

SNOHOMISH COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE 101 RESOURCE BOOKLET

A GUIDE TO HELP YOUR FAMILY
NAVIGATE THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM



Snohomish County Juvenile Court



THE JUVENILE COURT – Making it work for you

The juvenile court has a three-fold purpose to

- rehabilitate
- hold youth accountable
- ensure public safety

Every person involved in the court process has a specific job to perform in order to make sure these three purposes are accomplished. While the goal of the process is to achieve the best outcome for the youth and the community, the process can be confusing and sometimes frustrating for families.

“We want to help”

Purpose of this book

This booklet was developed with the input of parents and youth who have been through the court process before.

It is specifically designed to provide you with the critical information you'll need for support in this experience with the juvenile justice system. This will help guide your family through the people and the process of the court as well as inform you about available helpful resources. For your convenience, there are numerous places for you to write down notes and appointments.

*“Our aim is to support your child's success,
not to take away their freedom”*

Youth Rights

It is very important to understand that parents do not have legal 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. Parents are asked to complete a financial statement to determine if there will be any costs for the attorney. The amount is determined on a sliding scale based on federal poverty guidelines. The first time the youth will meet the attorney will be at the arraignment hearing.

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

Right against self-incrimination. Youth cannot be required to testify against themselves.

“Be supportive”

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. If a youth or parent needs interpreter services or Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, they should contact the court at least 5 days prior to any hearings. Parents provide information to the defense attorney and probation counselor to help the Judge decide what kind of treatments and consequences to order for the youth. The parent is also an important source of support for their child during this process and is strongly encouraged to attend court hearings.

If you are not happy with the court appointed defense attorney for your child, you may elect to retain your own attorney at any time during the court process.

WHO YOU WILL MEET AT COURT

Everyone involved in juvenile court plays an important role in achieving the three-fold mission of the court: to rehabilitate, hold youth accountable and ensure public safety. We will discuss the role of each of these players as well as focus on what you need to know about working effectively with these individuals.

Defense Attorney

Youth's Attorney name _____

Youth's Attorney phone _____

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. After the arraignment hearing the youth and parents should contact the defense attorney to make an appointment to discuss their case.

The attorney will typically speak to the youth privately at some point. Because defense attorneys represent the youth, the defense attorney may or may not explain the court process to the parents.

Most, however, will be willing to communicate what they can as long as it is not legally confidential information and as long as it is otherwise appropriate to do so.

***Tip:** Keep in contact with your attorney and leave a number that you can be reached at if you leave a message.

Remember that attorneys are often in court during the day.

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.

Snohomish County Prosecutor's Office 425-388-7988

Judge or Court Commissioner

The Judge or Court Commissioner presides over the court hearings to make sure that proper legal procedure is observed, and also makes decision 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. The Judge may call on parents to provide input at sentencing.

Juvenile Probation Counselor (JPC)

Name of JPC: _____

Phone number: _____

A Juvenile Probation Counselor (JPC) is assigned to work with a youth when that youth has either been booked into detention on a new offense, charged in court with an offense or has been sentenced by the Court to a term of probation.

Here's a brief explanation of the two different functions that a JPC serves:

Intake Supervision: When a youth is detained, a JPC meets with the youth in detention to get information for the court to help the Judge make a decision about whether the youth should remain in detention or be released on personal recognizance, and what conditions should be in place while the case is pending to both protect the community as well as assure their appearance to future hearings. The JPC informs the youth of their role, explains the court process, and lets the youth know that they will not be asking questions about the alleged offense. It's important for the JPC to gather social information such as who the youth lives with, what family supports are in place, where they attend school, what services are already in place, what challenges the youth is experiencing and what some of their strengths are. The JPC will attempt to contact the parents prior to the hearing to also briefly explain the court process, notify them of the hearing time and location, and to get further information about their child. If the child is released or bailed out of detention, the JPC will monitor any pre-trial release conditions that the court puts in place. At the arraignment hearing you will be given an appointment time to meet with the intake JPC. The purpose of this appointment is for the JPC to gather information for the court should the case go to sentencing. It is important for the youth and the parent/guardian to be at this appointment to get a complete picture of the issues facing the youth as well as the supports and strengths the youth has that will help them stay out of future legal trouble.

