



JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

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Parent Information Pamphlet

Juvenile Justice System:

The juvenile justice system differs from the adult criminal system. The juvenile system concentrates on holding the youth accountable for their actions, while keeping the community safe, and repairing any harm that has been caused. If your child has been contacted by the police they will not be treated exactly the same as an adult who has been contacted by the police. The terms used in juvenile court also differ from those of the adult court.

<u>Juvenile Term</u>	<u>Similar Adult Term</u>
Adjudicated	Convicted / Guilty
Detention	Jail
Disposition	Sentencing
Hearing	Trial
Petition	Information/Indictment
Preliminary Hearing	Arraignment
Protective custody	Arrested
Youth Correctional Facility	Prison

The process:

After your child has been taken into custody or had contact with the police, a report is written and sent to the Juvenile Department.

Within 10 to 14 days of receiving the police report, your child will be assigned to a juvenile probation officer, or to our diversion program and a meeting will be scheduled for you and your child to meet with someone from the Juvenile Department who can explain the process as well as help you understand your options.

If your child is taken into custody by law enforcement, and placed at a Juvenile Detention Center, the Juvenile Department will contact you as soon as practicable.

Parent Role:

Unlike adults youth are usually dependent on family members who have a large impact on their choices. The partnership between the parent/guardian and the probation officer is vital to the youth's success. The probation officer relies on the parent/guardian interaction to help the youth through the process.

Right to have an attorney:

You have the right to have an attorney for your child, at your own expense, during any point in the process. Under certain circumstances, your child may qualify for a court appointed attorney.

Formal Probation:

Probation is a legal status that is imposed upon your child by a judge. A judge can impose a maximum probation of five years that shall not extend beyond the youth's 23rd birthday. Six months to two years is a common period of probation. The length of time depends on the seriousness of the offense, the level of supervision needed, and the youth's compliance with the conditions of probation.

Courtroom Conduct:

- Conversations must be kept to a minimum and in hushed tones.
- Attire must be neat, clean, and conservative. Shorts, hats, and flip flops may **NOT** be worn in the courtroom.
- Chewing gum, food, and drinks are not allowed in the courtroom.
- Address the judge as "Your Honor" and try to make a positive impression on the court.
- Remain standing unless the judge gives you specific permission to sit down.

Informal Supervision:

Your child may be placed on a Formal Accountability Agreement which is an informal agreement between the youth, youth's parents, and juvenile probation officer. An informal agreement with the juvenile probation officer has a maximum supervision period of 18 months.

Record Expunction:

A youth may apply for an expunction of their formal juvenile court record at any time, if five years have passed since their last police contact or juvenile court termination (end of probation). A youth who was on informal supervision may have their juvenile record expunged at age 18. When their supervision is terminated, whether formal or informal, all youth are provided an expunction application to fill out and return to the Juvenile Department to initiate this process.

After Hours Contact:

The Polk County Juvenile Department is open Monday through Friday 8:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. A juvenile probation officer is available 24-hours a day and directions to reach them are on the voice mail message system. If you are having an emergency please call 911.

School:

If your child is not attending school please start by setting up a meeting with your school's administrator/counselor. Communicate with them regularly and work together towards the youth's success.

Detention:

Only a judge or the court's designee can authorize placement of a youth into a juvenile detention facility. There are strict legal statutes outlining when a juvenile offender is eligible for detention. A parent cannot have their child placed in detention.

Juvenile Crime Victims:

If you are the victim of a juvenile offender, the Juvenile Department will work with you and the juvenile offender to attempt to recover your losses. A victim offender mediation program is available through the county and may be offered. A victim may initiate a civil process against the juvenile's parents. If you have questions regarding your rights as a victim, please contact the Juvenile Department and ask to speak with the probation officer who is assigned to the youth offender in your case.

For more information about the Polk County Juvenile Department please visit our website at www.co.polk.or.us/juvenile.