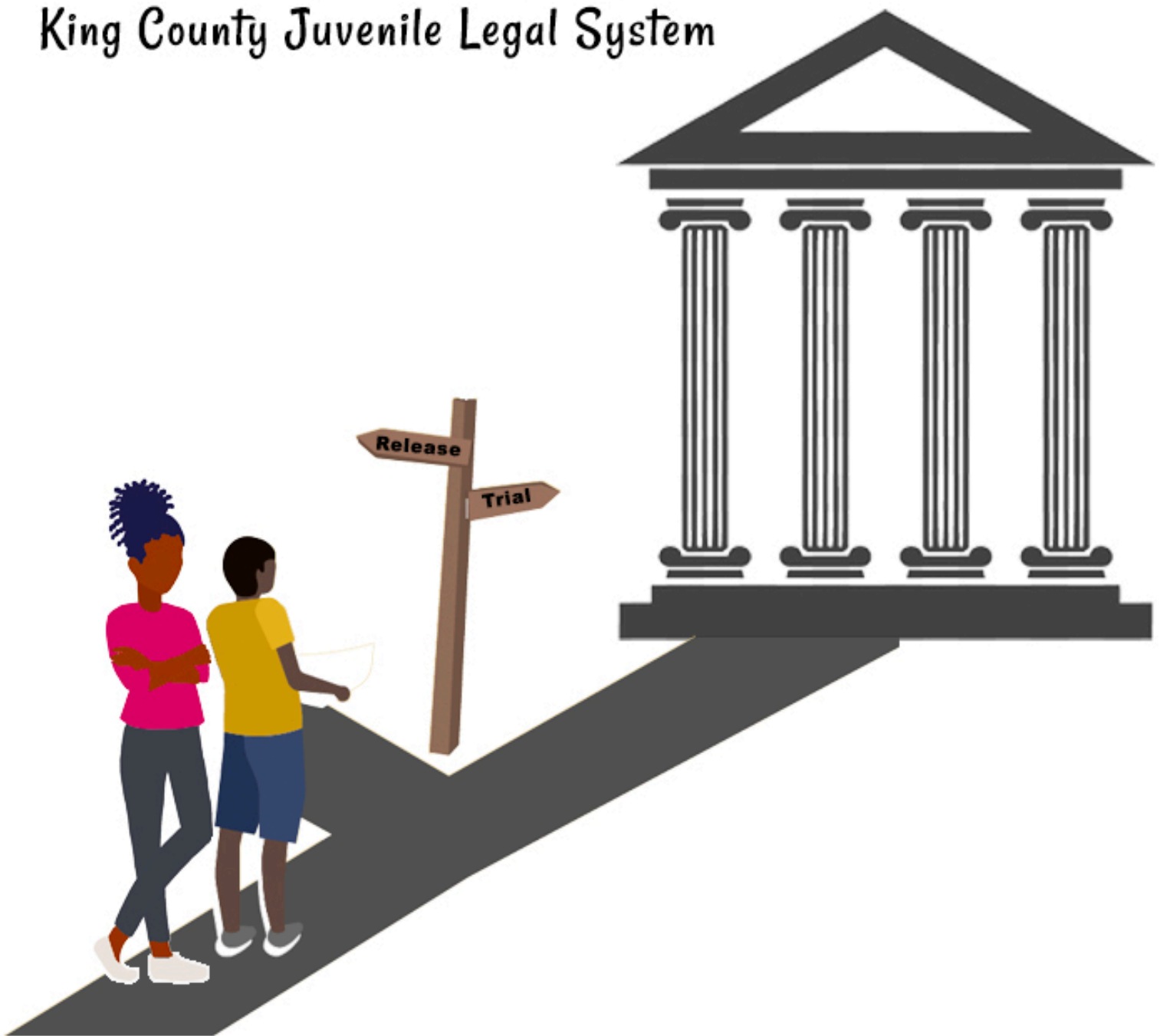


Juvenile Legal System Family Handbook

Understanding and Navigating the
King County Juvenile Legal System



Zero Youth Detention

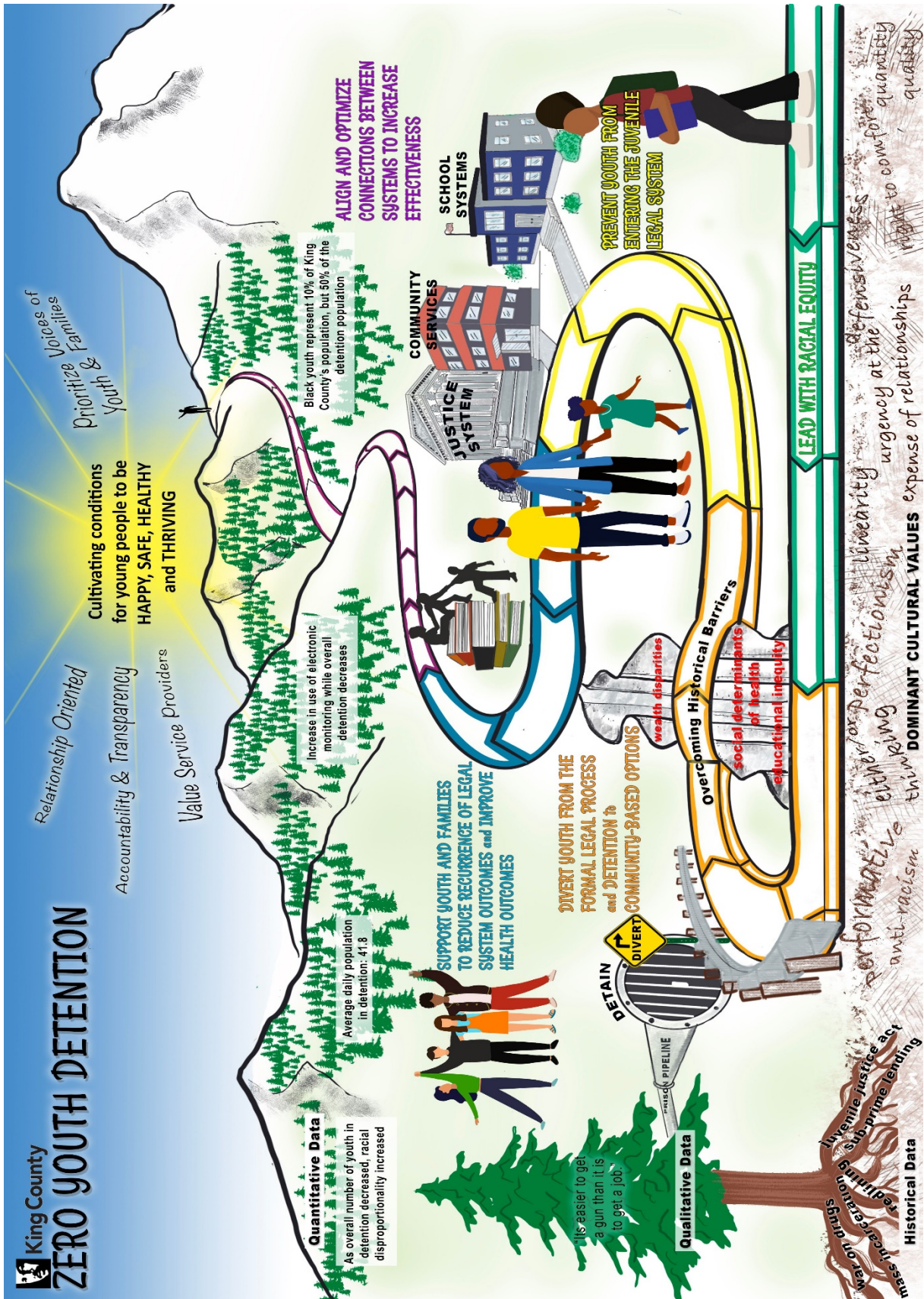


King County

2020 Edition

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If you need help understanding this guide, please review it with any King County juvenile legal system professional or contact zydinfo@kingcounty.gov. This guide is available in Amharic, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Tigrinya, and Vietnamese languages.

Introduction

When a child is involved in the juvenile legal system, family members are often tired after spending a lot of time and energy trying to get support that would have changed the events that led them there. As a caregiver, you may have sought support with schools and counseling. You may have been frustrated to find barriers in accessing services. Regardless of the attempts made to get help, family members often blame themselves for their child's behavior.

Creating a safe environment for your child is not only on you. It is a responsibility for the whole community to provide an environment for children to thrive. The people in the legal system will connect you to any resources, supports and services to interrupt this cycle. Being involved with the legal system is a serious matter and if your child is charged with an offense, it could result in lasting consequences.

This is why King County is working hard to build a stronger network of community supports so that children get the help they need when they need it. These community supports will seek solutions that avoid the use of secure detention or further legal system involvement. Decades of research shows that putting youth in jail does not promote public safety and instead harms youth, their families, and their communities. We can and must do better so that children, families, and communities are happy, healthy, safe and thriving.

In the meantime, as a parent, you are in the difficult situation of figuring out what to do once your child has been detained. You may have many questions about your child and their wellbeing. Is my child alright? Where is my child now? When can I bring my child home? When can I see or talk to them? What do I have to do? Who can I trust? What happens next?

This manual was created while social distancing measures were adopted to prevent [COVID-19](#). It is possible that there may be variations in services, Court hearings, and juvenile detention visitation that are not reflected.

This guide was developed by parents and family advocates who want to provide answers to these questions. This guide is not intended to be a thorough explanation of the juvenile legal system. Instead, we hope this guide will help you better understand your role in the system and help you to get connected to any supports that you or your child needs.

What if I am **undocumented**?

King County is dedicated to welcoming and serving everyone regardless of their immigration status. Immigrating is an extremely difficult experience and raising children in a new culture adds to the challenge. None of the government departments in King County ask about immigration status. Local police do not ask about a person's immigration status during an arrest. This information is not communicated, collected, or put into any of the databases used. If your child is undocumented, they will not be deported if they are arrested. The professionals in the King County juvenile legal system have resources to connect immigrant families with specific resources as requested. It is not necessary to know the documentation status of families to provide this help.

[Click here for the King County Immigrant and Refugee Program](#) or call the King County Office of Equity and Social Justice at (206) 477-7525 or (206) 263-3434.

What if I don't speak English?