Community Supervision: When the youth is sentenced, the Judge orders a term of community supervision commonly called "Probation". At this time the youth is usually given the name, phone number and an appointment date to meet with the supervision JPC. If they do not receive that information at sentencing, then the JPC will either call or send an appointment letter usually within 10-14 days from the time of sentencing. (Continued on next page)

At the appointment the JPC will review the court requirements and explain their role and responsibilities. It is strongly recommended that parents attend this first appointment. The JPC will also introduce the youth to the Case Management Assessment Process (CMAP). This determines the level of supervision and interventions best suited to match the youth's needs, with the common goal being that the youth will successfully complete probation and have no further criminal referrals to the court.

“Stay connected – Communicate”

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. The following pages summarize the purpose of the different types of hearings you may experience. We have also included a space for you to write notes and questions you may have during the hearing, as well as when the next court date is scheduled. Because a court hearing can move very quickly, it is a good idea to write down your questions so you can remember to ask the defense attorney or probation counselor about them at a later time.

Tips for Attending Court Hearings

Dress: Appropriate dress for the court is avoiding gang-related colors or accessories, clothing that promotes drug or alcohol use, pajamas, cut offs or other overly casual clothing, or inappropriately revealing clothing. While the Judge makes decisions based on the merits of the case, how a youth and parent are dressed can influence their opinions. Youth in detention will attend hearings dressed in standard issue detention clothing.

Weapons: Weapons are prohibited in court, including guns, knives and other weapon-like materials. All persons entering the court are required to go through a metal detector. Purses, backpacks and briefcases are searched upon entering the building for the safety of everyone in court.

Behavior: Persons in the court area are asked to refrain from engaging in behaviors that would be annoying to those around them or could cause damage to the building. This includes cussing, yelling, spitting, playing loud music, silencing or turning off cell phones, and writing on or being reckless with furniture and other facilities. Food and drinks are not allowed in the courtroom. Turn off or silence cell phones while in the courtroom. Security staff is onsite at the court to enforce these rules.

Types of Court Hearings

The following pages summarize the kinds of hearings you may attend and includes space so you can take notes as well as put in the dates of the next hearing. The hearings that the youth may attend are called:

- Probable Cause
- Arraignment
- Confirmation
- Trial/Fact Finding
- Plea/Disposition
- Restitution Hearing
- Probation Violation/Show Cause
- Competency/Capacity

PROBABLE CAUSE

Purpose: This hearing occurs the next court day after the youth is brought into detention on suspicion that a crime has been committed.

Outcome: First, the Judge decides whether there is enough reason to believe that the youth has broken a law. If the Judge finds this to be the case; the Judge will decide either to hold the youth in detention and set bail or require the youth to follow conditions of release. The prosecutor has a deadline in which to file charges (the "filing deadline") in order to keep the youth in detention or to enforce the conditions of release.

Bail: If your child is detained at the Probable Cause hearing, the court will set bail. Bail must be paid in cash during business hours to the Snohomish County Clerk's Office or after hours directly to the detention facility. Please bring exact change.

NOTES/QUESTIONS:

72 Hour "Filing Deadline": _____ Bail: \$ _____

NEXT HEARING DATE _____

ARRAIGNMENT

Purpose: Arraignment is when the youth is formally informed of the charges being brought against them. The hearing is typically very short and the youth enters a plea of either “guilty” or “not guilty” at this hearing.

In most cases, the youth enters a “not guilty” plea to allow the youth and their defense attorney more time to talk to decide how he/she wants to resolve the case.

This can be frustrating for parents who want their child to own up or take responsibility for their actions, but given all the consequences that come from having an adjudication (juvenile term used in place of conviction that becomes a part of their criminal record) it’s important to recognize it’s in the best interest of their child. The youth will be given the name and phone number of their assigned attorney at this hearing. It is important that the youth/parent call the attorney’s office after arraignment and set an appointment to discuss the case. This should happen prior to the Confirmation hearing.

Outcome: The next hearing, Confirmation Hearing, will be scheduled.

