

Record Detail

Name	Public Correctional Policy on Juvenile Justice
Type	Policy
Date	Aug. 23, 1984; Jan. 17, 1990; Jan. 10, 1993; Jan. 14, 2002; Jan. 24, 2007
Description	<p>Introduction:</p> <p>Children and youths have distinct personal and developmental needs and must be kept separate from adult offenders. The juvenile justice continuum consists of prevention, diversion, detention, probation, residential and aftercare programs. The best interests of the individual youth must be balanced with the needs of the victim and the community.</p> <p>Policy Statement:</p> <p>The juvenile justice system must provide a continuum of services, programs and facilities that ensure maximum opportunity for rehabilitation and are consistent with public safety. These should place a high priority on providing individualized care and rehabilitative services to juvenile offenders throughout the juvenile justice system. To implement this policy, juvenile justice officials and agencies should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Increase public awareness of why it is in their best interest to promote, support, participate in and fund those programs that have proven effective in preventing delinquency and producing healthy, positive, and socially-responsible children and adolescents;B. Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those who can have an impact on the juvenile to achieve the fullest possible cooperation in making appropriate decisions in individual cases and in providing and using services and resources;C. Provide a range of non-residential and residential programs and services in the least restrictive manner, consistent with the needs of individual offenders and the protection of the public;D. Engage the family whenever practical, appropriate and therapeutic to the youth, in the development and implementation of the his or her treatment plan;E. Use a juvenile classification system to identify the risk and needs of the juvenile offender, and develop and implement an individualized treatment plan based on this assessment;F. Advocate for the separation of status offenders from adjudicated delinquent offenders in the same facilities;G. Provide a range of non-secure and secure short-term detention options pending adjudication;H. Advocate for the separation of adjudicated from pre-adjudicated youths in the same housing units;

I. With the involvement of the youth and prior to release from custody, develop a transition plan that includes educational and/or vocational programs for aftercare/reentry and ensure that these reentry services are available and provided when the youth returns from residential placement;

J. Establish written policies and procedures that will protect the rights and safety of the juvenile, the victim and the public in as balanced a manner as possible;

K. Establish procedures to safeguard the accuracy and use of juvenile records and support limitations on their use according to approved national standards, recognizing that the need to safeguard the privacy and rehabilitative goals of the juvenile should be balanced with concern for the protection of the public, including victims;

L. Develop performance outcome measures from which program effectiveness and system operations can be assessed and adjusted when needed; and

M. Implement research and evaluation initiatives that will measure the effectiveness of juvenile justice programs and disseminate findings to the field.