All people, regardless of their national origin and English language ability, have the right to participate meaningfully in state court proceedings and programs. Court cases are often highly structured, stressful experiences requiring specialized terminology. Without careful attention to providing effective language services, many people will face a judicial process that places unfair and unconstitutional burdens on their ability to fully participate in proceedings.

All employees from King County have access to a phone interpretation service for in-person meetings and phone calls. If you can communicate your name, phone number, and name of the language you speak, a King County employee can call you back with an interpreter. If you speak English but are more comfortable with an interpreter, please ask for an interpreter anyway. It's better that you are comfortable and clear about the information to avoid any confusion and to make the process better.

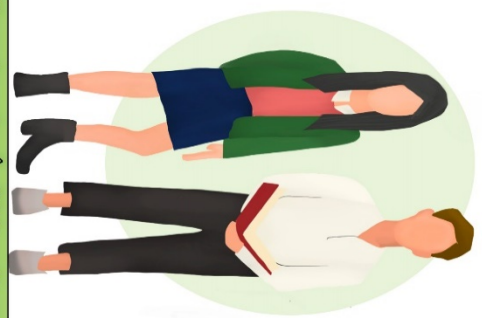
Interpreters can only interpret the conversation directly, and cannot and should not provide **advocacy** or advice.

Interpretation for meetings at the Court

You can check in with your attorney or your JPC about the availability of an interpreter. Court staff should make sure a free interpreter is available for all your court events if you've told them you need one. **You should not need to contact the interpretation service directly, but if you have questions you can contact them yourself:** Interpreters for Court Matters (206) 477-1415 scinterp@kingcounty.gov.

From Afghani to Zulu, Superior Court's Office of Interpreter Services (OIS) obtains interpreters for more than 160 different languages to assist non-English speakers with court matters. Interpretation services are provided at no cost for all court events.

PROFESSIONALS IN THE JUVENILE LEGAL SYSTEM



Paralegals & Mitigation Specialists



Social Workers

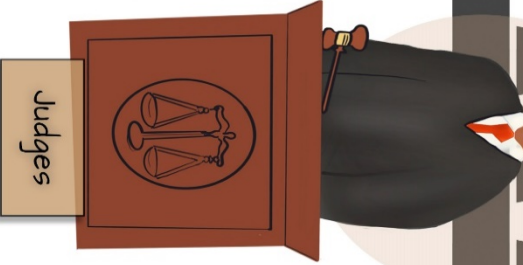
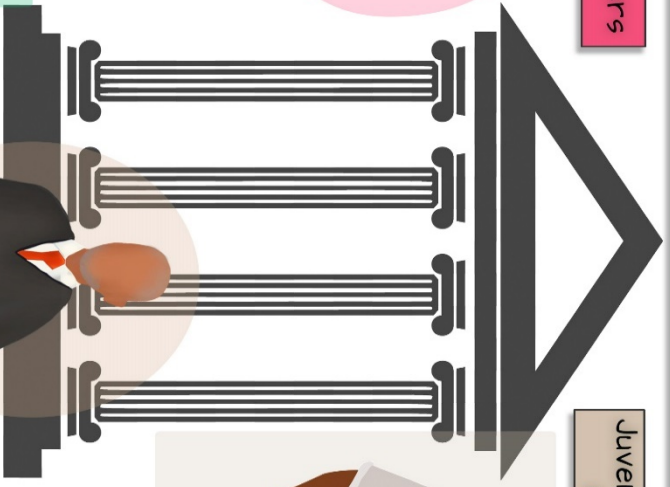


Juvenile Probation Counselor



Defense Attorney

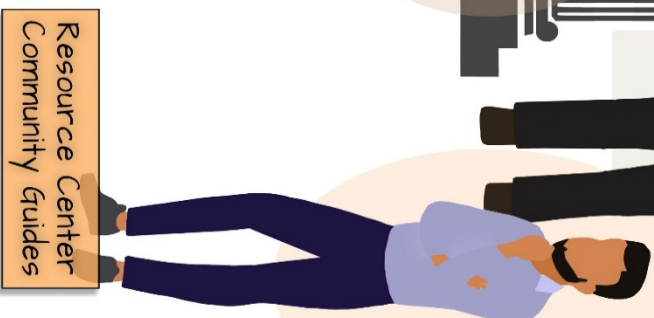
Prosecuting Attorney



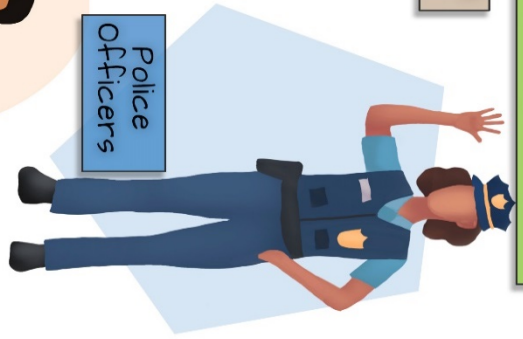
Judges



Juvenile Detention Officers



Resource Center
Community Guides



Police Officers



Victim Advocates

The Departments and Professionals of the Juvenile Legal System

The juvenile legal system is made up of many King County departments and its partnership with community organizations. Decisions that affect your child are made by different people at different points in the process. You need to be constantly aware of what decisions are being made and who has the authority to make the decision. The more informed you are about your child's situation the better you can support them. Be sure to write down the name, title, name of the office, and phone number of the people who are working with your child. It might be helpful to have a single notebook where you keep all this information together.

In addition to the descriptions below, each of these departments have a website. Please visit those sites and contact each department directly for more detailed descriptions of their work, roles, and services.

[Police Departments](#)

If your child has contact with a police officer, this officer could work for the King County Sheriff's Office, or for the police department of a local town. When responding to an incident, a police officer assesses the safety of the situation and whether or not a crime has been committed. After performing an investigation, they may determine that the youth was involved in a crime. They may make the decision to arrest a child and send them to secure detention or to submit a **referral** (police report) to the **Prosecuting Attorney's Office (PAO)**.

[The King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office](#)

1211 East Alder St. Seattle, Washington 98122-5553
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:30am to 4:30pm
(206) 477-3044

In King County the Prosecuting Attorney is elected by voters. Additional attorneys are hired to work in the juvenile division. Their office is located at the **Children and Family Justice Center (CFJC)**. When the police arrest your child, they send the report to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office decides if the child's case can be handled by a community program or if the case should go to Court.

Prosecuting Attorney – In Court, the Prosecuting Attorney's job is to prove that the charges against your child are right, to advocate for community safety, and represent the impacts on victims. They will be at all hearings. Sometimes, a different Prosecuting Attorney will attend each hearing. You and your child will only see the prosecuting attorney in court, unless your child's case involves family violence.

Victim Advocate – The Victim Advocates gives information, support, and referrals for the person(s) who were harmed by a child's alleged offense, including family members. (206) 477-3035
email: vau.juvenile@kingcounty.gov

[The King County Department of Public Defense](#)

The Dexter Horton Building
710 Second Avenue, Suite 200 Seattle, WA 98104
Office Hours: 8:00am to 5:00pm
Phone: (206) 296-7662 or Free: (844) 935-3534 TTY: 711 Relay Service

Defense Attorney or Public Defender – If your child is charged with a crime, they will be assigned to an attorney (also called a “public defender”). This attorney’s job is to represent your child in Court, to give your child legal advice and to help your child make legal decisions. The attorney represents your child, not you. The attorney’s job is to advocate for what your child decides. The attorney should explain to your child the consequences of the decisions your child makes. Your child’s attorney is not allowed to share information with you that your child doesn’t want to share. This can include information about the alleged incident, potential witnesses, and/or information about your child’s background.

Mitigation Specialists and Paralegals work with your child’s defense attorney. Their job is to help support the attorney’s work.

[The King County Superior Court Juvenile Division](#)

1211 E. Alder St. Seattle, WA
Main Floor Receptionist (206) 263-8634
8:15am to 4:30pm Monday through Friday

Juvenile Court is a department within King County Superior Court. It is separate from Juvenile Detention, the Department of Public Defense and the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office.

Juvenile Court Staff

The Court employs people to work in many different settings. These individuals have different titles and responsibilities within the department.

Judges – Judges are publicly elected officials. A judge is in charge of each court hearing to make sure that legal rules are followed. The judge decides whether your child is guilty or not guilty of a crime, decides when your child will stay in detention, and decides what your child will be ordered to do to complete their sentence (like probation, **Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR)** or community service). You and your child will only have contact with a judge during court hearings. You will also have an opportunity to talk directly with the judge at your child’s court hearings. Any information you want to share with the judge you should tell to the Intake **Juvenile Probation Counselor (JPC)**. The Intake JPC will summarize information about your child and make recommendations to the judge about treatment options.

Juvenile Probation Counselors JPCs help identify your child’s needs, help them follow the judge’s orders and report back to the judge.

There are different types of JPCs and they’re involved at different times in the process:

Screening JPC – Interviews the parent/guardian when your child is first brought into detention.

Intake JPC – Makes recommendations to the judge about treatment services they think could help your child. If you have questions about the court process, the Intake JPC is the best person for you to contact. If you have information you want the judge to know about your child, you should tell the Intake JPC.

Supervising JPC – If your child is in a diversion program or if they are charged with a crime but aren't in detention, they'll be assigned a Supervising JPC. The Supervising JPC will work in a probation office near your child's home.

When your Child is on Probation

When the Court believes your child can receive the support they need in the community, they may put your child on probation. Most youth who plead guilty to a crime or are found guilty of a crime will remain in the community and participate in a probation case plan with a juvenile probation counselor. Your child will be asked to follow some rules, like going to school, and will also be provided support and services individualized to your child and family. If your child is on probation, the Juvenile Probation Counselor will work with you and your child to develop a comprehensive case plan that could include things like counseling, employment, and education support. The probation counselors' main goal is to support your child and family through the process while providing resources and promoting a safe and healthy future.

Probation Information

If you know the youth's supervising probation counselor, you may [contact that officer directly](#). If not, you may call the main receptionist to be transferred to the correct person.

Juvenile Probation Offices

Seattle (City Unit) (206) 477-4929
1211 E. Alder St. Seattle, WA

Federal Way (South II) (206) 477-7360
34004 16th Avenue South #104 Bellevue, WA 98003

Renton (South I) (206) 477-5335
451 SW 10th Street #200 Renton, WA 98057

Bellevue (Northeast Unit) (206) 477-6490
1722 138th Place NE #200 Bellevue, WA 98005

For more information about the role of JPCs, [visit this web page](#).