NOTES/QUESTIONS:

NEXT HEARING DATE _____

CONFIRMATION HEARING

Purpose: This hearing is used to prepare for the fact finding/trial. It is usually held the week before trial. At this hearing, the prosecutor and defense attorney inform the court of the status of 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 (postponed). If the parties are ready for trial, they will provide information the court will need to conduct the trial appropriately. If you have not met with the attorney prior to Confirmation, they likely will not be able to proceed to the next hearing.

Outcome: The youth will be told when to return for their trial or to enter a guilty plea and sentencing. Sometimes the confirmation hearing is continued at the request of the defense attorney to get more information to try to help resolve the case in a manner favorable to the youth.

NOTES/QUESTIONS:

NEXT HEARING DATE _____

TRIAL/ FACT FINDING HEARING

Purpose: The Fact Finding Hearing/Trial is the hearing in which a judge decides whether the youth is guilty or not guilty. The youth cannot have a conviction for the crime unless the Judge finds him or her guilty. For the Judge to find the youth guilty, the prosecutor must provide enough evidence to show beyond a reasonable doubt that the youth is guilty of the crime. There are no juries in juvenile court, the Judge decides the outcome.

Outcome: The Judge will decide whether the youth is guilty or not guilty. If found guilty, the next hearing will be a disposition hearing. In most cases, the disposition or sentencing takes place at the same time the youth enters a guilty plea.

NOTES/QUESTIONS:

NEXT HEARING DATE _____

DISPOSITION (SENTENCING)

Purpose: At this hearing, the Judge hears the details of the youth's case and will order a set of requirements for the youth to follow called a disposition order.

Outcome: The disposition order outlines what the youth must do to successfully complete the juvenile justice process. The Judge considers what will help the youth learn accountability, what will keep the community safe and what will assist the youth's rehabilitation. Disposition orders can include probation, counseling, community service, restitution (paying back money), and detention time. Some of these options are explained in more detail in the next section of the handbook. If the disposition order is not followed, the youth may be brought back before the Judge/Commissioner who may order further consequences. The youth is mailed a copy of the disposition order after the disposition hearing.

NOTES/QUESTIONS:

WHAT KIND OF SENTENCE IS MY CHILD FACING?

Age, prior criminal history, and the severity of the charges determine what kind of sentence, or disposition, a youth will face. Generally, a youth will be sentenced to 'local sanctions,' which allow the youth to remain in the community. Local sanctions include: 0-12 months probation, 0-150 hours of community service, 0-\$500 fine, and 0-30 days of confinement, as well as classes, treatment, and other interventions.

For more serious offenses, a youth may be committed to a juvenile institution under the Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Administration (JJ&RA).

“Your child will be okay”

Are there any other sentencing options available for my child?

Several disposition (sentencing) options and alternatives are available in Snohomish County for which your child may be eligible.

Special Sex Offender Disposition Alternative (SSODA): A youth must be adjudicated on a sex offense to be eligible for SSODA. Suspension of confinement time and treatment provided by the Court are the main incentives of SSODA. The charge(s) remain on the youth’s criminal record.

Chemical Dependency Disposition Alternative (CDDA): A youth must have substance abuse issues, but not necessarily a drug/alcohol charge. Youth are given priority when setting up a treatment program with a contracted agency and some funding may be available for treatment after exhausting other financial resources. Again, the charge(s) remain on the youth’s criminal record.

Typically, under these alternatives, the youth pleads guilty in hope of receiving a suspended sentence and treatment provided by the Court. If the disposition is revoked, the full sentence is imposed and the youth serves any remaining confinement time.

Deferred Disposition (DD): Youth with no more than one prior adjudication (conviction), no felonies, and with a charge(s) that is not a sex or violent offense, may be eligible for a DD. If so, a youth pleads guilty and requests a DD. The Prosecuting Attorney, Probation Counselor and Defense attorney will all give reasons why they agree or disagree with the imposition of a DD.

