

Jefferson County Juvenile and Family Court Services

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Barbara L. Carr, Juvenile Court Administrator

It is the mission of the Juvenile and Family Court to provide services and case management to youth that hold them accountable for their actions, protect the community, and assist them in developing the skills to become a contributing member of a diverse community.

We recognize the importance of family and will seek to engage the parents of the youth to participate in the accomplishment of these goals through participation in programs and other interventions designed to develop positive parenting skills and an understanding of the family's role in the behavior of their child.

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Pre-Trial Services

When ordered by the Court, the Juvenile Services Department provides supervision and assistance to youth and their families while an offender action is pending. This includes a pre-screen for general information regarding possible risk factors and strengths within the life of a youth and their family. Minimal supervision is provided to support compliance with pre-trial release orders entered by the court.

Offender Case Management and Supervision

Offender case management and supervision includes holding youth accountable for their offending behavior in a manner that is designed to provide interventions and services to promote positive changes in the attitudes and behaviors of youth on community supervision, protecting the community from criminal behavior, and restoring the victims of crime.

- **Case management:** The JPC (Juvenile Probation Counselor) after completing the full risk and needs assessment designs a case plan specifically for each youth on their caseload, using resources that target specific interventions for individual targeted risk and protective factors.

- **Supervision:** The JPC is also responsible for monitoring the court order to ensure compliance by the youth while under community supervision. Youth are required to meet the terms of community supervision as set out by the court. The JPC reports violations of community supervision by setting up a hearing before the court and providing a recommendation as to the appropriate action to be taken by the court.

Risk and Needs Assessment

The risk and needs assessment is a crucial part of the case management process initiated by the Washington Juvenile Court Administrators in 1997. This risk assessment, developed by the Juvenile Court Administrators in conjunction with the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, assists probation counselors in determining the level of risk of reoffending, identifying targets for intervention, developing a case management plan and monitoring progress in reducing risk factors. Implementation of the risk assessment enables probation counselors to promote positive changes in the attitudes and behaviors in youth on community supervision while monitoring court-ordered sanctions.

Diversion

Diversion is a program for first-time juvenile offenders who are diverted out of the court system by the prosecuting attorney after an arrest. The Diversion Unit, made up of a program manager and volunteers, determines the terms and conditions of a "Diversion Agreement," including community restitution work, fines, restitution, educational classes, counseling or other available interventions.

Restorative Justice

Restorative Justice provides a different framework for understanding and responding to crime and victimization within the community. This is achieved by holding offenders accountable to the people and communities they have violated, restoring the emotional and material losses of victims, and providing a range of opportunities for community restitution. The Community Restitution program for youth in Jefferson County is based on this philosophy and works to create meaningful work experiences for youth that emphasize repairing the harm they have done to individuals and to the community at large.

Non-Offender Services

- **At-Risk Youth:** Refers to a youth who is absent from the home for at least 72 consecutive hours w/o consent of the parent; who is beyond the control of his or her parent such that the child's behavior endangers the health, safety or welfare of the child or any other person; or who has a substance abuse problem for which there are no pending criminal charges related to the substance abuse. Information regarding the At-Risk Youth program is available through Juvenile and Family Court Services – 385-9190
- **Child in Need of Services:** Refers to a youth who is in need of necessary services, including food, shelter, health care, clothing, educational intervention; whose parents have been unsuccessful in efforts to maintain the family structure; whose parents are unwilling or unable to maintain the family structure; or a child that is beyond the control of his/her parent such that the child's behavior endangers the health, safety, or welfare of the child or other person; has

exhibited certain behaviors which create a serious risk of harm to the health, safety, or welfare of the child or any other person. Information regarding a Child in Need of Services Petition is available through Juvenile and Family Court Services. 385-9190.