[The King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention \(DAJD\)](#)

1211 E. Alder St. Seattle, WA

This department operates juvenile detention. Even though they're in the same building, DAJD is a separate department from Juvenile Court. DAJD staff that work with youth in the juvenile division include registered nurses, mental health professionals, medical assistants, teachers, juvenile detention officers, restorative justice coordinators, orientation and assessment specialists, recreation coordinators, volunteer coordinators, and corrections supervisors.

When your child has been arrested

If the police arrest your child, they might send your child home, and your child could have to come to court later.

Other times, the police will arrest your child and take them to detention. Police could take your child to detention for these reasons:

1. The police think your child committed a crime with a firearm (gun).
2. The police think your child assaulted a school staff person, administrator, or teacher.
3. There's a **warrant** out for your child's arrest.
4. The police think your child was threatening another person or was in a situation that could hurt someone or cause serious property damage.
5. Your child has been arrested many times before, and the police are concerned about your child's current behavior.

For a detailed list of suspected offenses that could lead to police taking your child to detention, see the [Juvenile Detention Intake Criteria](#).

What happens when your child first arrives at Juvenile Detention

If the police take your child to detention, they'll drive your child to the Children and Family Justice Center at 1211 E. Alder St in Seattle.

Medical check:

Upon arrival at Juvenile detention, a **nurse** will check your child. If staff have serious concerns about your child's health or mental health, your child may be taken to a hospital for evaluation. If your child does not have serious health concerns they will be re-assessed by a nurse upon their arrival to secure detention.

Once your child is housed in secure detention, they will have access to medical care and mental health services as indicated. The Health clinic is staffed around the clock to monitor and respond to youth needs. A nurse will call parents within 24 hours of your child being admitted to secure detention, to find out more about their health history and needs, including learning about any medication your child may be taking.

Talking to the Screener:

A police officer or a Screening Juvenile Probation Counselor (**JPC**) will call you when your child is brought to detention. The “Screener” will listen to your concerns, answer your questions and help you understand next steps. **This is a good time to advocate for your child.** You may share information with the Screener you think they should know about your child. For example, if your child has a disability or is living homeless, you should tell the Screener.

The Screener will share this information with staff from **Juvenile Detention**, the **Court**, the **Prosecuting Attorney’s Office**, and the **Department of Public Defense**.

Your child stays in detention or goes home:

The Screener will take the information they learned from you, your child, and police. Then they will look at the Court rules to see if your child has to stay in detention or can go home.

Usually, your child will have to stay in detention if:

- Police think your child committed a serious crime
- The Court is worried about public safety if your child is in the community
- The Court is worried your child might hurt themselves
- The Court is worried your child won’t come to future meetings

Next steps:

The Screener will tell you what will happen next based on your child’s situation. If your child is already involved with a JPC, the JPC will work with you on next steps. How long your child will have to stay in detention will depend on your child’s individual situation and the decisions made by JPCs, the judge, and the prosecuting and defense attorneys.

If your child was arrested for family violence: Family Intervention and Restorative Services Center (FIRS)

If your child is accused of domestic violence against a family member, they may be eligible to be admitted to the Family Intervention and Restorative Services Center instead of staying in detention. The FIRS Center is an unlocked facility staffed by a community organization that specializes in programming and services for youth who use violence toward their family members. If your child is enrolled with FIRS, your child and your family would work on an informal agreement to attend behavioral health services to address their needs. FIRS staff offer de-escalation and restorative counseling to safely reunite youth with their family. At no cost to them, families are offered in-home family counseling, mental health services, drug and alcohol services, and the Step-Up Program, which specifically addresses adolescent family violence. The FIRS Center is **not** secure detention. Through court and community partnerships, FIRS provides an alternative to both formal court and detention.

FIRS and the FIRS Center are typically accessed after police contact for family violence. To learn more, please call Restorative Programs Supervisor Jeremy Crowe at 206-477-6528 or the FIRS team main line at 206-263-9001.

What you can do if your child is in detention

Try to visit your child immediately. You may visit up to three times a week for half an hour at a time. Bring your child's prescribed medication to the first visit. No food, clothing, money, or personal items may be brought into the visiting area. The first time a parent or guardian comes to visit, they can come at any time. After that visit, regular visiting hours are:

3:30pm and 9:00pm on weekdays

9:00am and 2:30pm and 3:30pm to 9pm on weekends and holidays

Understand your child's right to be represented by a defense attorney. Your child's defense attorney represents your child's interests and decisions. They will advocate for your child to be released from detention and receive lesser charges. **Tell your child to be honest with their defense attorney.**

Police will question your child before and after they are arrested. In King County, police can't interview a child in juvenile detention without the child's defense attorney present. Your child has the right to remain silent and to have you and an attorney present, as well, during the interview at juvenile detention.

Return phone calls as soon as possible. If you don't have a working telephone number, give the Court and the defense attorney the number of a trusted friend or family member. Return all calls as soon as you can and leave messages with your name and a return phone number. You can also use email.

Advocating for Your Child

Being present and supportive for your child is important when your child is suspected of breaking the law. Your child may have hurt you or another family member and it may seem like your child's behavior is beyond your control. This can be an opportunity for your child to get the help they need to rebuild your relationship and improve the direction for your family's life. They might need several chances to learn and, during this process, they need caring and supportive adult relationships in their life. If you can't be present, the system will also work with other adults that you authorize on your behalf.

If your child has a disability: Your child has legal rights to accommodations in detention, at Court and at school. If your child has a diagnosed disability, you can request accommodations from the juvenile detention center, the school and the Court. The CFJC meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

If you child is lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer: The professionals in the various departments of King County receive specialized training to be inclusive of LGBTQ youth. The more they know about your child's identity, the better they will be able to meet their needs. In juvenile detention, youth are separated based on their gender identity. [Read more here.](#)

Ask for what you need: When parents have a child that is involved in the legal system, they need a lot of support, like taking time off from work, counseling, advice, resources, and childcare. The Court wants you to participate and will do what it can to make sure you are able. This can be an opportunity to connect to services that your family or children need. Be sure to tell the professionals involved when

you are having difficulties meeting your needs (such as housing, food, clothes) or getting to meetings. They will help direct you to the resources they know exist and discuss your options. The better that professionals understand your needs, the more they can help.

Stay organized: The legal process can be very confusing. Many people will reach out to you wanting to help and they will have different roles. The people involved will also change depending on the situation. Be sure to write down the name, title, name of the office, and phone number of the people who are working with your child. It might be helpful to have a single notebook in which you keep all this information together. Keep a folder with this notebook where you put all of your documents. Ask for information in writing and in ways that are easiest for you to understand.

Ask questions: The legal system is complicated! It's OK to have many questions and to ask the same question multiple times if you forget or don't understand. If the professional doesn't know the answer to your question, they may direct you to someone who does.

Attend and arrive on time for meetings and Court hearings: If you can't arrive on time or know that you'll be late, call the person or office with the people you have a meeting. Tell professionals about your work situation and hours so they can call you when you're available.

Participate in all decisions about your child: Be present whenever possible. While it may feel awkward or scary, speak up at meetings to give input on your child's needs. Don't assume that people know or share information. Sometimes, professionals are legally prohibited to share information with each other.

Participate in Court: Be prepared to participate by advocating for yourself or adding information that you think is important. Your opinion might be different than the attorneys or probation counselors'. It's important for your opinion to be considered. You can bring a trusted adult or family members with you for support.

Build respectful relationships with people involved with your child: Regardless of how you may feel about your child's situation or the individual professional, you should always communicate respectfully. If you feel disrespected or believe that you have been treated unfairly, contact the supervisor of the person involved. The process will be very stressful at times, and your ability to build relationships will help you and your child. It's important to seek support when needed and ask questions.

What happens at Juvenile Detention?

1211 E. Alder St Seattle, WA

Detention is a locked building operated by the Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD). Your child might be in detention when they are waiting for their court hearings or serving a sentence. Going into detention can be a scary experience and it can be especially scary when you don't know what to expect. Juvenile detention centers have to follow strict rules about safety, space, health and recreation.

If your child is sent to secure detention, detention staff keep their clothes and personal belongings in storage. Staff search your child to make sure they aren't bringing in prohibited items. Your child takes a shower and staff give them a clean set of clothes. Clothes include a t-shirt, a top, pants, underwear, socks, and a pair of slippers. Staff also give your child a set of clean sheets and blankets. Your child is

given a security bracelet with their identifying information. Health care staff interview your child and conduct a physical and mental health screening. Detention staff will not drug test your child while in detention, but Juvenile Probation from Superior Court may.

Next, your child meets with an Orientation and Assessment Specialist who interviews your child, explains their rights, rules, what to expect, and decides the safest living hall for your child to live in based on gender identity, age, size, and other history, like the alleged offense and your child's past behavior.

Your child's safety (physical, emotional, and sexual) is the number one priority of juvenile detention staff. If another child in detention threatens the wellbeing or safety of your child, juvenile detention staff address it. Juvenile detention staff aren't armed with weapons of any kind and do not use physical punishment, harassment, threats, harm, or humiliation. If there's a fight, staff are trained to use de-escalation techniques before using restraints or force. To keep everyone safe, Juvenile Detention has the following behavior expectations:

- Attend all school classes
- Participate positively in other programming
- Show respect
- Get along with others
- Keep hands to yourself
- Use supportive language
- Do what staff asks
- Respond positively and promptly
- Use respectful language
- Maintain hygiene by taking shower daily
- Keep room clean by making the bed, taking out the trash, and organizing belongings

As youth meet the behavior expectations, they are able to earn daily "stars" which can be used to buy special snacks, MP3 player rentals, and new gym shoes. Additionally, after youth earn a minimum number of stars each day, they earn access to honor level activities, video game time, or access to a discounted snack menu.

If youth's behavior threatens safety, they are offered the chance to take part in restorative practices like problem solving with a peer or writing an apology letter. Youth may also lose privileges like extended bedtime or "honor level status". If youth engage in behavior like harassment, destroying property, or physical or sexual assault, they may spend programming time in the Restoration Hall. Youth in the Restoration Hall attend school and participate in specialized programming to learn new skills like de-escalation, anger control, or emotion regulation.