If a youth's request for DD is granted, they are assigned to probation for a set length of time and expected to strictly comply with the conditions the Court orders. If a youth is successful in completing all the terms of their probation under the DD, the charge(s) is dismissed and lists as such on the youth's criminal record. However, if a youth violates the terms of their deferred, it may be revoked and the youth will be sentenced. The offense will now appear on a public record until it is sealed at a later date, if approved by the court.

“Stay connected – Communicate”

Juvenile Drug Court (JODTC): If drug and alcohol use is a major issue, a youth may petition for JODTC without entering a plea of guilty. JODTC is an intensive supervision program that requires participation in substance abuse treatment, weekly court, progress tracking, pro-social activities, and frequent random urinalysis (UA's).

Upon successful completion of the 6+ month JODTC program, the charge(s) is dismissed from the youth's criminal record and the records are sealed. If the youth is terminated from JODTC for noncompliance, they will return to court for a Stipulated Trial where the facts of the case are agreed and the Court simply makes a finding of guilt or innocence based on information in the police report before sentencing the youth.

Your child can ask his/her defense attorney about their eligibility for a specific disposition option.

“Don't give up”

Still have questions or need help for your child?

You can contact the Juvenile Court receptionist at

425-388-7800 between 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

or you can call **the Parent Support staff partner** at Lutheran Community Services **Family Support Centers at:**

425-355-6005 (English and Russian) or 425-513-2880 (Spanish)

Community Resources

Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Washington Recovery Helpline

(<http://www.warecoveryhelpline.org>) –

Statewide 24-hour behavioral health helpline that assists in referrals to mental health and substance abuse treatment providers.

(866)-789-1511

Teen Link: a confidential teen-answered helpline

(<http://teenlink@crisisclinic.org>) (866)833-6546

Alternative Counseling Edmonds

(<http://alternativecounseling.com>)

(info@alternativecounseling.com) – Washington State-certified chemical dependency and domestic violence treatment agency. Mental health, family counseling, and anger management services also provided. Services are offered in English, Russian, Ukrainian, Hindi, Punjabi, and Urdu.

425-776-6414

Catholic Community Services (<http://ccsww.org>)

– Community mental health services provided. Ongoing help with individual and/or family therapy, case management, medication evaluations and support with primary care physicians. Groups for children and adolescents focusing on how to manage behaviors and emotions appropriately and to develop self-care and interpersonal relationship skills.

To access services, please contact North Sound Mental Health Administration at (888)693-7200

Catholic Community Services also provides CCS NW Recovery Centers supporting a full continuum of outpatient chemical dependency treatment services in Snohomish County.

CCS Recovery Center, Everett (425)258-5270
Marysville (360)651-2366

Volunteers of America (<http://www.voaww.org>)

– 24-hour crisis line offering emotional support and crisis intervention to individuals in crisis.

(425)258-4357 (800)584-3578

Department of Social and Health Services

(<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/youthservices>)-

Resources and programs involving justice involved youth, mentoring programs, homeless youth, substance abuse services, incarcerated youth programs.

SeaMar Community Health Centers

(<http://seamar.org>) –

Everett Behavioral Health Center (425)-609-5505

Monroe Behavioral Health Center (360)805-3122

Lynnwood Behavioral Health Center (425)-977-2560

Community Resources and Programs

Changes Parent Support (<http://www.cpsn.org>) – Peer-led program providing support to parents struggling with children who are engaging in oppositional and self-destructive behaviors.

Location: Zion Lutheran Church 4363 S. Alger Ave, Everett 6:30-9:00pm

Project Safe-Cocoon House

(<http://www.cocoonhouse.org/project-SAFE>) – Teen homelessness prevention program which strengthens families through improved parental functioning and family management skills

Services in English: (425)317-9898 (425)317-9632

Services in Spanish: (425)339-4179 (877)339-4179

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

(<http://www.namishomishcounty.org>)-

addresses unmet needs of individuals with mental illness and their families through advocacy, public education, information and referral, and self-help support groups.

