juvenile. It contains information about the charge and the Court date, and location.

LCYDC- Long Creek Youth Development Center-Juvenile center serving southern Maine youth. It is located in South Portland and holds male and female committed and detained youth.

Least Restrictive Placement- When considering detention, a JCCO is required by law to recommend the least restrictive residential setting that will serve the purpose of the Maine juvenile code. A detention Center is the most restrictive so JCCOs are required to look at all possible other placements first.

Maine Juvenile Code- can be found at <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/search.htm> or at www.maine.gov is the part of Maine's Laws that deals with juvenile crimes.

Misdemeanor- A Class D or E crime if committed by an adult, usually minor crimes such as: theft, assault, or criminal mischief.

Motion to Revoke- A motion based upon a violation of probation conditions or a new offense.

MST- Multi-Systemic Therapy. Home-based family therapy program to reduce behaviors which have negatively impacted the youth's ability to function at home and in the community. The work is done with the family and all other systems where difficulties have been identified.

MVYDC-Mountain View Youth Development Center. Juvenile facility in Charleston, Maine serving youth in northern Maine.

MTFC- Multi-dimensional Treatment Foster Care- A 6 – 9 month program for youth unable to stay in their own home due to behavioral issues. The program uses a foster home model with specifically trained house parents to deal with the behaviors.

No Complaint- When the District Attorney's office reviews a case and finds insufficient evidence of a crime having been committed or determines that prosecution of the crime is not warranted.

NFS/NFA- No further Supervision/No Further Action- The JCCO has looked into the charge and dealt with the charge informally. Notice gets sent to the ADA, victim and referring police. The DA's Office has the right to override and send the case to Court.

OCFS- Office of Child and Family Services is the part of DHHS that provides mental health services for youth. The youth must receive MaineCare.

Petition- The formal document submitted to the Court stating the charges against a juvenile. The JCCO has investigated the charge and is unable to divert the charge. They then send a Petition Request Authorization to the DAs office asking them to take the charge.

Probation- A legal status in which the juvenile has been adjudicated of a crime and placed on probation. It can only be imposed by a Court, has a set time limit and the Court will set conditions. It must have a suspended disposition such as LCYDC indeterminate to age 18, 19, 20 or 21.

Probation Violation- When a JCCO believes that a juvenile has violated one or more of their conditions of probation, the JCCO returns the juvenile to Court one of 3 ways. 1- summons them to appear in Court, 2- Arrest them and detain them at a juvenile facility (only the most serious violations) 3- if they cannot find the juvenile, the JCCO can request an arrest warrant from the Court.

Risk Assessment- An assessment which can evaluate a juvenile's risk of recidivism or the probability of committing another crime by counting the factors in their life which research shows have been linked to continued criminal behavior. The YLS/CMI is the assessment which is used with juveniles. Research has shown that youth who are at moderate to high risk of recidivism need the highest level of services.

SCR- Supervised Conditions of Release- The juvenile has gone to Court and the Judge has ordered the juvenile to obey certain conditions. A conditional release contract will be signed by a judge and list the conditions. Youth who violate any of the conditions may be detained.

Technical or Status Violation- A violation of probation that does not constitute the commission of a new crime (IE curfew violations).

Tolled – Probation is tolled (the time does not count) from the time a juvenile is arrested for violating probation, receives a summons to appear in Court for a violation of probation, or an arrest warrant for a violation of probation has been requested until that violation has been resolved. For instance, if a juvenile placed on a year's probation in January violates probation and is served a summons in May for the violation and then admitted to the violation in August (i.e. 3 months after the motion to revoke was filed) then his/her probation would not end until April of the next year (i.e. 3 months after initial probation end date). In essence, tolled time is time spent on probation which does not count towards the amount of probation given by the Court.

Trial- Known as an adjudicatory hearing in Juvenile Court. When an agreement cannot be reached in a juvenile matter, it goes before a judge for a full decision. Juvenile trials are not seen by juries; however, juveniles are protected by all other Constitutional rights including the right to a lawyer, the right to remain silent, etc.

Violation- Not following the conditions of probation or Community Reintegration. May result in commitment or re-commitment to a juvenile facility or tolled time. A violation may be technical, e.g. a curfew violation, or a new criminal offense.

YLS-CMI-Youth level of Service- Case Management Inventory- an assessment done on every youth connected to a JCCO- Looks at factors that are known to increase the chances of a youth committing another crime. Those factors are then addressed in the juvenile's case plan.

References

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Prepare for Court: <https://pixabay.com/en/roof-brick-colorful-color-light-99895/>

What does your status: <https://pixabay.com/en/abstract-background-backgrounds-21851/>

Crisis Plan: <https://pixabay.com/en/street-road-horizon-endless-238458/>

<https://pixabay.com/en/sketch-travel-art-collage-painting-1838278/>

<https://pixabay.com/en/photography-taking-picture-display-801891/>

Police Intervention:

<https://pixabay.com/en/abstract-background-lines-art-deco-1668593/>

Entering the Juvenile Justice System for the first time is scary and challenging . There are a lot of things to know—and you may not know who to turn to for information. This guide is an attempt to explain some of the process and to answer some possible questions that you might have. In Maine, there are a lot of resources available to assist you along the way, not just as you enter the Juvenile Justice system, but also as you go through it, and transition out of it.

THRIVE, Youth MOVE Maine, and the Maine DOC consulted with youth and families who have been through the system, and asked them about their experience, and what they wished they had known when they went through it. It is important to know that you are not alone in this, and that there are people who have learned a lot through their journey, and they wish to share some of that with you.

This guide may not answer all of your questions, but hopefully it will at least give you a basic understanding of the process, and provide you with the resources you need to get any additional questions answered.



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