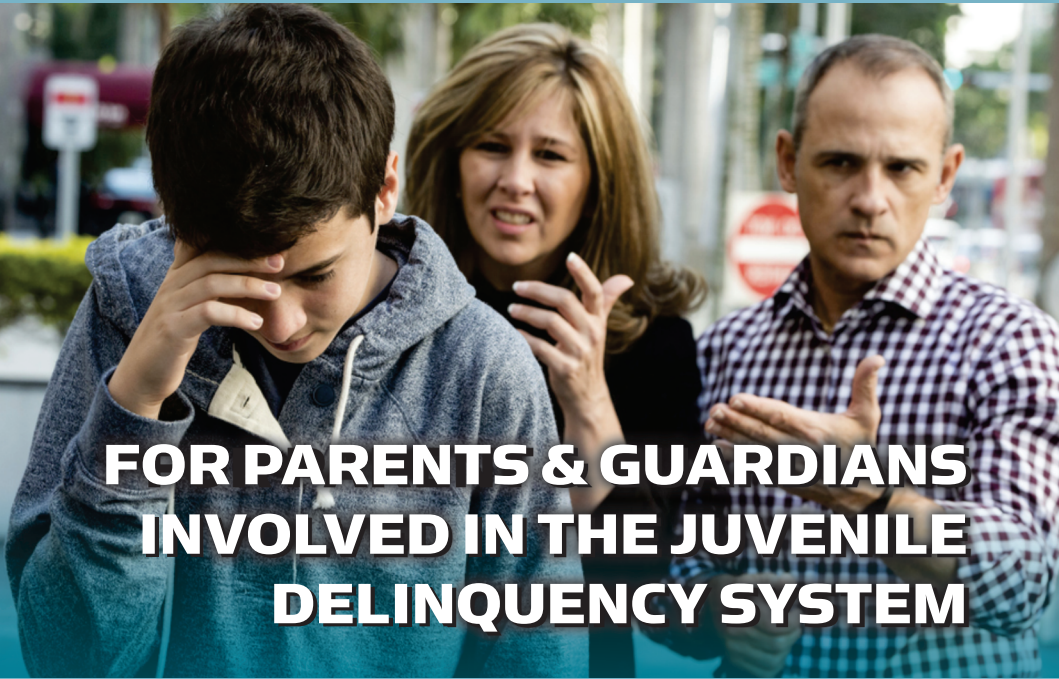




# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF VENTURA



**FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS  
INVOLVED IN THE JUVENILE  
DELINQUENCY SYSTEM**

## INFORMATIONAL GUIDE



This handbook is intended to educate parents/legal guardians who have youth entering the juvenile justice system for the first time regarding the possible legal outcomes specific to the Ventura County Juvenile Court system. Included are explanations of different court hearings, court reports, as well as the court process for both in and out of custody youth. There are also references for outside services that may be useful during this time. Not all situations are covered in this handbook and you are encouraged to seek additional information if your child's case requires more information than what is in this handbook. The handbook is not meant to provide legal advice or direction and should not be taken as such.

The Ventura County Juvenile Court system is here to assist you and your family as you go through this challenging process. For questions not included in this handbook, please contact the **Family Engagement Consultant at (805) 289-8826** and leave a voice mail that will be answered within one (1) business day. You can also contact the Family Engagement Consultant by email at: **[FEC@ventura.courts.ca.gov](mailto:FEC@ventura.courts.ca.gov)**.

# JUVENILE DELINQUENCY COURT RECORD SHEET

**CASE NAME AND NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_

JUDGE/COURTROOM: \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTORNEY/PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE CONTACT:** \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**JUVENILE FACILITIES**, 4333 E. Vineyard Ave., Oxnard, CA 93036

Lobby phone: (805) 981-5685 • Detention phone: (805)981-5521

Electronic Monitoring: (805) 981-5501 • Supervision Services: (805) 973-5100

**JUVENILE COURT**, 4353 E. Vineyard Ave., Oxnard, CA 93036

Info phone: (805) 289-8820 • Interpreter other than Spanish: (805) 289-8799

**Family Engagement Consultant Contact: (805) 289-8826 • [FEC@ventura.courts.ca.gov](mailto:FEC@ventura.courts.ca.gov)**

**Probation Officer:** \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Suitable Placement: (805) 981-5521

INSIGHTS Program: (805) 973-5100

ROPP Youth Advocate: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**NEXT COURT DATES/TIMES:** \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT COURT DATES/TIMES: \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT COURT DATES/TIMES: \_\_\_\_\_

NEXT COURT DATES/TIMES: \_\_\_\_\_

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# COURTHOUSE LOCATION & INFORMATION

The Ventura County Juvenile Justice Center is a FULL SECURITY facility. All persons entering the building will be required to pass through a weapons screening device and have all hand-carried objects x-rayed. Weapons of any type will not be permitted into the Justice Center. Items such as: knives, including pocket knives, scissors, corkscrews, mace, pepper spray, knitting needles, etc., which may be deemed potentially offensive and dangerous by the Sheriff's Department will not be allowed in the building.

Smoking is not permitted in the building, parking lot or on the grounds surrounding the courthouse.

The address for the Juvenile Court is:  
4353 E. Vineyard Avenue, Oxnard, CA  
Telephone (805) 289-8820  
Website: [www.ventura.courts.ca.gov/juvenile.html](http://www.ventura.courts.ca.gov/juvenile.html)

Free public parking is in front of the building.

Juvenile Court is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you are reporting for a traffic citation, the juvenile traffic window is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Juvenile courtrooms are closed on the weekends and during state holidays.