WA-DADS (<http://wadads.org>) – serving all male caregivers and their families across Washington state focusing on mental health, behavioral and emotional concerns

(877)-847-3050

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Snohomish County

(<http://bbs-snoco.org/>)

2722 Colby Ave., Ste. 415, Everett, WA 98201
(425)252-2227

Other Helpful Resources

Cocoon House Emergency Teen Shelter

(<http://www.cocoonhouse.org/emergency-teen-shelters>)

For bed availability please call (425)259-6042 or (800)259-6042 Monroe and Everett

Cocoon House Long-Term Living Program

(<http://cocoonhouse.org/long-term-teen-group-home>)

Friends of Youth-New Ground Transitional Living

(<http://friendsofyouth.org/newGround.aspx>)

Headquarters Contact: 13116 NE 132nd St.
Kirkland, WA 98034 (425)869-6490

Oasis Teen Shelter – Skagit Valley Family YMCA

(<http://www.skagitymca.org/oasis-teen-shelter>)

125 N 5th St., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273 (360)419-9058

WorkSource Youth Center – Snohomish County

(<http://worksourceonline.com/y/>)

Multiple locations throughout Snohomish County.

Center of Career Alternatives

(<http://www.centerforcareeralternatives.org>)

2401 Hewitt Ave. Everett, WA 98201 (425)252-6400

Team Child (<http://www.teamchild.org>) –

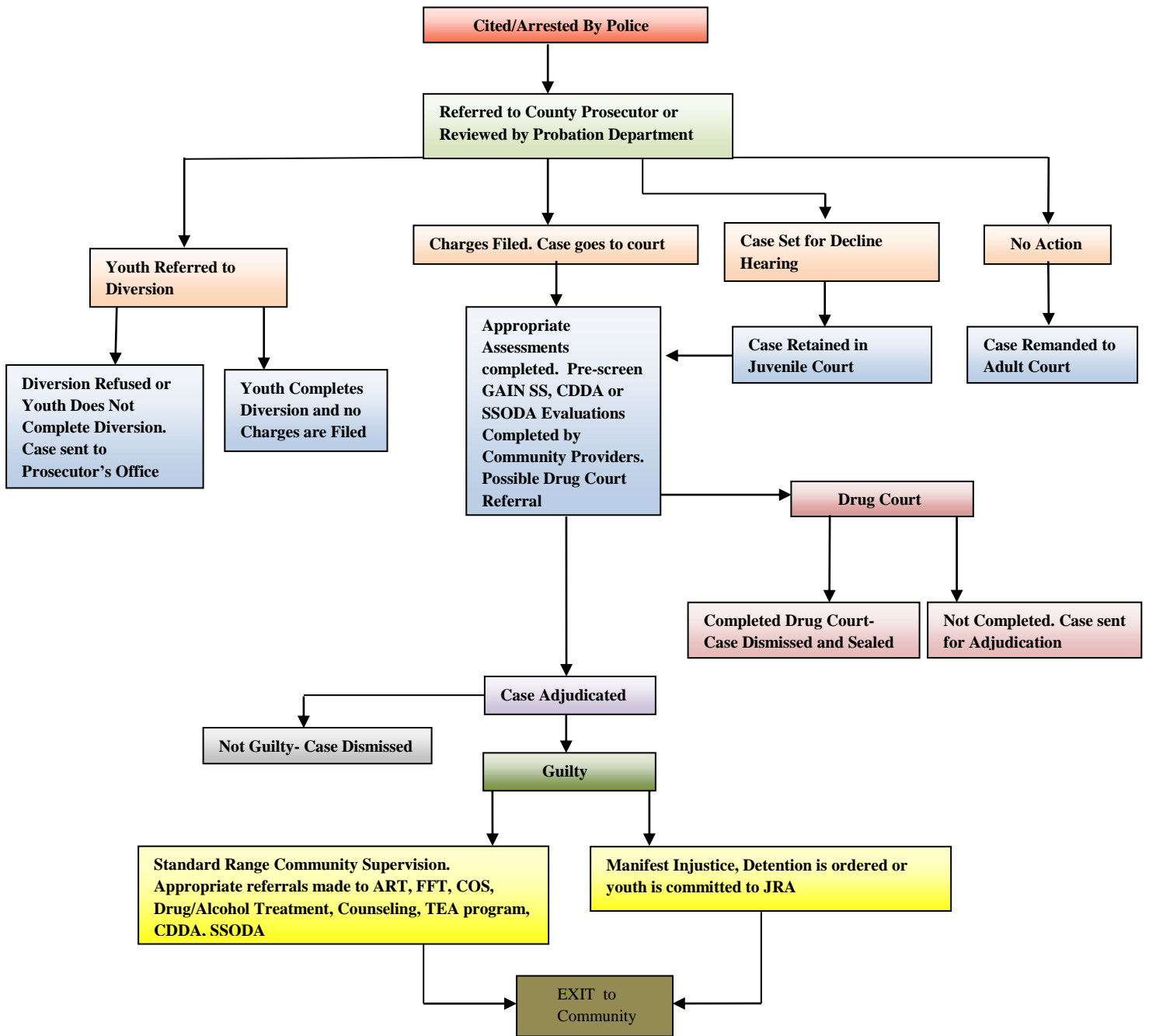
provides civil and legal advocacy and community education to help youth access community based-services