- **Truancy:** In Washington State, except under certain circumstances, children ages 8-17 are required by law to attend an approved school program. If a child who is required to attend school has up to 7 unexcused absences from school in a month or 10 unexcused absences in a school year the school district must file a petition with the juvenile court alleging a violation of the law governing compulsory school attendance. The role of the Juvenile Department in truancy cases is to monitor juveniles who are reported by the schools as truant, and assist them in complying with the requirement to attend school. The Truancy Interventionist meets with school officials and other collateral agencies involved in the case plan of the student and family and recommends resources to support or accelerate a successful resolution of truancy issues.
- **Emancipation:** When a petition for emancipation is considered or filed by a child over the age of 16, the Juvenile Department is appointed as the Guardian ad Litem for the petitioning juvenile. As such, the GAL will investigate the matter and provide the court with information addressing critical issues related to the emancipation of the minor, including ability of the juvenile to manage his/her own financial affairs, ability to manage his or her personal, social, education and non-financial affairs, criminal history, parental wishes, etc. The GAL will provide a recommendation to the court as to whether or not the petition is appropriate and emancipation is in the best interests of the child.

Intervention Programs

Intervention programs provided by the Juvenile and Family Court Services Department include Aggression Replacement Training (WSART), Functional Family Therapy (FFT), Girl's Circle and The Topside Program. Both WSART and FFT are evidence based programs proven to reduce recidivism. Girl's Circle is a gender responsive program for female offenders or girl's "at-risk," and Topside is Jefferson County's juvenile therapeutic court. Eligibility for these programs is based on the risk and needs assessment performed by the JPC.

- **WSART:** This program provides youth with group training in social skills, anger control and problem solving. The program is designed to reduce risk factors in these areas and to improve the youth's ability to deal with anger-provoking situations.
- **FFT:** FFT provides youth and families with an average of twelve sessions of family therapy. This style of therapy is designed to reduce negativity and blaming within the family and to increase the family's hope that change can be accomplished. The therapy focuses on identifying obtainable goals for the family and developing a behavior change program. This program works to improve family functioning and to change the youth's attitudes and skills.
- **Girl's Circle:** The Girls Circle program brings girls together with peers and adult women in a support group modeled to counter trends towards self-doubt, help maintain authentic connections and allow for genuine self-expression.

- **Topside:** The Topside program is an alternative court intervention for youth involved in the juvenile justice system. A youth ready for referral to this program is one who has been identified as moderate/high risk in two or more of the following domains: chemical dependency, mental health, school and/or family.

Detention

Youth who are booked for criminal offenses by law enforcement, or who are ordered to be held by a judge for pre-trial or post-trial reasons, will serve time in detention. If secure detention is required, Jefferson County contracts with Kitsap Juvenile Services for detention beds. The secure detention facility is located in Port Orchard, WA and youth are transported to and from court by detention officers.

If youth are eligible for a less-restrictive detention experience, they could stay at our Proctor Home. The Proctor Home is located in Port Townsend and is a program designed to provide a safe, comprehensive, innovative alternative to standard detention for Jefferson County youth. The staff is committed to the concepts of accountability and rehabilitation as they lead and direct the youth to a positive, productive way of life. Youth attend their regular school program while residents of the Proctor Home and can stay involved in treatment programs and other approved activities.

Another less-restrictive form of detention includes electronic home monitoring. If youth are 18 years of age but still under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court, they may serve time in the Jefferson County Jail.

Dependency

The Jefferson County Juvenile Court has jurisdiction regarding dependency cases (children who are victims of abuse, neglect or abandonment). The Jefferson County Juvenile Department's CASA/GAL program is appointed as guardian ad litem. The law mandates the appointment of a guardian ad litem (GAL) by a judge or commissioner in all dependency cases (RCW 13.34.100) Guardian ad Litem means a person, appointed by the court, to represent the best interests of a child in dependency proceedings. The GAL is a party to the case. The GAL's (or Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) are volunteers who are specifically trained for this role pursuant to statutory requirements.

Volunteer Opportunities

The opportunities for volunteer service are currently as follows:

- **G.A.L./CASA:** Serving youth in the capacity of a Guardian ad Litem in dependency court requires a certain type of volunteer who is willing to undergo training specific to this role. Please see our website: www.Jeffersoncountygala.org for more information.
- **Jefferson County Diversion Program** – Community Accountability Board Member: Serving as a board member for Diversion involves meeting with youth and families referred to the program as first time offenders. Volunteers working in this program undergo training specific to this role. For more information, please contact Kurt Munnich at 360-385-9190.