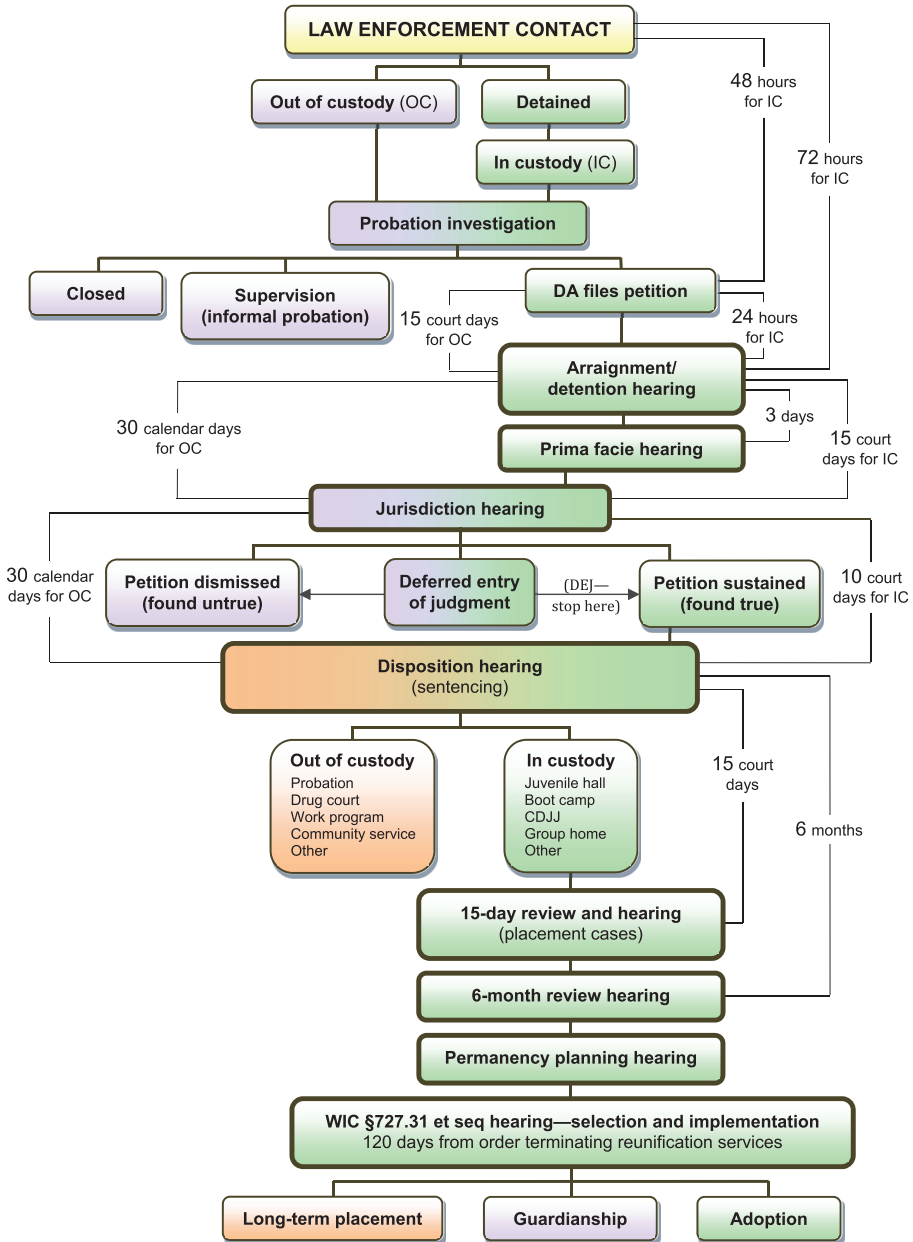
Ventura County Juvenile Hall is located next door at:  
4333 E. Vineyard Avenue  
Oxnard, CA 93036

Public lobby open M-F 8:00-5:30.



# JUVENILE JUSTICE FLOWCHART

## WIC §602 Juvenile Delinquency Process



# PARENTS' RIGHTS

As a parent/guardian, you have the right to:

**Attend court dates and meetings.** You have the right and obligation to attend all court dates and meetings associated with your child's involvement in the juvenile justice system.

**View your child's educational records maintained by the school.** A key element of the defense of the delinquency case may be your child's educational history and records. Therefore, it is important to review and obtain a copy of your child's educational record. If you make a records request at your child's school, the school must comply. If you sign a confidentiality waiver, your child's attorney may request the school records for you.

**As a parent,** you and your child have the right to be respected regardless of race, religion, national origin, language, economic status, disability, gender, sexual orientation, or age.

**As a parent,** you have the right to be a vocal and active advocate on behalf of your child.

**As a parent,** you have the right to be heard and informed regarding matters related to your child's case plan.

**As a parent,** you have the right to receive a copy of the petition and your child's terms and conditions of probation.

**As a parent,** you have the right to be treated professionally, courteously, and respectfully by all probation staff and court staff.

***If your child is housed/placed by the Ventura County Probation Department you have the following rights:***

**As a parent,** you have the right to communicate with your child via visitation, telephone, and mail.

**As a parent,** you have the right to expect the agency to provide a safe, secure, and sanitary environment for your child.

**As a parent** you have the right not to be judged, blamed or labeled because of your child's probation status.



# PARENT & GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES

## Parent/Guardian Responsibility during Juvenile Justice Involvement

You keep legal custody of your child during a juvenile justice involvement, unless there is a separate hearing to limit or terminate your custody. Sometimes families think that when their child is involved in juvenile justice that this system will take over the parenting of their child. Your attention and involvement with your child is more important than ever during this time! You are still responsible for your child's care and behavior, even if the Court is making specific decisions about what your child must do as part of their involvement. You are expected to attend Court hearings. The Court may order you to attend programs or services.