Community Information Line

(<http://www.crisisclinic.org>) – providing information and referral assistance to people seeking help with community resources

Dial 2-1-1 or (800)223-8145 Free/Confidential/24-Hours

Snohomish County Juvenile Court Offender Flow Chart



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 child of committing are allegations until proven in court)

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

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

Charge – the act that a child 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

Crime – see Offense

Cross-examination – questions asked of a witness by the attorney

Curfew – when a child is required by law or court to be at home

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)

Decline Hearing – the process of determining whether the case of a juvenile 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 children 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)

Diversions – when a juvenile is referred to juvenile court as a first or second time offender who has committed an offense such as shoplifting, malicious mischief, or possession of alcohol, the cases may be handled outside the court process. This is usually handled through a community based juvenile accountability board.

DSHS-CA – Department of Social and Health Services- Children's Administration, a state agency responsible for the welfare of children and youth in Washington State which provides a plan for services which support families and assure safety and well-being for children.

Due Process- Courts must follow a fair and just process; for example, they must give children notice of hearing 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

Fact-Finding Hearing – Also called a Trial. This is 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 evidences presented, whether the youth is guilty or not guilty of the alleged offense.

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

First Appearance 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 evidences, to continue proceedings against the youth.

FIT- Family Integrated Transitions – An intensive, home-based family intervention for youth with substance use and mental illness

FFT- Functional Family Therapy – a short term family based program

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.

JPC -Juvenile Probation Counselor- A Snohomish County Juvenile Court professional whose duties include preparing reports for the court and supervising juveniles under the court's jurisdiction.

JRA – Juvenile Rehabilitation Administration- is an Administration within DSH that serves Washington State's highest-risk offender youth. Youth may be committed to JRA custody by any county juvenile court. The juvenile courts follow prescribed sentencing guidelines to determine which youth will be committed to JRA. These youth typically have committed many lower-level offenses or have committed a serious crime.

Jurisdiction- The court's power to hear and to decide a case against a child.

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

Juvenile Drug Court – Intensive substance abuse treatment and supervision with weekly hearings for 9-12 months.

Mentor Program – One-on-one outreach and support programs by trained mentors.

MTFC – Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care- A treatment for children in the foster care system with multiple familial and behavioral concerns.

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

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

MST- Multi-Systemic Therapy- A community based treatment for children ages 12-17 with serious behavior disorders who are at risk of out-of-home placements.

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

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

Predisposition Report- a report prepared by probation officer for the Judge's consideration at the Disposition Hearing. This report includes a review of the juvenile's behavior and family history.

Probation- Youth who are placed on probation by a judge are assessed by Juvenile Probation Counselors (JPC) to determine the level of supervision needed and to ensure that all conditions of a court order are followed and that appropriate services are provided to the youth and family.

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.

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 by the respondent for damage or loss caused by the defendant.

Status Offender- A child who is charged with doing something that is 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 – See Fact-finding hearing.

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.

Witness- A person having information that is relevant to an issue being decided by the court.

Witness Interviews – Informal interviews conducted by the prosecutor or defense attorney before the trial at which victims and witnesses are questioned about their knowledge of the crime(s).