If youth feel their rights have been violated, they are encouraged to immediately file a **grievance**. Detention Supervisors review all grievances, investigate, and respond within 24 hours. Grievances are confidential. There are three boxes with grievance forms in the library, gym, and health clinic in which grievances can be submitted. Staff check for new grievances every night.

In secure detention there is a **health clinic** with a full-time nurse round the clock who is available to review and treat illnesses or injuries. If your child is hurt or sick, the nurse may refer your child to a

medical provider or may decide they need to go to the hospital. In the state of Washington, youth may consent to [certain medical services](#) without the consent of a guardian. If your child is taking any medication they will receive it from the nurse while in detention. There are also mental health staff available to meet with your child, if your child requests it, or if staff notice concerning behavior (e.g. threats by your child of self-harm). Mental health staff can support your child’s transition to being in secure detention and identify any need for ongoing mental health services. If your child has been receiving mental health services prior to their arrival at Detention please let the medical or mental health providers know about this. Mental health services are provided by the University of Washington Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences.

Detention Schedule Example:

Breakfast/School Prep	8:00am – 8:30am
School	8:30am – 11:20am
Lunch and Clean-Up	11:50 am – 12:35 pm
School	12:45pm – 2:45pm
Staff Change	2:30pm - 3:30pm
Programming/Gym	3:30pm – 5:00 pm
Dinner and Clean-Up	5:00 pm – 5:45 pm
Programming/Gym	5:45 pm – 8:00 pm
Bedtime	8:00pm - 10:00pm

Youth in secure detention attend **school** every weekday provided by [Seattle Public School's Interagency Academy](#). They receive lessons in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and life skills as appropriate for their age, school progress in the community, and prior level of achievement. Special education lessons are available if needed. Youth may also work towards their G.E.D. in the detention school. Classes are mandatory.

The [King County Library System](#) operates a **library** branch in secure detention. All youth may use the library on assigned days for research projects or to check out and read books for leisure.

There is also a Chaplaincy Program that provides mentorship and spiritual guidance to youth if they wish to speak with a Chaplain. Christian and Muslim Religious services are provided if youth would like to participate.

There are many local organizations that provide additional programming within Detention. Examples of this programming includes: Yoga, poetry, arts and craft projects, creative writing, mentoring, improvisational activities, movie nights, filmmaking projects, audio storytelling, AA Meetings, visual art classes, basketball clinics and camps, trauma-informed gym classes, gardening, peacemaking circle, and others.

Detention Screening (206) 263-9595 (24 hours a day / 7 days a week)

Call detention screening if your child is detained and you need to know the child's detention status and next hearing date and time.

Detention Information (206) 477-9890 (24 hours a day / 7 days a week)

For other detention-related information.

[Health Clinic](#) (206) 477-9928

What if my child reports abuse or neglect?

Most adults who works with kids, like teachers, counselors, social workers, case managers, advocates, etc. are **mandated reporters** (excluding **defenders**). This means that if your child tells them that they have been abused, or that another child has been abused, this adult has to tell **Child Protective Services (CPS)** which is operated by the Washington State **Department of Children Youth and Families (DCYF)**. It is common for youth to share this information with professionals in the legal system.

The mandatory reporter has to tell CPS, even if they don't have permission from the child or adult. If they don't report, they could get fired or get arrested. The mandatory reporter shouldn't use their own judgement. If a child says they are being abused the mandatory reporter has to tell CPS. CPS decides what to do next.

When CPS gets a report of abuse, they'll start by writing a report that will be available to CPS workers in the future. They'll check for past reports of abuse. Then, they decide if they should investigate. If they conduct an investigation, they interview the child and other people who might have information. They decide if the child or other people in the family need more support. They might talk to the police. They could also decide that the family and child do not need support.

If CPS decides the family needs support, staff from the Department of Children Youth and Families will provide support. Most of the time, they have meetings with the parents/guardians, make plans about what the parents/guardians should do to keep the child safe and follow up with the parents/guardians to make sure they do it. DCYF could offer help, like family therapy or connections to other services in the community such as housing, food, or help finding a job.

Sometimes, DCYF will separate families. When possible, they work with parents to find a safe place for the child to stay with a close family member. Often, families are separated only for a few days. This is done in attempts to protect the youngest children, and to ensure fast action is taken by family members. If DCYF thinks the child needs to be separated from their family for longer than 3 weekdays, they have to have a court hearing. Less often, children are separated from their families for a longer period of time. This happens in very serious cases of abuse and neglect, when family members are unable to provide a safe environment for their children. Typically, children will only be separated from family for a long period of time after multiple attempts have been made to support the family.

For more information, please visit <https://www.atg.wa.gov/child-abuse-neglect>

[To report abuse or neglect of minors](#) (866) END-HARM.

THE COURT PROCESS

Tips for Visiting Juvenile Court

The Court is open for hearings from 8:30am until 4:30pm

You can bring friends or family members for support. There is space designed for childcare to be provided while you are tending to Court affairs. Please check in with the Court to ensure the service is available to meet your needs.

Directions: [Click Here for Google Maps](#) or [click here for King County Metro's Online Trip Planner](#)

Parking: There is free parking on-site available for visitors. If you park on the street, make sure you check if you are parked in a 2-hour parking zone.

When you arrive to the facility, you will pass through a metal detector. You should sign in with the Court services employee at the information desk when you arrive to let the staff working on your child's case know that you are in the building. Before the hearing, your child will have the opportunity to meet with the defense attorney and, if they are involved, with a **JPC** and a victim **advocate**.

Be prepared to wait: You may wait several hours before being called into Court. There is a café on the second floor where they serve coffee, snacks and prepared food. There are also vending machines with snacks and drinks on the first floor. There are also many nearby restaurants.

Dress: You do not need to dress up! If you need clothing resources, please call us at (206) 263-8634.

Weapons: Weapons are not allowed in court, including guns, knives, tools, and other weapon-like materials. Anyone entering the court is required to go through a metal detector. If an object that raises safety concerns is found by security personnel, they will hold the item for you and you can pick it up again when you leave the building.

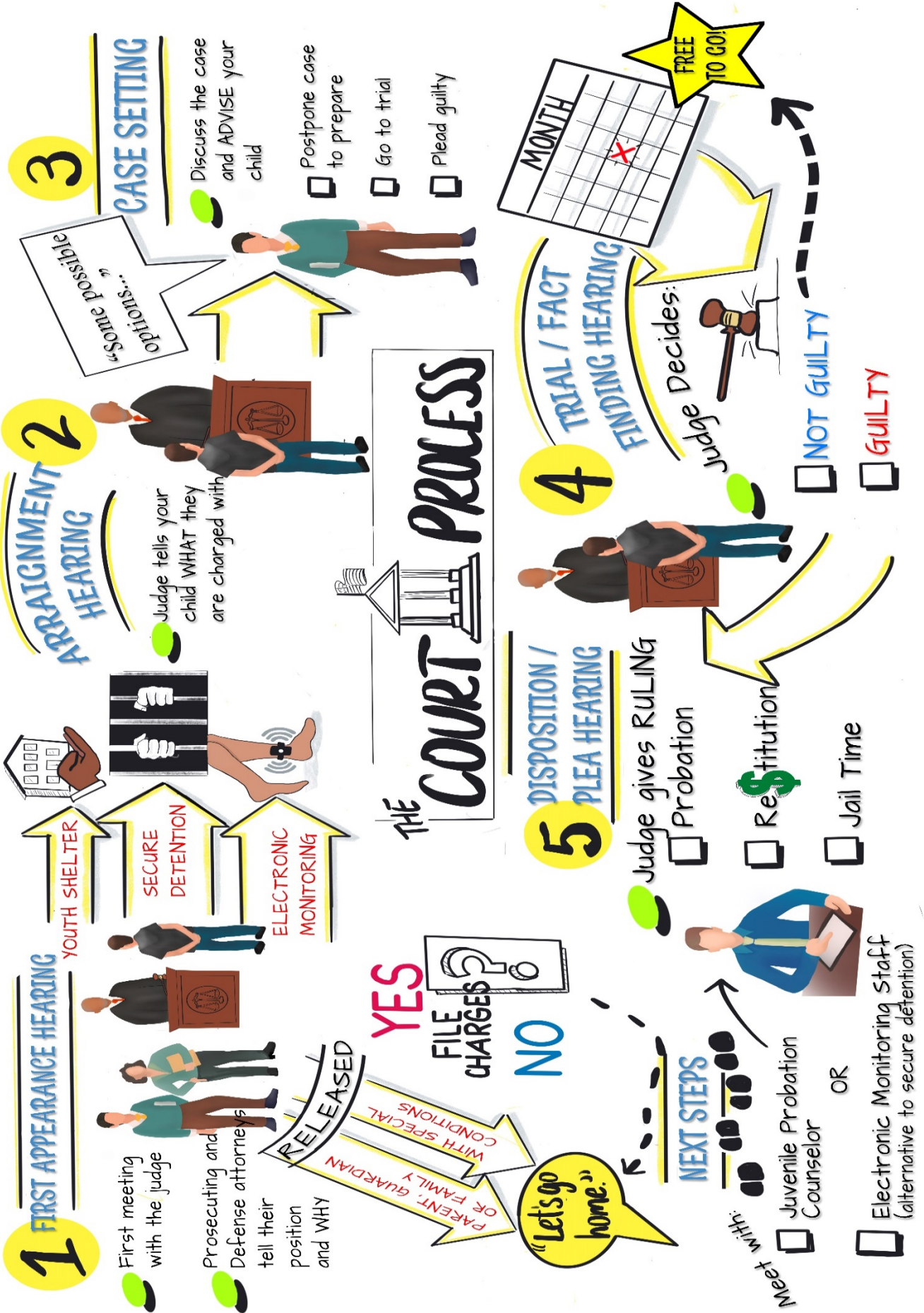
Court Hearings

Juvenile Courthouse Main Floor Receptionist (206) 477-2902

A court hearing is a meeting with a judge.

The juvenile court process can take a few weeks to several months. There are multiple hearings to attend, and depending on scheduling and other factors, these may happen weeks apart. You'll get a letter mailed to you with the charges against your child and the court date. It's very important that the Court and the Department of Public Defense (DPD) have a mailing address where they can reach you. If you don't have a stable address, give them a friend or family member's address.