## Presence during Police Questioning

You are permitted to be present during police questioning, but you do not have an absolute right to be there. If your child is 15 years of age or younger, the police are not allowed to question your child without your child first speaking to an attorney.

## Participation in Hearings

California's juvenile justice system recognizes that family participation is important. Ask your child's attorney and the probation officer to talk with you about how you can contribute to the hearing process.

- **It is extremely important that you make every effort to appear at each of your child's court hearings.** Your presence, along with copies of related documents (i.e., report cards, certificates of participation in sports or other youth programs, completed volunteer community service hours and/or proof of counseling services received) shows your support and may assist the court in determining a suitable disposition for your child.
- On your child's court date, you should be at the courthouse at 8:30 a.m. with identification. Be sure to check in with security and a pager will be given to you. Then wait outside of your assigned courtroom so that anyone looking to contact you can find you. For example, your child's attorney may wish to speak with you or the bailiff in the courtroom may want to give you or your child a direction about their court appearance.

## Participation in Defense

Your child's defense attorney's responsibility is to represent your child's legal rights, not yours! However, you can and should share information relevant to your child's case with your child's attorney. This communication is not a two-way street. Your child's attorney is prohibited from sharing information with you that your child does not wish to share. This can include information about the alleged incident, potential witnesses, and/or information about your child's background.

# PARENT & GUARDIAN RESPONSIBILITIES (CONT'D)

## **Communication with Deputy Probation Officers (DPOs)**

It is important for you to talk openly and honestly with your child's Deputy Probation Officer, throughout his/her entire period of supervision. This will make sure your child is receiving the services necessary for them to succeed.

**Take the Pink Disposition Sheet.** After each hearing, the probation court officer will provide a pink copy of the Disposition Sheet, which shows everything that happened in court that day, including new court dates. **DO NOT** leave without receiving this paper.

**Understand What Happened in Court.** If there is anything that is not clear about what has happened in court, contact your child's attorney. Making sure you understand what is expected of you and your child will prevent any further delays in completing the case and obtaining a successful outcome.

**Use the Interpreter's Services.** Interpreter services are available free of charge, so please make sure to utilize this service, if needed.

**Maintain Records.** Maintaining all records regarding your child's court case can prove valuable in the future if there are questions.

## **Educational Needs**

Your child continues to be eligible for a free, appropriate, public education during their juvenile justice involvement, including during any placement. You continue to have the right to know how your child is doing, communicate with her/his school staff, and get regular reports. Many disabilities or chronic medical needs your child has may be accommodated to make sure that she/he benefits from her/his education and they may be eligible for a "504 Plan". If your child needs individualized instruction she or he may be eligible for an Individualized Education Program (I.E.P.). Check with your child's school.

## **Medical Needs**

If your child is in the juvenile justice system, you keep your rights to make medical decisions for your child up until your child's 18th birthday. Exceptions to this are when the Court is authorizing treatment.

## THE LEGAL OBLIGATIONS OF YOUR CHILD'S ATTORNEY

It is important to remember that a Public Defender or private attorney only represents the interests of the child, not the parent. The lawyer has a duty to advocate for what your child decides. You may have very good reason to disagree with your child's decision; however, the lawyer is bound to exclusively represent your child's expressed wishes. It is the lawyer's responsibility to fully explain to your child the consequences of his or her decision. Any information shared by your child with his or her attorney remains confidential (just between the two of them).



# ADVOCATING FOR YOUR CHILD

“Being there” for your child is important when your child is suspected of breaking or has broken the law. It may seem like your child's behavior is beyond your control, but this can be a time when you and your child can rebuild your relationship and find a better direction for your child's life. Be there by:

## **Attending and Arriving on Time for Meetings and Court Hearings**

Remember that your presence at court hearings or any scheduled meetings is very important. You want to be actively involved with your child's case.

## **Participating in all Decisions about your Child**

While it may feel awkward or intimidating, you should speak up at meetings to provide additional information or to give input on your child's needs. In court, be prepared to participate by providing essential information. Tell the deputy probation officer (DPO) you want to be included in all planning meetings and decisions about your child, even if it must be by phone or email.

## **Building Respectful Relationships with People Involved with Your Child**

Regardless of how you may personally feel about your child's situation, or the individual juvenile justice staff, lawyer or judge, you should always communicate respectfully with them. It may be very difficult at times, but it will help your child. In turn, you can expect to be treated with respect. Make sure they know about your child's problems and circumstances that may have contributed to their juvenile justice involvement. Be sure to share positive information as well.

## **Staying Organized**

Keep all paperwork in a folder (reports, letters, and notices). Keep good notes regarding people you speak with, any meetings or hearings scheduled, and other important dates and appointments.



# THINGS YOU CAN DO

## *Things You Can Do While Waiting for the Next Court Hearing*

**Provide proper supervision if your child is home.** This is important so that your child does not end up with more serious charges.

**Visit as often as you can, if your child is detained.** Your child needs to know you care even when he or she has made mistakes and shown poor decision making.

**Offer information about your child.** Make sure your child's attorney, probation officer and judge understand your child's special needs, such as medical, mental health, disability, or educational. Tell them about your child's strengths and needs.

**Offer to help.** Let your child's probation officer, attorney and others know you want to be involved, will work with them throughout the process, and plan to attend decision-making meetings involving your child.

## *Things You Can Do If Your Child is on Informal Supervision*

**Understand all court-ordered requirements and conditions.** Know what your child needs to do to successfully complete all court-ordered requirements, so he or she will not end up back in court. Help your child complete his or her court-ordered obligations.

