

Why might my child be referred to the JRB?

- He/She may have committed a non-violent offense and a police officer may have issued a summons. If the officer, their supervisor or Juvenile court feels the offense could be handled better within the community, it will be forwarded to the JRB.
- He/She may have committed an offense and was let off with a warning by a police officer. If the officer feels that the youth could benefit from additional support, they will forward the incident report to the JRB.
- He/She may be truant from school, defiant of school rules or presenting behavior at school or at home that could result in an arrest. A school official will forward a referral to the JRB.



Criteria to participate in the JRB

- The offense must be a non-violent misdemeanor or status offense.
- The youth must not have any pending or open cases with Juvenile Court.
- Ages 9-17 years old
- Resides in Bridgeport
- Admits involvement/takes responsibility for their actions
- Parent must be willing to be involved in the process

What will happen once the JRB receives a referral for my child?

- Once the JRB has verified that your child is eligible to participate, they will reach out to you via phone or send a letter to your home.
- Since the JRB is voluntary a case manager will explain the process to you and ensure that you are willing to move forward.
 - If you are not, the referral will be returned to the referral source.
- If you are interested in participating, a case manager will arrange a time for an intake where they will gather information about the offense and your child (including demographics, family and school information as well as needs and strengths).
- The case manager will then arrange a panel meeting for a future date (typically held on Tuesday afternoons at 4 or 5pm).
- At this meeting a group of community volunteers will discuss with you and your child the offense and come up with a collaborative plan of interventions.
 - The volunteers that sit on the panel are adults who live/work or serve in the community and want to help youth get back on the right track.
- The case manager will make the appropriate community referrals/begin to check in with you and your child.
- Typically cases remain open for 3 months, depending on specific needs and interventions.

Possible interventions the JRB may recommend:

- Mentoring
- Individual/ family/substance abuse counseling
- Mediation
- Community service/Volunteering
- Academic contracts/school check-ins
- Apology letters/reflective essays
- Pro-social activities: educational, sports, arts, college prep programs
- Educational advocacy



Principles used by the JRB

The JRB uses principles from Balance and Restorative Justice:

- The youth can take **responsibility** for his/her actions
- The aim is not to punish the youth but to **repair** the harm done to the community
- Moves the youth from a liability to an **asset** in the community
- Treat any underlying needs the youth may have
- Focus on the **strengths** of the youth

What is a JRB?

The JRB is a **positive** and **meaningful alternative** to the Juvenile Justice system for those who have committed minor delinquent acts or who are experiencing issues in school or at home.

The JRB aims to keep youth out of the juvenile justice system; the program focuses on strengthening a youth's ties to the community by providing **support** and **positive** role models in order to prevent them from re-offending.

What does this mean?

Since the offense was minor in nature or a status offense, the police/school system feel that your child could receive more appropriate help/support within the community.

Should you choose to participate, upon successful completion of the program, your child will not have a court record for this particular offense.



CONTACT INFORMATION:
For further information or if you have any questions please contact:

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JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD



Parent Information Brochure


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