Ask your child's defense attorney if your child needs to come to each hearing. If your child doesn't need to be there, your child's defense attorney will tell you the next court date they do need to attend. Often, your child's JPC will schedule a meeting at the same time as a hearing date, so make sure to check with your child's probation counselor about whether they have an appointment.



Everyone will have a different experience; sometimes two or more hearings will happen during the same court appearance. Other times, each hearing will be on a different day. Some of the hearings happen in a courtroom and some will happen in the waiting room. Because a court hearing can move very quickly, it is a good idea to write down your questions so you can remember to ask your child's defense attorney or intake probation counselor about them at a later time.

First Appearance Hearing

First appearance hearings take place the business day after your child has been detained. A **JPC** or **DPD defense attorney** will call you to tell you when you can be present for the hearing. If you are not available to come in-person, you can join by phone.

During the hearing you will not be able to talk to your child. The prosecuting attorney and your child's defense attorney will tell the judge what their positions are and why. The judge might ask to hear from you. It is helpful to be prepared by having important points written down about what you want to say. Keep it short so your words will have more power.

At the hearing, the judge will decide whether your child is released or stays in detention. The judge will make this decision based on the charges against your child, the risk of safety to your child or others, and your child's history with the legal system. Here's what the judge could decide should happen to your child:

1. If the judge has safety concerns about your child, or concerns that your child won't come to the next hearing date, they will hold your child in secure detention.
2. Released for you to take your child home
3. Released to a family member with your permission
4. Released with special conditions (such as not committing crimes or not having contact with certain people) unless "probable cause" is not found
5. Sent to a youth shelter if you have safety concerns about your child staying at your home
6. Released on **Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM)** with an ankle device

After the hearing you will be directed to meet with a JPC or, if your child was assigned to be on electronic home monitoring, you will meet with **EHM (ASD)** Staff. They will talk to you about next steps. It's better to meet with them right after the hearing so you don't have to make another trip to the court. If you need to leave right after the court hearing, at least stop by to get the contact information from the probation counselor or EHM staff to make an appointment. They will be expecting you.

The Prosecuting Attorney will decide if they're going to file charges against your child. If they don't file charges, you and your child don't have to go to Court again. If the PAO is filing charges, the judge will tell you at the Arraignment Hearing. During the first appearance hearing, you might hear the Prosecuting Attorney talk with the judge about dates for pressing charges or about "rush charges."

Additional Hearings

If the **PAO** chooses to file charges, your child will be scheduled for more **hearings**. The hearings that your child may attend include:

Arraignment

Arraignment is when the judge tells your child what the Prosecuting Attorney is charging them with. For minor offenses, arraignment will occur in the court lobby with your child and their defense attorney. For more serious offenses, Arraignment will occur in the courtroom. Most people plead “not guilty.” The next hearing, a “Case Setting Hearing” will be scheduled.

Case Setting

The Case Setting Hearing is a meeting between your child and their defense attorney that occurs in the court waiting room. The defense attorney will most likely speak to your child alone during the meeting. The purpose of this meeting is for your child and their defense attorney to discuss the case and for the defense attorney to advise your child about the options available and to help your child decide what option to take.

Your child, with their defense attorney’s help, will decide whether to plead guilty, schedule a trial, or postpone the hearing for more preparation. Depending on this decision, the defense attorney will schedule a trial date, a new case setting date or a plea date.

Case Setting Hearings are often “continued”, which could be requested by any party. In most cases, the defense on behalf of the youth is determining the continuance and the Judge orders it if granted. When there is a “continuance”, you and your child don’t need to be there.

Competency

“Competency” means your child understands the court process and is able to help their defense attorney defend them. A Competency hearing is set when the judge decides if your child is “competent” to be tried. A child can’t be tried if they’re not competent. If your child is not competent, your child might be sent to a psychiatric hospital to become competent. Also, the judge might dismiss the case, meaning there will be no trial and no charges against your child.

Omnibus

This hearing is used to prepare for the “Fact-Finding” trial. It is usually held in the week before the trial. At this hearing, the prosecutor and defense attorney tell the judge if they’re ready to go to trial. If the attorneys need to do more to get ready for the trial, the judge might delay the trial. If the attorneys are ready for trial, they will give the judge the information they need to run the trial. The judge might also resolve outstanding issues that need to be decided before the trial can go forward.

Trial/Fact-Finding Hearing

The “Fact-Finding Hearing” or Trial is the hearing when a judge decides whether your child is guilty or not guilty. There are no juries in juvenile court; the outcome is decided by the judge. For the judge to decide that your child is guilty, the prosecuting attorney must provide enough evidence to show “beyond a reasonable doubt” that your child is guilty of the crime. If your child is found guilty, the next hearing will be a “Disposition Hearing”.

Disposition/Plea Hearing

These two hearings are most often combined. During the “Plea Hearing”, the youth and attorney are presented with the actual charges that have been negotiated and agreed upon between Defense and Prosecution. The youth then formally pleads guilty to the charges.

“Disposition” in the juvenile legal system is the same as “Sentencing” in the adult system. During the disposition hearing, the Prosecutor, Defense, and JPC will each present their recommendations. The youth, guardian(s) will also give their input. Finally, the judge will give a ruling on the disposition (sentence). The Disposition order outlines what your child must do to successfully complete the juvenile legal process. The judge considers what they think will help your child learn accountability, what will keep the community safe and what will help your child improve their behavior. Examples include probation, counseling, community service, restitution (paying back money), and jail time. If your child doesn’t follow the rules in the disposition order, your child may have to see the judge again and they might order further consequences. The court staff will give your child a copy of the disposition order after the Disposition hearing.

Restitution

If the judge orders your child to pay restitution (paying money back for an offense committed), the judge might schedule a Restitution hearing. This is when the judge decides how much money your child has to pay back. The court has job programs to help your child work to earn the money they need to pay back.

Modification

If your child violates the rules of their probation, their JPC will schedule a Modification hearing with the judge. The JPC recommends what the judge should change about your child’s disposition order.

Detention Review

During a Detention Review, the Judge considers the custody status of the youth. The youth/Defense, Prosecutor, or JPC can make a request to change a youth’s detention status. Judges can move to EHM, or to secure detention. Inversely, the judge can step the youth down from secure detention to EHM or outright release.

LESS COMMON HEARINGS

COMPETENCY HEARING

Judge decides if your child can:

- understand their case
- understand the court proceedings
- help their attorney



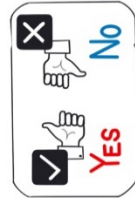
DETENTION REVIEW

All parties come together to decide whether your child is going to:

- Be ordered into detention
- Released from detention
- Put on or taken off of electronic home monitoring

OMNIBUS HEARING

Used to prepare for the Fact Finding Hearing



The Prosecutor and the Defense Attorney tell the Judge if they are ready to go to trial

Diversions

If the police submitted a referral to the **PAO**, the PAO decides whether to follow the traditional legal route with the Court, or to refer your child to an alternative program. These alternative programs hold youth accountable for their actions while addressing the root causes of their behavior and keeping them in their community. These programs partner with community organizations and individuals to support youth and families.

These programs are usually only for youth charged with minor offenses or misdemeanors, but King County is working to expand more programs for youth who allegedly committed felonies. Below are examples of these programs.

Family Intervention and Restorative Services (FIRS) – A program that facilitates restorative meetings and makes connections to counseling for families who are affected by youth domestic violence. A respite center is available for situations in which the safety of families is compromised. For more, see page 11.

Juvenile Probation Counselor Diversion – Sometimes, when eligible for a diversion, the PAO and JPCs will offer youth the opportunity to avoid formal charges if they successfully fulfill an agreement to participate in an individualized program or complete a behavioral health intervention.

Community Accountability Boards (CABs) – Offenses are referred to CABs which are panels of community volunteers who meet with the youth and make plans with their family members and community providers for the youth to fulfill. **Choose 180** – Is a community organization that offers a pre-filing diversion, half-day workshop designed to be a tool to understand the choices youth make and to help keep youth out of the juvenile legal system. Upon successful completion of the workshop, participants have their legal referral dismissed.

Supportive Court Programs and Partnerships

King County Juvenile Court Services works in partnership with numerous community organizations and community members to connect youth and families to a network of supportive programs, interventions, and mentors. The foundation of this work is rooted in restorative principles, which embrace the need to repair harm and rebuild relationships in community. This serves as a set of values to guide practices for how we respond to youth behavior. Community partnerships and programs are essential to helping youth who are court-involved stay connected to and engaged in community. If you are interested in partnering with Juvenile Court, please contact Robert Gant, Community Partnerships Manager (206) 477-0041 rgant@kingcounty.gov

The Youth Support Resources site provides information about youth & family resources in King County. Resources may be filtered by type of service, age, and desired travel distance. To access the Youth Support Resources site click [here](#). If you would like to add or update information to this resource database please e-mail SCResourceCenter@kingcounty.gov.

Behavioral Health Response (BHR):

Behavioral Health Response (BHR): The Superior Court Transformative BHR partnership goal is to serve youth with behavioral health needs (including a history of trauma and dual diagnosis needs) who are charged with serious violence or who face a standard range disposition at JR. Through this pathway, youth will be supported by a Juvenile Probation Counselor (JPC) and a navigator from a community organization. Youth that participate will be able to have their case charge(s) reduced to misdemeanors with the option for a Deferred Disposition or dismissed upon successful completion. Because this pathway provides for both a community disposition and a charge reduction, the prosecutor will participate in identifying youth who are eligible for this program.

Aggression Replacement Training (ART) (206) 477-9573

A program for Court referred youth that expands participants' interpersonal, emotional management and behavioral skills. There are three components of the curriculum focusing on Skill Building, Anger Control, and Moral Reasoning. 1 Hour classes are held three times a week for 10 weeks for a total of 30 hours.

At Risk Youth (ARY), Child In Need of Services (CHINS), and Truancy Programs

These programs are operated by Family Court, which is a department within Superior Court and separate from probation. ARY/CHINS programs help parents who are worried about their child's behavior and safety and want to get help from the Court to keep their child safe. The Truancy Program is initiated by the school district (as directed by state law) and is intended to work collaboratively with families to get youth back on track to a successful educational plan that matches their educational goals.

At Risk Youth Petition (ARY):

A parent/guardian can file an ARY Petition to obtain assistance and support from the court in maintaining the care, custody and control of the child and to assist in the resolution of family conflict. The court can order a youth to follow rules and enroll in services. Case managers support families and refer to programs that strengthen reconciliation. To begin the process, the parent/guardian must obtain a Family Assessment from the Department of Children Youth and Families at (800) 609-8764.