**Be positive.** Encourage your child to do well. Talk about problems and help find solutions.

**Help your child change behaviors.** If you and your child are struggling, ask for help.

**Participate in your child's education.** Take an active interest in your child's education and work closely with the school.

## *Things You Can Do If Your Child Is Placed Outside the Home*

**Stay in touch with your child.** Visit, write letters, and take phone calls (your child will call you). Contact the facility to find out when you can visit your child and ask the juvenile probation department for assistance if you have transportation problems (need a ride, need bus fare). Your child needs to know you offer love and support and are not abandoning him or her.

**Stay in touch with the people caring for your child.** Attend meetings, keep communication open, and help make decisions about your child to the extent you can.

**Be available to make medical decisions for your child.** You will most likely be the primary decision maker for your child in medical matters even when the Court has custody of your child. Make sure the treatment facility knows who will make medical decisions for your child, and how and when you want to be contacted.

**Participate in your child's education planning.**

**Work on an aftercare plan for when your child comes home.** Work with the treatment facility, home school and probation officer to plan a smooth transition home for your child (aftercare plan).

# THINGS YOU CAN DO

## *How to Support Your Child Once Declared a Ward of the Court*

**Remember** that it is important for your child to report to probation, as directed. Be sure to have consistent communication with the probation officer assigned to your child.

**Make sure your child complies** with the conditions of the Court and probation.

**Talk to your child** about the importance of complying with the terms of the Court and probation. For example, if a curfew is a condition of your child's probation, talk about what some of the consequences of breaking curfew might be—both in your home and in the court system.

If one of the conditions of probation is participating in a program or counseling sessions, **take active steps to enroll your child and make sure he/she participates**. Contact the organization to find out how to enroll your child. If you have **difficulty contacting the organization, or if transportation or cost is a problem**, call your child's attorney or probation officer. With notice, someone may be able to assist your child with transportation and can help as well with contacting community organizations.

**Put up a visible calendar** in your home so that you and your child can keep track of appointments for programs.

**Maintain consistent and fair discipline**. Science shows that children are more immature, impulsive and easily influenced by peer pressure than adults. Realize that your child will not be perfect. Regardless of the mistake, make sure all discipline is firm, fair, and consistent.

**Talk to your child about the idea of earning trust and set specific, age-appropriate goals.**

**For example:**

- If you make a B or higher on your science test, we'll order pizza on Friday.
- If you follow your curfew for the next 3 weeks, I'll let you go out alone with your friends during the afternoon on a Saturday.
- If you have no other problems in school for the rest of the year, I'll take you and a friend to a water park.

**Find another role model/mentor for your child**. A role model or mentor could be any adult that you trust and think would inspire and set a good example for your child. Some ideas for a role model/mentor include an older cousin, neighbor, uncle, aunt, pastor, sports coach, teacher or family friend. Consider enrolling your child in a mentoring program in your community.

# FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

As a parent, legal guardian or person responsible for the care and support of the youth, you will have certain financial obligations. After your child's case is concluded, you may be directed to meet with a financial officer for information specific to your child's case. Below is some basic information.

As of January 1, 2018, most fees in the juvenile delinquency system cannot be assessed including fees for detention, court-appointed attorney, probation or home supervision, among others.

## What Obligations May I Be Liable to Pay?

- **Victim Restitution:** This is money that will be paid back to the victim of a criminal action. Both the youth and the parents are responsible for paying victim restitution. A restitution hearing may be set if the amount is in dispute.
- **Restitution Fines:** This fine is mandatory by law. Both the youth and parents are responsible for paying the restitution fine.

## How Do I Know What I Owe?

The judge will order an amount of restitution that is owed based on your child's case.

## How Do I Pay?

Go to the Collections Unit after court so they can explain the amount that is owed and what you need to do next. The collection officer will work with you to set up a payment plan that will satisfy the Court's orders while taking into consideration your individual circumstances. Once a payment schedule is set up, you will receive a letter in the mail. It is important to make the payments and tell the Collections Unit if you move. Do not rely on a statement coming each month, but note on a calendar when payments are due.

## Superior Court Collections Unit

1-805-639-5010

# helpful tips

As a juvenile, a youth is not convicted of a crime. The correct term is “adjudicated” where a judge determines the youth has committed the alleged crime. This is important because many job applications ask if the applicant has been convicted of a crime. For juveniles, the answer is no because they technically were not convicted but were adjudicated.

Even though a youth’s court record has been sealed, some agencies may still be able to obtain access to the information such as military and law enforcement agencies. Youth should consider this in the event they apply to be in the military or for a law enforcement position. Some security clearance investigations may also have access to this information even after the case has been sealed.

Be sure to respond to the deputy probation officer’s request for an interview as quickly as possible. They are working on a court deadline and generally only have a couple of days to gather all the needed information for the report. Bring as much documentation as possible as you must verify any information provided in the interview (birth certificates and social security cards for the youth, marriage certificates, divorce decrees, death certificates, school report cards, utility bills for address verification, legal guardianship documentation, restraining order paperwork, etc.).

It is important to understand what the Court and probation expect of your child, and you, before you accept your youth home on electronic monitoring. Youth are restricted to their home rather than being incarcerated in juvenile hall. This means your child cannot have visitors at the home and cannot leave the residence (they cannot hang out in the front or backyards). Some exceptions are made for the youth to attend school, religious services, and appointments related to physical and mental health. Insignificant things such as going to get a haircut or going through a drive-thru for a quick meal are prohibited and may affect others in the home. It is expected parents will provide appropriate supervision while the



## HELPFUL TIPS

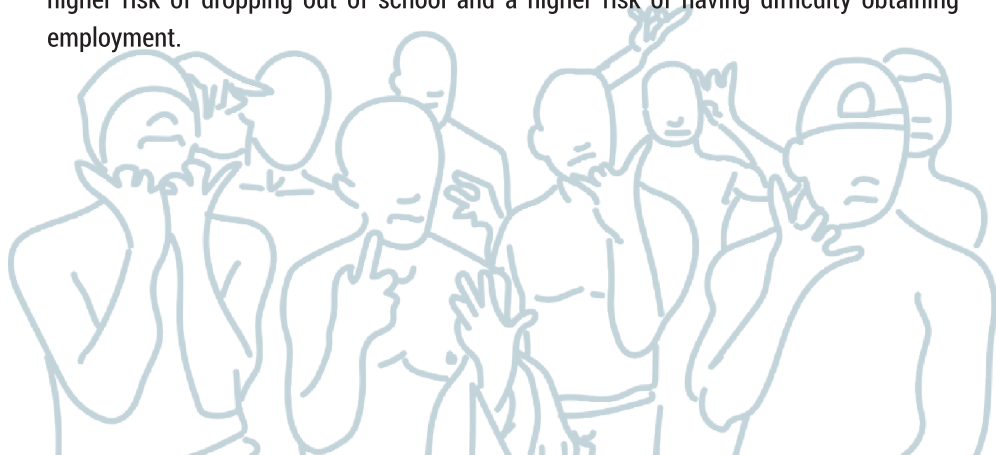
youth is at home to monitor their compliance along with regular residence checks from the assigned deputy probation officer. This program is provided free of charge however, parents are financially responsible for the GPS units if they are damaged. Be sure you read the electronic monitoring contract closely to understand the requirements of the contract.

Parents should recognize the signs their child is involved in gang activity to take appropriate steps to intervene. Allegiance to a sports team, where there isn't a family connection, or dressing in specific colors, or associating with known gang members can be strong indicators of gang association. Other things such as drawings in school notebooks or pieces of paper in their room may also contain signs of gang affiliation.

Talk with your child if you suspect they are in a gang. If they tell you they are not in a gang, but many of their friends are, this could be an indication they are more involved than they want to admit to you.

If you suspect your child is associating with a gang, you can seek further information from the deputy probation officer or gang education classes.

Handling your child's alleged offense informally through an informal handling diversion program is an opportunity to avoid having them enter the formal judicial system. Even if the alleged offense does not warrant time in juvenile hall, if your child is placed on probation and violates the terms and conditions, they could face time in custody. Research indicates that youth who are incarcerated for any amount of time face a higher risk to reoffend, a higher risk of dropping out of school and a higher risk of having difficulty obtaining employment.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Where can I get information about court-ordered programs?** Contact the Ventura County Health Care Agency, Behavioral Health Services, for information and a referral or the Ventura County Probation Agency.
- **If my child was placed on formal supervised probation, where do they report?** Probation will provide you with all this information at your first meeting.
- **Who can visit a youth in custody?** Parents, grandparents, and legal guardians can visit with a valid form of United States identification (CA, DL, ID, passport, matricula consular, etc.) Any exception must be pre-authorized by a court order. Youths are allowed only two visitors at a time.
- **Juvenile Detention Facility Visiting Hours:** Unless notified of a different time, visiting at the Juvenile Detention Facility is scheduled by the housing unit on Wednesdays and Sundays. Please contact the Juvenile Detention Facility at 1-805- 981-5521.
- **Who can I contact if I have questions about the juvenile justice system?** Contact the Family Engagement Consultant at [FEC@ventura.courts.ca.gov](mailto:FEC@ventura.courts.ca.gov) or 1-805-289-8826 and leave a message. The consultant will contact you within one (1) business day.
- **Therapeutic needs** are provided through the Ventura County Health Care Agency Behavioral Health Services and someone will direct you to the most qualified service provider based on your specific needs. Services may be provided on a sliding scale.
- **Youth Shelters** are available to help 24/7 and provide a safe, temporary place for the youth to live. The shelters can also help put the families into contact with therapeutic services.
  - Interface Youth Rescue Program 1-805-469-5882
  - California Youth Crisis Line 1-800-843-5200
  - SAFE PLACE [www.national.safeplace.org](http://www.national.safeplace.org)
- **General Relief** serves all basic needs in Ventura County Dial 211  
Or go to: [www.211ventura.org](http://www.211ventura.org)
- **Court website** for general information: [www.ventura.courts.ca.gov/juvenile.html](http://www.ventura.courts.ca.gov/juvenile.html)
- **Parent Education** classes are available throughout the county. Contact United Parents at (805) 384-1555 or found at [www.parenting.org](http://www.parenting.org)
- **Does my child have to disclose information to employers when trying to get a job?** Juvenile records are not allowed to be disclosed to most employers, and employers are not allowed to ask about a juvenile history in most cases. There are exceptions, so ask your child's attorney if you have questions.
- **Can my child's records be sealed (made private) to help my child later in life?** There are many instances when the court must seal cases when your child does well on probation or the case is dismissed, but there are some cases when they cannot be sealed. A probation officer should give you information about sealing records or you can ask your child's attorney or probation officer.

# RESOURCES: SUBSTANCE ABUSE ISSUES

*Youth in our community are using alcohol and other substances such as marijuana, cocaine and heroin at increasing rates. Use of these substances often results in contact with the police or legal system, either due to possession of the substances, or other behaviors related to obtaining, buying or selling substances.*

If you suspect your child is using substances, it is important you take the first step and take your child for evaluation by a qualified substance abuse professional. With this professional, you will be able to decide what type of professional services to seek and develop a plan to intervene in ways that will be most effective.