Please contact a case manager for further information or visit
<https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/becca/ary.aspx> :

King County Courthouse in Seattle – Case Manager (206) 477-4946
Serves Bellevue, Issaquah, Lake Washington, Mercer Island, Northshore, Riverview, Seattle, Shoreline, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, & Vashon school districts

Maleng Regional Justice Center in Kent - Case Manager (206) 477-2759
Serves Auburn, Enumclaw, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, Tahoma, & Tukwila school districts

Child in Need of Services (CHINS):

A CHINS petition can be filed by a parent/guardian, youth or **DCYF**. If there is a serious conflict that cannot be resolved while the child resides at home, the court can allow for up to 6 months of temporary out-of-home placement while the family works towards reunification.

To begin the process, the parent/guardian or youth must obtain a Family Assessment from the Department of Children Youth and Families at (800) 609-8764.

Please contact a case manager for further information or visit <https://www.kingcounty.gov/courts/superior-court/becca/chins.aspx> :

King County Courthouse in Seattle – Case Manager (206) 477-4946
Serves Bellevue, Issaquah, Lake Washington, Mercer Island, Northshore, Riverview, Seattle, Shoreline, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, & Vashon school districts

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Truancy & Education Reengagement

In Washington State, school districts are required by law to file a “Truancy Petition” with the court no later than the seventh unexcused absence in a month or no later than the tenth unexcused absence in a year (RCW 28A.225.030). A Truancy Petition is a civil petition that is intended to reengage students with their education. The law also requires that the school district attempt interventions to help eliminate or reduce unexcused absences.

In King County, the goal of the Truancy and Education Reengagement Process is to work with school districts and families to remove the barriers to regular school attendance while ensuring that youth have what they need in order to thrive in school. The court will decide if the youth needs to come to court as a result of a Truancy Petition. Prior to a court hearing being set, youth and families are invited to a number of community supports that use a preemptive, holistic, and restorative approach to reengagement. The Education Reengagement team strives for positive outcomes by keeping young people out of the formal truancy court process through increased community partnerships, education reengagement workshops, pretrial conferences, mentorship, youth advocates, community referrals, and alternative educational programs. Truancy matters may also be handled by a Community Truancy Board at the district level.

King County Becca Court Coordinator: (206) 477-2746

King County Superior Court Truancy Program: (206) 477-2746

You can contact your school district to learn more and find your district’s truancy contact info here:

<https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/support-programs/attendance-chronic-absenteeism-and-truancy/district-truancy-liaison>

District Representatives Contact Information: <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/support-programs/attendance-chronic-absenteeism-and-truancy/district-truancy-liaison>

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney: Desk (206) 477-4336 | Cell (206) 965-5614

Looking for Alternative Educational Opportunities? Reconnect to Opportunity:
<https://reopp.org/>

Juvenile Justice Assessment Team (JJAT) (206) 263-1522

The Juvenile Justice Assessment Team (JJAT) provides mental health, substance use, and psychological evaluations and consultations for court-involved youth to help develop and guide a therapeutic treatment plan. JJAT is a collaboration between community behavioral health partners ([Ryther](#) and [Seneca Family of Agencies](#)) and King County Juvenile Court. Ryther and Seneca provide contracted staff who conduct clinical assessments with youth.

JJAT includes a diverse team of behavioral health professionals, including a clinical psychologist, mental health clinicians, and substance use disorder professionals, who provide assessments, consultation, and recommendations for therapeutic interventions. The JJAT team also includes the JJAT Supervisor, Program Coordinator, and Family Partner. JJAT assessors meet youth at the office, in the community, or in detention as many times as necessary in order to get a full picture of the youths' current needs

Superior Court Child & Family Resource Center

Meaningful, community-centered connections for young people are critical to their success. The Bobbe J. Bridge Resource Center helps ensure youth and families have access to information, programs, and opportunities that support their needs and goals. The Resource Center partners with non-profit organizations and community members to provide coordinated assistance to youth and families in one central location at the Children and Family Justice Center. The Resource Center hours are Monday through Friday between 8:30am and 4:30pm. Anyone can access services during these times. To reach out call (206) 263-8634.

The Resource Center hosts **the Clothing Shop**, an onsite boutique-style clothing shop, where youth can shop for free, well-curated, new or gently used items of clothing to wear to their next job interview, court appearance, award ceremony, graduation, or other special occasion. Click [here](#) to learn more about The Clothing Shop.

Juvenile Court Education and Employment Training (206) 477-3020

Education and Employment Training (EET) provides support for education success, Job Readiness Training, and subsidized work experience to eligible court-involved youth. EET helps court-involved young people, ages 15-19, to achieve educational and employment success. Education and Employment Specialists work with young people all throughout King County. EET accepts referrals and works with young people year-round.

If you are interested in enrolling in or referring to EET, please contact the youth's assigned Juvenile Probation Counselor to assess eligibility and to make a referral.

Alternatives to Secure Detention

Electronic Home Monitoring (206) 477-9915 or (206) 477-9891

When the Court is concerned your child may not return to court, and that your child can receive the support they need outside of detention, the Court might place your child on Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM). They'll be given an EHM ankle bracelet so **DAJD** can monitor their location. This option allows your child to remain in their home and community instead of being in secure detention.

If your child is part of the EHM program, you will meet DAJD staff. Staff include Placement Specialists, who help set your child up with EM, and then the Community Surveillance Officers, who monitor youth on EHM to make sure they're following court rules and are successful remaining in the community. While youth are on EHM, they can only go to pre-approved locations like school, medical or counseling appointments, court hearings, or JPC or Attorney appointments. Your child's schedule must be discussed and approved by DAJD staff.

Group Care

Group Care is a 24-hour residential location where your child may temporarily live. This program is run by a community-based organization such as YouthCare. Group Care is offered to youth between the ages of 13-17, and your child must agree to participate in all programming while staying at the group home. It is possible for your child to be placed on Electronic Home Monitoring while living at the group home. The level of your child's alleged offense, and any past behavior while staying in Group Care, may impact the ability to be placed in this program.

Sealing Records

In Washington State, all juvenile court matters are public record. This means that charges filed against your child are available to the public. When a child is found guilty in a juvenile court it is called "Adjudication", which is technically not a criminal conviction. However, Adjudication might make it harder for your child to find a job. Depending on your child's criminal history, your child can "seal" their criminal record. This means that future employers and others can't look up your child's criminal record. To seal their records your child should file a request with the court. For more information about sealing records, contact the King County Department of Defense at (206) 296-7662.

It is recommended that you talk with your attorney and your JPC about your individual situation and how to get help with record sealing.

Terms Often Used

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

Advocate a professional role of someone that seeks to ensure that other are able to have their voice heard, to defend and safeguard their rights, and have their views and wishes genuinely considered when decisions are being made about their lives.

Anger Replacement Training is a program that teaches youth to develop their feeling management and communication skills. It is taught at the Court by JPCs and in the community by some health service organizations.

Arrested When a child or youth is taken into custody by the police.

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

Assessment An evaluation completed by a professional through an interview to determine the needs of youth and/or the family based on available resources.

At Risk Youth Petition A petition made to the court by a parent/guardian asking for assistance to maintain the care, custody, and control of their child, to assist in the resolution of family conflict.

Attorney or lawyer, a trained legal professional licensed to represent people in court.

Case Manager may perform assessments, supports clients with assessment, planning, advocacy, referrals, and coordination of services.

Charge The law that a child is formally accused of violating.

Children and Family Justice Center Building on 1211 E. Alder Street out of which Family Court Services, Juvenile Court, the PAO, community programs and events, the FIRS Center, and juvenile detention are based.

Child in Need of Services Civil process petition that is filed by a parent, youth or DCYF representative asking the court to place a youth in a residence other than the current placement due to a serious conflict.

Child Protective Services Washington State division from the Department of Children and Family Services that provides protection for children who are at risk of, or are experiencing neglect, physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. The focus is on the safety of the child and support for parents to strengthen families and promote safe nurturing homes for children.

Civil a petition made to the court claiming that a family member did not fulfill a legal duty owed to another family member (between guardian and children or youth).

Community Accountability Boards Panels of community volunteers who meet with the youth and make plans with their family members and community providers for the youth to fulfill to address low level offenses.

Community Empowerment Disposition Alternative Resolution is a program that connects youth to community resources and supports after the first time that they have been charged with a felony. By participating, youth avoid confinement.

Conditions of Probation will vary from youth to youth depending on what the judge believes is appropriate. Common conditions of probation include attending school, obeying house rules, and avoiding illegal substances. Sometimes the judge will also order counseling or drug treatment, community service or restitution.

Continuance A postponement of a court hearing.

Counsel Another name for an attorney or lawyer.

Court refers to Superior Court of King County, specifically the Juvenile Division. Also called Juvenile Court.

Court Order A formal legal order on behalf of a Judge.

De-Identification The process used to prevent a person's identity from being connected with information to preserve privacy.

Department of Children, Youth, and Family Services 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.

Dependency A process that addresses the guardianship of a child.

Detained Held in secure detention.

Disposition The juvenile legal system's version of a court sentence (a judge decides the disposition during a hearing).

Diversion An opportunity to handle a juvenile matter outside of the traditional court process and secure detention.

Due Process Courts must follow a fair and just process; for ex-ample, they must give children notice of hearings and the right to present their side of an argument.

Evidence-Based Program carefully studied treatment programs that have research that proves their effectiveness. They include ART, FFT, MST, and FIT.

Family Court Services The Court offices that handle adoption, parenting plans, domestic violence and Becca programs: **ARY**, **CHINS** and **Truancy**.

Felony An act or serious crime that carries the potential punishment of long term detention or juvenile prison. See **JR** (less serious crimes are called misdemeanors).

File charges The official declaration that the Prosecuting Attorney will pursue the legal process to punish a youth for a crime. Hearings will take place and evidence will be used against your child.

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 evidence, to continue proceedings against the youth.

Functional Family Therapy (FFT) A short-term family, home-based prevention and intervention program for high-risk children ages 11-18.

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.

Grievance An official statement of a complaint over wrong and unfair treatment

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

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 Justice Assessment Team Court based assessment team that provide assessments for court involved youth.