## **RECOGNIZE SOME SIGNS OF SUBSTANCE USE, SUCH AS:**

- **CHANGES IN FRIENDS**, especially if your child is hanging out with others you know or suspect use substances
- **STAYING OUT LATE**, especially if you don't know where your child is
- **AVOIDING CONTACT** with family after being out with friends
- **MISSING SCHOOL** or important family events
- **MONEY OR VALUABLES** missing
- **ODD behaviors and appearance**

## **Substance Abuse Resources**

Al-Anon, Alateen (support groups for family members)	1-805-495-0270
Alcoholics Anonymous (support groups)	1-805-389-1444
Community YMCA Family Services	1-805-642-2131

## **Ventura County Substance Abuse (referrals):**

PASSAGES Drug and Alcohol Rehab Center	1-888-926-3424
Ventura County Alcohol & Drug Programs	1-805-981-9200
PDAP of Ventura County	1-805-482-1265
Narcotics Anonymous (support groups)	1-800-429-7690

# RESOURCES: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUES

*Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior used to maintain control or assert power over an intimate partner (spouse, former spouse, co-parent, or dating partner), a parent or a present or former household member.*

Abusive behaviors are not limited to physical violence such as punching or kicking, they also include psychological, verbal, sexual and economic abuse and THEY AFFECT THE ENTIRE FAMILY.

## **Examples of Abusive Behaviors Include:**

**Physical:** Hitting, slapping, pushing, biting, punching, choking and restraining.

### **Psychological:**

- Making partner feel insecure: attacks on self-esteem, blaming, criticizing, manipulation, making partner feel crazy, humiliating, & creating feelings of guilt.
- Intimidation: Threatening looks or behavior, throwing objects, breaking things, & punching walls, playing on partner's fears.
- Isolation: Stopping the person from seeing friends and family, sabotaging relationships, pressuring partner into giving up activities or work, & keeping tabs on partner.

**Verbal:** Cursing, swearing, yelling, put downs, name calling, and criticizing thoughts and feelings.

**Sexual:** Any non-consenting sexual act or behavior, unwanted sexual contact, comments or gesturing within a relationship, manipulating a partner into doing something sexual they do not feel comfortable with.

**Economic:** Controlling all finances, preventing partner from getting a job.

## **Domestic Violence Resources:**

Coalition for Family Harmony	1-800-300-2181
Domestic Violence Hotline (24 hours)	1-800-636-6738
Sexual Assault/Rape Hotline (24 hours)	1-800-656-4673
INTERFACE Children & Family Services	1-805-469-5882 or 1-800-339-9597

## RESOURCES: MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

*Youth getting in trouble with the police or legal system may have unrecognized or untreated behavioral health issues that are contributing to their difficulty staying out of trouble. Issues may include: Attention Deficit Disorder and difficulties with impulse control; depression and other issues with mood; or anxiety or reactions to serious or traumatic events. For some youth, getting in legal trouble can bring a child or family's personal issues to the surface, and getting help to cope with the situation may be needed to prevent further problems.*

You might need behavioral healthcare assistance if you notice:

- Your child frequently gets into arguments, has difficulty paying attention or staying focused, repeatedly gets in trouble in school for distracting others, and often doesn't complete assignments.
- Your child is irritable, feels hopeless, has lost interest in their usual activities, is withdrawing from family and friends, and has difficulty maintaining a regular sleep schedule.
- Your child has been through a very distressing event such as the loss of a close family member or friend or was a witness or victim of violence or assault, and experiences changes in their mood, concentration, or sleep patterns after this event.
- Your child has difficulty managing their anger; and often seems to have conflict with peers or dealing with conflict within the family.

Many resources are available and listed in this guide to assist you in recognizing, understanding, and getting help. The first step is a comprehensive evaluation and deciding with a behavioral healthcare provider what is the best type of help for your child. Most services are covered by Medicaid or private insurance and sliding scales for payment (based on proof of income) are available when needed. Individual or family counseling, group counseling, and evaluation by a medical doctor (Psychiatrist) may be needed to help. In addition, support groups and case management programs are available in the community to help coordinate services.

Any parent, guardian or caretaker can call the Ventura County Behavioral Health Services and ask that a needs assessment be done for their child. The assessment will determine what kind of care your child may need. You could be connected directly to services in your community or, if issues are more challenging, a case manager may be assigned to work with your child and family. The case manager will help you come up with plans to address your concerns.

# RESOURCES: MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

If your child is at risk for hospitalization or not able to remain in your home, you can ask the Ventura County Crisis Team (\*shown below) to come to your home to help calm the crisis and help your child remain stable.

**Please keep in mind that youth who are at immediate risk for harming themselves or others should be taken to the hospital for emergency screening.**

## **Emotional/Behavioral Health Resources:**

*If you are covered by insurance, call your insurance company for a referral to a health provider in your area.*

National Suicide Prevention Hotline	1-800-273-8255
National Alliance on Mental Illness Helpline	1-805-500-6264
Ventura County Behavioral Health Crisis Team	1-866-998-2243
Vista Del Mar Hospital	1-805-653-6434

## **Outpatient Services**

Catholic Charities	1-805-486-2900
United Parents	1-805-384-1555
TAY Tunnel (Transitional Age Youth)	1-805-240-2538

## **If there is a crisis:**

**Call 911** or take child to local emergency room

**\*Call Ventura County Crisis Team/Emergency Screening**      **1-866-998-2243**

# RESOURCES: HEALTH ISSUES

*Most teenagers are very healthy, but if you or your child is worried about their health, there are resources. Every youth should have a health practitioner who knows them. This could be a pediatrician, a nurse practitioner, a family doctor, a primary care center or a clinic. Regular routine physicals and health screenings can help the health practitioner know your child.*

Many health resources are available to you and your child, and it is important to find a healthcare provider who maintains your child's current health history as well as being available for preventative and acute care service. Most services are covered by Medicaid or private insurance and sliding scales based on income (proof of income may be required.)

## **Food Services:**

WIC (Women, Infants & Children, up to age 5)	1-805-981-5251
Cal Fresh Program (Food Stamps)	1-888-472-4463
St John's Health Ministry Food Pantry & Hot Meals	1-805-988-2651
Food Share	1-805-983-7100
Salvation Army	1-805-483-9235

## **Free Care to Uninsured:**

ACE Program for Uninsured Children	1-866-481-7674
California Children Services	1-805-981-5281
Cancer Detection Program	1-800-824-0088
Child Health and Disability Prevention	1-805-981-5291
Children's Dental and Vision	1-866-481-7674
Medi-Cal	1-866-904-9362
ONE-STOP CLINIC (homeless services)	1-805-652-6694
Self-Pay Discount Program	1-805-648-9553



# RESOURCES: OTHER ISSUES

## Education Issues

*One factor which is crucial to your child's ability to succeed in school is your involvement. The purpose of this section in the Handbook is to assist families in finding the right educational resources for their children.*

There is no reason that you must tell the school that your child was arrested or was detained at the Juvenile Detention Facility. Unless it affects your child's education, you may keep it private. If you decide to let the school know, the place to start is your child's Guidance Counselor. He or she will help you and your child plan what to do with school.

In Ventura County, California, any pupil that is removed from the regular education program shall be placed in an alternative education program. If placement in an alternative education program is not available, the student should be provided home instruction or other suitable facilities and programs until placement is available. School districts in Ventura County have control over the educational programs which are offered to students. The School District can use a variety of educational programs to meet the student's current grade requirements.

Ventura County Superintendent of Schools	1-805-383-1902
Ventura County Superintendent of Schools- Special Education	1-805-383-1924

## Bullying Issues

Bullying is unwanted and aggressive behavior. "Bullies" use their power to CONTROL or HARM other people. Examples of bullying are teasing, spreading rumors and attacking someone by hitting or yelling at them.

### Resources

The Victims of Crime Resource Center <a href="http://www.1800VICTIMS.org">www.1800VICTIMS.org</a>	1-800-842-8467
Stomp Out Bullying <a href="http://www.stompoutbullying.org">www.stompoutbullying.org</a>	1-877-602-8559
Safe Kids Net Smartz Connect Safely	<a href="http://www.safekids.com">www.safekids.com</a> <a href="http://www.netsmartz.org/Cyberbullying">www.netsmartz.org/Cyberbullying</a> <a href="http://www.connectsafely.org">www.connectsafely.org</a>



# RESOURCES: OTHER ISSUES

## LGBTQ Issues

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth, and youth questioning their sexual orientation or gender identity experience various challenges because of how others respond to their sexual orientation or gender identity/expression. Some negative experiences that can occur include high rates of physical and emotional bias and violence; rejection by families and peers; and inadequate supports in schools and communities because of their sexual orientation and gender identity/expression.

Stress associated with these experiences can put LGBTQ young people at risk for negative health outcomes and cause them to attempt suicide, experience homelessness, and use illegal drugs.

It is important to get help if the child or family is having a difficult time talking about the child's sexual orientation or gender identity, or the child is being subjected to bullying, as this can be a factor for behavior that can have negative impacts on the entire family. There are many resources available.

### Resources

Rainbow Umbrella	1-805-836-0099
Interface Children & Family Services	1-805-469-5882
The Trevor Project Lifeline	1-888-488-7386
California Youth Crisis Line	1-800-843-5200
One Step a la Vez	1-805-625-7066

## Immigration Issues

The Juvenile Court does not get involved with immigration issues. If you have concerns with immigration you may contact the Ventura Bar Association for a referral to an attorney who handles these types of cases.

### Resources

Ventura County Bar Association – Lawyer Referral	1-805-650-7599
Fifth Street Immigration Assistance Center	
3151 W. Fifth Street, Suite E-100	1-805-984-8738
Oxnard, CA 93030	
CRLA CA Rural Legal Assistance	1-805-483-8083

# RESOURCES: OTHER ISSUES

## Human Trafficking Issues

Human Trafficking is defined as:

Sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age; or

The recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery.

### Resources

Forever Found provides 24/7 Response to assist Ventura County youth in leaving a situation of commercial sexual exploitation.

Forever Found / R.E.A.C.H. Team 1-805-261-1212

WWW.FOREVERFOUND.ORG

Blue Campaign for reporting suspicious activity 1-866-347-2423

[www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign](http://www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign)

National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888

Interface (H.E.A.R.T.) 1-800-636-6738

### Additional Resources

**Grizzly Youth Academy** 1-800-926-0643

The California National Guard provides a FREE and voluntary program to help at-risk youth, who are 16-18 years of age at program entry and meet other criteria, earn school credits that will help them receive a CHSPE, GED or high school diploma, while teaching them discipline. Grizzly consists of two phases: 22-week Residential phase and 12-month Post-Residential phase.

**California Conservation Corps** 1-800-952-5627

California Conservation Corps is a state agency hiring young men and women, 18 to 25, for a year of natural resource work and emergency response, learning important job skills.

**The C.R.E.W. of Ojai** 1-805-649-8847

Concerned Resource & Environmental Workers (C.R.E.W.) is a non-profit youth employment and leadership program that provides youth ages 14-23 with paid employment opportunities doing a wide variety of environmental work to learn life skills.