Juvenile Detention Officer Individuals working in secure detention who are responsible for creating and maintaining a safe environment for juveniles and ensuring that their care and programming needs are met.

Juvenile Probation Counselor A Superior Court professional who is assigned to youth who plead guilty or are found guilty of a crime by the Court. They develop a case plan with youth and their family members and provide Judge with information about your child. The probation counselors' main goal is to support your child and family through the process while providing resources and promoting a safe and healthy future.

Juvenile Rehabilitation (JR) is within DCYF and serves Washington State's highest-risk youth. Youth may be committed to JR custody by any county juvenile court. The juvenile courts follow prescribed sentencing guidelines to determine which youth will be committed to JR. These youth typically have committed multiple lower-level offenses or have committed a serious crime.

Law Enforcement Police officers whose job it is to enforce the law. In King County, the Sherriff's department contracts with local cities and municipalities to provide law enforcement services.

Mandated Reporter is a person who, because of their profession, is legally required to report any suspicion of child abuse or neglect to Child Protective Services. Defense Attorneys and Mitigation Specialists are **not** mandated reporters.

Mentor A professional role model that guides and supports youth in their empowerment.

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

Multi-Systemic Therapy Intensive, in-home family therapy for children ages 12-17 with serious behavior disorders.

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

Parent In this resource, the term “guardian” and “parent” have the same meaning.

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.

Probable Cause A reason to believe a child committed the offense of which they are accused

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 King County attorney who charges a juvenile respondent with a crime and proceeds to obtain an adjudication.

Public Defender A King County attorney appointed by the court to represent a juvenile respondent who is unable to hire an attorney.

Recidivism Repeated criminal adjudications.

Referral When it is by law enforcement, it is referring to a police report. When it is a “referral to services” on behalf of a JPC or service provider, it is a recommendation to get help or support.

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

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

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

Superior Court Oversees juvenile probation, court services, family court, clerks, and support staff.

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.

Truancy Petition A Truancy Petition is a civil petition filed by schools that is intended to reengage students with their education.

Undocumented the legal condition of living in the United States without inspection and permission by the U.S. government and those who entered the country with a legal visa that is no longer valid.

Warrant a document issued by a legal or government official authorizing the police to arrest or transport a youth to a specific location.

Acronyms

An “acronym” is an abbreviated form of a word. These are often used by people who work in the legal system. Below is a list of the more common shortcuts that are used.

ART Aggression Replacement Therapy

ARY At Risk Youth, refers to a program initiated by a civil petition. See “At Risk Youth Petition” in “definitions”.

CABs Community Accountability Boards

CEDAR Community Empowered Disposition Alternative and Resolution

CFJC Children and Family Justice Center

CHINS Child in Need of Services petition. See “Child in Need of Services” in “definitions”

CPS Child Protective Services operated by Washington State Department of Children Youth and Families

DAJD King County Department of Adult and Juvenile Detention

DCYF Washington State Department of Children Youth and Families

DPD King County Department of Public Defense

DSHS Washington State Department of Social and Health Services

EBP Evidence Based Program

FFT Functional Family Therapy

FIRS Family Intervention and Restorative Services

JPC Juvenile Probation Counselor

JJAT Juvenile Justice Assessment Team

JR Juvenile Rehabilitation

MST MultiSystemic Therapy

PAO Prosecuting Attorney’s Office

Community Resources and Services

Below are some of the programs that provide services to youth and families in King County. If you have access to the internet, it is recommended to consult an updated database of resources by clicking [here](#) or by visiting <https://youthresources.kingcounty.gov/>

[4Culture](#) (206) 296-7580

101 Prefontaine Pl S Seattle, WA 98104

Court involved youth produce artwork and learn skills with mentors through 16 week sessions. Focus is on reducing racial disparities in the juvenile legal system.

[Alive and Free](#) (206) 749-7550

2100 24th Avenue South, Suite 250, Seattle, WA 98144

Violence prevention mentoring for youth involved in gangs, violence, and the juvenile justice system.

[Asian Counseling and Referral Services](#) (206) 695-7600

3639 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S. Seattle, WA 98114

Asian language services, assessments, individual, group, and family therapy, case management, crisis response, psychiatric services and medication. Southeast Asian young men's group, teen dating violence program, substance use prevention, education, academic financial aid, employment, tutoring, community service, and recreational activities.

[Center for Human Services](#) (206) 362-7282

2 locations in Shoreline

Counseling, parenting classes in Spanish, substance abuse services, and clothing, computer access, haircut vouchers, infant parent supports. Childcare is available while parents access some services in Shoreline.

[Centro Rendú](#) (253) 499-4245

St. Vincent DePaul, Kent, Burien, and Renton

Services for Latinx, Spanish-speaking communities. Early parenting skills, basic education classes, GED, computer and financial literacy, case management, youth and case management, gang, violence, and drug prevention and intervention services with schools and partnering agencies. Immigration services.

[Changes Parent Support Network](#) (888) 468-2620

Discovery House, 4401 2nd Ave NE, Seattle

Structured, peer-led program that provides support to parents struggling with children who are engaging in oppositional and self-destructive behaviors. Changes offers hope, help, support and relief from feeling overwhelmed and alone. Seattle meeting meets Wednesdays, 7:00-9:30 p.m. They have a potluck the first Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

[Children's Crisis Outreach Response System \(CCORS\)](#) 206-461-3222

Crisis services for families experiencing conflict, youth who are experiencing emotional or behavioral problems, and when the youth is at imminent risk of removal from their housing arrangement.

[Choose 180](#) (206) 457-8940

1416 SW 151st ST Burien 98166

Provides mentorship, advocacy, employment opportunities, summer internships, and academic support.

[Commercially and Sexually Exploited Children](#) (206) 205-9534 Office or (206) 601-5563 Cell
Services for children and youth who have experienced or are at risk of experiencing commercial sexual exploitation and for the individuals and families who provide care for these children.

[Community Passageways](#)

7728 Rainier Ave S, Seattle, WA 98118

Provides mentoring, advocacy, life skills, race based healing, policy advocacy, and transportation for youth and parents involved in the juvenile legal system.

[Community Psychiatric Clinic](#) (206) 366-3015

Various locations Main: 4319 Stone Way N Seattle, WA 98103

Wraparound, outpatient counseling, assessments, individual therapy, parent support, family therapy, skill building groups, and case management services.

[Consejo Counseling & Referral Services](#) (206) 461-4880

Several Locations Main: 3808 S Angeline Street Seattle, WA 98118

Services for Latinx, high risk youth and their families such as gang, violence, and substance use prevention and intervention, tutoring, mentoring, recreational activities, academic scholarships, outpatient mental health services, school based counseling program, sexual assault prevention, visual and performing arts, and community services.

[Credible Messengers](#) (206) 981-1190 (253) 335-6731 & (206) 261-2410

Mentors that share similar racial, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds and lived experiences with youth. Life skills, advocacy, success, race-based healing, empowerment, and academic planning.

[Crime Victims Compensation \(CVC\)](#) (800) 762-3716

Pays medical, counseling, and limited lost wages for innocent victims of crime.

[Employment and Education Youth Services](#) (206) 477-7000

WorkSource Center 645 Andover Park West Tukwila, WA 98188

[Friends of Youth](#) (425) 869-6490

Issaquah

Wraparound services, outpatient counseling, and homelessness prevention life skills training for middle schoolers, and youth shelters.

[Glover Empowerment Mentoring \(GEM\)](#) (253) 277-2726

827 N Central Ave Suite B-109 Kent, WA 98032

Individual, group, and school based mentoring. Case management, advocacy, crisis support, street outreach, and systems navigation.

[Greater Maple Valley Community Center](#) (425) 432-1272

Prevention and intervention teen program. Programs for teens grades 6th-12th, peer activities, teen dating violence prevention, summer programs, tutoring, counseling services, and LGBTQ services.

[Guided Pathways Support for Youth and Families](#) (253) 236-8264

Youth & Family Help Line Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00am-5:00pm (253) 277-4052

6625 S. 190th St., Suite B108, Kent, WA 98032

Provide 1-1 parent support for parents of children involved in the System of Care. Parent classes and trainings for parent support providers. Peer support for youth. Family social events.

[Harborview Medical Center Traumatic Stress Counseling](#) (206) 744-1600 Seattle

(425) 688-5130 Bellevue

Provides counseling to victims of all types of violence.

[Helping Youth Perform Excellence HYPE](#) (253) 740-8198

Federal Way

Bi-weekly weekend program for kids ages 14-18 who are on or at risk or being on juvenile probation.

Teaches leadership and life skills by community leaders. Success planning and support.

[Horn of Africa](#) (206) 760-0550

5303 Rainier Ave. S. Suite D Seattle, WA 98118

Case Management and job readiness training in Amharic, Oromiff, Tigrinya, and Somali. Serves East African immigrants from all of King County.

[The IF Project](#)

Description

[Journeyman](#) (206) 429-5203

Vashon Island

Cultivates transformation experiences for boys and men through nature-based rites of passage and ongoing mentorship. Camps, workshops, retreats, etc.

[Kent Youth and Family Services](#) (253) 859-0300

232 2nd Ave. S. Ste 201 Kent, WA 98032

Mental health and substance use intervention services, LGBTQ and allies support group for youth ages 13-19, youth outreach and after school programs, and homelessness prevention.

[King County Sexual Assault Resource Center \(KCSARC\)](#) (425) 226-5062

24-Hour Crisis Response Line (888) 998-6423

200 Mill Avenue South, Suite 10 Renton, WA 98057

Provides therapy, advocacy, legal advocacy, family support, and crisis support services to people who have experienced sexual assault. They also offer services in Spanish.

[King County Wraparound WISE](#) (206) 263-8957 or (206) 263-9006

A team based planning process for youth with complex needs and their families designed to help improve outcomes for youth.

Learning Centers

Shoreline Community College (206) 533-6733

Seattle Vocational Institute (206) 934-4439

Serves youth between the ages of 16-24 who have not completed high school but who want to attain their GED and go on to college, technical training, and/or employment. Education advocacy and case management.

[Mentoring Urban Students and Teens \(M.U.S.T.\)](#) (206) 949-7444

4093 Letitia Ave S. Seattle, WA 98118

Paid college students mentor young men from 8th grade through high school from schools in the Rainier valley.

[Mercer Island Youth and Family Services](#)

School based counseling and outpatient family therapy.