## RESOURCES: SUPPORT

*Support is necessary for everyone. We all need it. We especially need support during times of stress or when we or the people we love are involved in a crisis. Reaching out for support is sometimes difficult to do. We often think we should be able to handle a demanding situation on our own - that we will appear weak or ineffectual if we ask for help or even a listening ear. Sometimes we wonder what people will think of us or whether we will be judged. At other times we may blame ourselves and decide to tough it out all alone.*

No matter what you are going through, you are not alone. There are always many others in the same situation or that have gone through the same thing you are facing right now. Finding the right support for you in a time of difficulty is easier than you might think.

Supportive individuals and organizations are all around you. All these organizations can offer support through direct counseling, one-to-one conversations, groups, family peer contact, information and referral or activities. Examples are:

- Your church or religious group
- Your school counselor or school-based youth services
- Your local counseling or community center
- Your friends and neighbors
- Your extended family networks
- Help line and support groups
- Community resources



## SOMETIMES THINGS DO NOT GO AS PLANNED

As a parent having a child involved within the court system, it is not unusual for you and your child to feel overwhelmed. It is important to begin by looking over your court papers and understanding what is expected of you and your child.

Over time, many children forget the time when they were in front of the judge and begin to create their own rules. This is when parental involvement becomes most important. If your child does begin to act out, you want to try to talk to them in a calm, clear manner to try to find out what may be going on. Tell them that you are trying to understand them and want to help them through these tough times. Don't threaten or yell at them because this could only make the situation worse.

Talk to your child about what is going on.

Keep in mind that if your child is acting out of the ordinary, it could be an emotional or behavioral issue. Therefore, you may want to have the situation assessed by a mental health professional. If so, your first step is to call Ventura County Behavioral Health Services at 1-805-981-9200 and request assistance. There are plenty of people and services that are set up to help you, so you do not have to do it on your own.



## GLOSSARY

**Bailiff** – There is a bailiff in each courtroom and they are assigned to keep the peace in the courtroom. The bailiff is a deputy sheriff and will be wearing a uniform. They may give you directions about where to sit in the courtroom while waiting for your case to be called. They may also call you into the courtroom from the hallway.

**Conflict Defense Attorney** – This is an attorney retained the same way a deputy public defender is retained. They are appointed when the deputy public defender has a conflict in the case and cannot represent the youth. This can occur in instances such as if there were two or more youths involved in the case, the deputy public defender could only represent one youth and the conflict defense attorney would be appointed to represent the other youth. It is important to note that the conflict defense attorney is tasked with representing your child's legal interests and rights. This means the conflict defense attorney may not always consult you prior to acting in court on your child's behalf or follow your requests. If your wishes for the outcome of the case are different than that of your child, you may request your own representation as the conflict defense attorney can only represent the wishes of your child, their client.

**Deferred Entry of Judgment** - A youth who is at least 14 years old and commits a felony that is not serious or violent may have the benefit of Deferred Entry of Judgment if they have never had probation revoked or been committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice. If a youth successfully completes DEJ, the matter is dismissed and deemed never to have occurred. The probationary period may last up to three years.

**Deputy District Attorney** – The deputy district attorney will decide if the youth's case should be sent to juvenile court. They work to hold the youth accountable for his or her criminal behavior while seeking rehabilitation for the youth and providing for the safety and welfare of the community in each delinquency case. They will work with the youth's attorney to settle the case or take the case to contest (trial), depending on multiple factors.

**Deputy Probation Officer** – Sworn peace officers of the court who will process a youth's case, will be present in court and will provide supervision for both formal and informal probation cases.

**Deputy Public Defender** – A deputy public defender can be appointed to represent the youth at the time of the first hearing. It is important to note that the deputy public defender is tasked with representing your child's legal interests and rights. This means the deputy public defender may not always consult you prior to acting in court on your child's behalf or follow your requests. If your wishes for the outcome of the case are different than that of your child, you may request your own representation as the deputy public defender can only represent the wishes of your child, their client.

## GLOSSARY

**Electronic Monitoring** – Electronic monitoring is a temporary release program where the youth is released home with a GPS ankle bracelet where he/she is expected to remain until the court process is completed. The youth is considered detained at home, which means they are expected to remain home and not leave their residence without the approval of the assigned deputy probation officer. If they are enrolled in school or have an existing ongoing therapy or doctor's appointment, these obligations must be made known to the probation officer, but the youth will be allowed to attend. The program is at no cost to the family. Consideration for this program will depend on several factors, including the seriousness of the crime and family dynamics.

**Petition** – The police prepare and send an application for petition, along with the arrest report, to the probation department for handling. Probation may refer the matter to the District Attorney. Once the deputy district attorney has determined that charges will be filed with the court, the document is called the Petition.

**Private Attorney** – You may always exercise your right to retain a private attorney for the defense of your child's case if you do not wish to utilize a public defender. A private attorney has all the same access rights as a deputy public defender in the juvenile detention facility and court.

**Restitution** – Restitution is money to compensate for losses or damage caused by your child's criminal activity. For example, you may have to pay for what your child stole, or for the victim's medical bills or lost wages. Once restitution has been determined in a youth's case, the amount may be contested through a court hearing process.

**Wardship** – Youth who have been placed on formal probation are considered wards of the court (pursuant to Section 602 of the Welfare and Institutions Code). Frequently it is referred to as "wardship status".





SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF VENTURA

Juvenile Division

4353 E. Vineyard Ave., Oxnard, CA 93036

Telephone (805) 289-8820

[www.ventura.courts.ca.gov/juvenile.html](http://www.ventura.courts.ca.gov/juvenile.html)