[National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) (800) 273-8255 TTY (800) 799-4889

The Lifeline provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.

[Navos](#) (206) 248-8826

Several locations. Main: 2600 SW Holden Street, Seattle, WA 98126

In-patient and outpatient clinic, home, and school based youth mental health services.

[Neighborhood House](#) (206) 461-8430

Locations in Seattle and Auburn

Afterschool Programs, Family Resource Center for High Point residents, and Education and Employment Services for Youth

[North Shore Youth and Family Services](#) (425) 485-6541

19201 120th Ave. NE Ste 108 Bothell, WA 98011

Mental health, substance use counseling, parenting classes, and in school support programs.

[Open Doors for Multicultural Families](#) (253) 216-4479

24437 Russell Rd., Suite # 110 Kent, WA 98032

Provides supports for youth and families of youth and children with disabilities who speak different languages. Culturally responsive skill development workshops for youth and parents, support groups, job readiness, and life skills, homelessness prevention, advocacy, system navigation, recreational activities, etc.

[Parent for Parent](#) (206) 477-2311

[Superior Court, Seattle and Maleng Regional Justice Center, Kent](#)

Superior Court offers a program to help parents whose children have been removed from their care by Child Protective Services (CPS) or whose children are in an in-home dependency. It connects "Parent Allies" (parents who have successfully navigated the juvenile dependency system) with parents who are new to the system. Parent Allies provide support and help parents new to the system understand what they must do to successfully reunite with their children.

The program consists of three main elements: Parent Ally Support at Dependency Court Hearings, a two-hour educational class called Dependency 101, and an ongoing support class called Dependency 201.

[Positive Outcomes Program](#) (253) 838-6810

Federal Way

Youth program that supports high school graduation or obtaining GED, enrolling in college or a training program, obtaining employment, finding resources such as transportation, school supplies, clothes, housing, or food, and to participate in positive activities.

[Powerful Voices](#) (206) 860-1026

1620 18th Ave. Ste. 100 Seattle, WA 98122

In-school and summer programs, cultural enrichment programs, employment programs, and advocacy development for female identified and youth who are gender non-binary.

[Puget Sound Adlerian Society](#) (206) 527-2566

Offer a free 14-hour Positive Discipline parenting course and organize an online Parenting Event Calendar, as well as other collaborators and organizations' parenting education and training courses information within the Central Puget Sound areas.

[Reconnect to Opportunity](#) (206) 263-8244

Home outreach to provide education reconnection services to youth between the ages of 16 and 24. Career supports as well.

[Renton Area Youth & Family Services](#) (425) 271-5600 or (206) 772-2050

1025 South 3rd St. Renton, WA 98057 and 12704 76th Ave. S. Seattle, WA 98178

Family medicine and behavioral health counseling. Case management and prevention for at risk youth through SPARK T.H.I.S. program.

[Ryther](#) (206) 525-5050

2400 NE 95th St. Seattle, WA 98115

Therapy and counseling for youth and treatment and skills for youth who are autistic and diagnosed with ADHD. Substance use assessments and interventions for youth.

[SafeFutures Youth Center](#) (206) 938-9606

6337 35th Ave. SW Seattle, WA 98126

Culturally responsive prevention and intervention programs for youth at risk of becoming involved in the legal system and for youth who are currently involved. Their office is in West Seattle but they provide services all over King County. They help with school engagement, mentoring, advocacy, case management, and other resource needs.

[SeaMar](#)

Various locations

Services in English and Spanish. Latinx educational achievement program. Intensive case management, school re-engagement, drug/alcohol counseling, family counseling, health services and housing support for youth involved in the juvenile justice system, middle school students at risk of suspension, and those impacted by violence in the community. Youth also receive employment assistance, post-secondary exploration opportunities, and community service opportunities.

[Seattle Children's](#) (206) 987-2000

4800 Sand Point Way NE Seattle, WA

Parent classes and support groups, adolescent development training for adults, peer advising, educational resources. Support for families with youth with disabilities.

[Sound](#) (206) 901-2000

6400 Southcenter Blvd. Tukwila, WA 98188

Youth wraparound services. Outpatient, community, and school based services. Parenting skills, individual, group, couple, and family therapy. Assessments, case management, crisis response,

psychiatric services, and employment and housing support. Parent partners and peer counselors. Specialized services for people impacted by trauma and children with autism.

[Southeast Youth & Family Services](#) (206) 721-5542

3722 South Hudson Street Seattle, WA 98118

Counseling, child development, and youth development programs. Social and life building classes, cultural and recreational activities and academic support. Family and parent support such as case management and counseling. African immigrant and refugee outreach program (case management, employment assistance and cultural adjustment and orientation). Asian Immigrant Support and Outreach Program provides counseling, advocacy, info and referrals and crisis intervention as well as case management, employment assistance and cultural adjustment and orientation. Translation and interpretation services are provided.

[Southwest Youth & Family Services](#) (206) 937-7680

4555 Delridge Way SW Seattle, WA 98106

Youth and family individual, group, and family therapy. New Futures, ART, youth violence prevention program, wraparound services, provides advocacy and case management, extracurricular programming, summer programs, and recreational activities.

[Substance Abuse Hotline](#) (800) 662-4357

24/7, 365-day-a-year treatment referral and information service (in English and Spanish) for individuals and families facing mental and/or substance use disorders.

[Suicide Crisis Text Line](#)

Help is available 24 hours a day throughout the US by texting START to 741741. The person texting is connected live with a Crisis Counselor, trained to bring people from a crisis moment to a calmer state through active listening and collaborative problem solving.

[TeamChild](#) (206) 322-2444

1225 S. Weller Ste 420 Seattle, WA 98144

Record sealing clinics in Seattle and Kent. Legal advocacy for systemic barriers such as academic, housing, foster care, unmet health care needs, and legal system help and support.

[Teen Clinics by Seattle and King County Public Health](#)

Auburn, Eastbay, Federal Way, Kent

Free and low cost services for teens up to 21 years of age. Free condoms, birth control methods, STD and HIV tests, Plan B (morning after pill), pregnancy tests, and information about sexual health.

[Teen Link](#) (866) 833-6546

Anonymous help phone line for teens. Evenings 6:00pm- 10:00pm.

[TXT 4 HELP](#) 44357

Nationwide, 24-hour text-for-support service for teens in crisis. It can be used to seek support or safety due to for abuse, bullying, family problems, depression, suicidal thoughts, and others. TXT 4 HELP counselors can provide support via text, and can offer additional suggestions for immediate help. Text the word “safe” and your current location (address, city, state) to 4HELP (44357). Within seconds, you will receive a message with the closest Safe Place site and phone number for the local youth agency. For immediate help, reply with “2chat” to text interactively with a trained counselor.

[**Therapeutic Health Services \(THS\)**](#) (206) 323-0930

Various locations

Wraparound services, substance use and mental health programs and services, 5-week Spanish Parent Coaching Group for youth with co-occurring disorders. School based services at Madrona Middle School and Garfield High School such as onsite assessment, crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, violence and gang intervention/prevention, resource connection, and a life skills class for youth of African ancestry.

[**Urban Artworks**](#)

Inscape Arts Building 815 Seattle Blvd S Ste B7 Seattle, WA 98134

After school and intern mural program, employment program, summer program, curator, apprentice program. **EET** program partner for youth on probation.

[**Urban Impact**](#) (206) 722-2052

7728 Rainier Ave. S Seattle, WA 98118

Different hubs in Seattle from the Central District to White Center that provide tutoring for immigrant students, refugee family supports, mentoring, after school support, father engagement, and high school outreach.

[**Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle**](#) (206) 461-3792

105 14th Ave. Ste 200 Seattle, WA 98122

Education, housing, and employment support, youth empowerment programs, and activities for young professionals.

[**Valley Cities Counseling and Consultation**](#) (253) 833-7444

Several Locations

[**Vashon Youth and Family Services**](#) (206) 463-5511

20110 Vashon HWY SW Vashon, WA 98070

Case management, counseling, substance use services, resource assistance, food pantry, dental services, advocacy, homelessness prevention, assisted living, services for pregnant people, parenting services, Latinx outreach services, and violence prevention services.

[**Victim Support Services**](#) (800) 346-7555 (24-Hour helpline)

Formerly known as Families & Friends of Violent Crime Victims. Provides community-based support services to victims of all types of crime.

[**Washington Recovery Help Line**](#) (866) 789-1511

24-hour emotional support and referrals for substance abuse, problem gambling and mental health.

[**YMCA**](#)

Various Locations

Services for youth and young adults include housing and transition planning, education and employment, family support and foster care, counseling and therapy, leadership development, and violence prevention.

[**You Grow Girl**](#) (206) 417-9904

2200 Rainier Ave S, Suite 201, Seattle, WA 98144

Day camps, skill building groups, career mentoring, case management, individual, and family counseling, psychoeducation, and support groups for children and youth ages 7 and up.

[Young Women Empowered \(Y We\)](#) (206) 519-2426

2524 16th Avenue S. Suite #301 Seattle, WA 98144

Y-WE's mentorship and empowerment programs serve diverse young women, ages 13-24, and adult women mentors in the greater Seattle area. Y-We creates meaningful engagement through culturally relevant programs supported by mentors.

[YouthCare](#) (800) 495-7802

Provides shelter programs for youth, juvenile system navigation, homelessness prevention, mentorship, and advocacy for sexual abuse and commercial and sexual exploitation.

[Youth Eastside Services \(YES\)](#) (425) 747-4937

Bellevue, Kirkland, and Redmond

Evidence based mental health counseling, substance use, co-occurring disorder counseling and treatment, psychiatric services, and education and prevention program for children, youth and their families in Easy King County. Services in Spanish.

[Youth and Family Clothing Shop at Juvenile Court](#) (425) 531-1756

1211 E. Alder St. Seattle, WA 98122

A clothing bank for any youth in need and for families who are involved with the juvenile justice system.

[YouthSource](#) (206) 477-7010

A one-stop center offering an array of programs for young adults ages 16 to 24 who left high school. These programs focus on education, employment and leadership development. They also provide connections to youth programs, community resources for life stabilization, job readiness and placement services, and comprehensive case management.

Acknowledgments

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About this guide to provide feedback or ask questions regarding this guide, please contact zydinfo@kingcounty.gov. For more info about Zero Youth Detention, visit zeroyouthdetention.com.