Mercer County Juvenile Probation

The Mercer County Juvenile Probation Department is under the direct supervision of the Court of Common Pleas, Juvenile Division, and is responsible for the investigation and supervision of juvenile offenders who are alleged to have committed, or have committed, misdemeanor and/or felony level offenses prior to their 18th birthday. The department's jurisdiction expires once a juvenile offender has turned age 21. The mission of the department is driven by the legislatively mandated philosophy of Balanced and Restorative Justice (BARJ) (Title 42. Pa C.S. Section 6301 et.seq) which emphasizes three equal goals: Community Protection, Offender Accountability (including reparation of harm to the victim), and Offender Competency Development. In 2010, Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice Enhancement Strategy (JJSES), fundamentally changed how we achieve BARJ by employing evidence-based practices, data-driven decision making, and professional development as primary goals to ensure that the most effective level of services are provided to the youth and families under the supervision of the Juvenile Court.

To this end, the MCJPD is tasked with providing a continuum of services that address delinquency at every level, from prevention and diversion efforts to ongoing probation supervision in the community, and from monitoring and supervising youth who have been committed to residential treatment facilities or other out-of-home placements to helping them safely reintegrate back into the community.

The Juvenile Probation Department is operationally funded through three separate budgets: the Needs-Based Budget which accesses federal & state level funding; the Juvenile Probation Services Grant which is grant funding awarded to the Courts based on merit from the Juvenile Court Judge's Commission; and the county budget. The department staff compliment consists of a Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, Deputy Chief, Community Specialist (who oversee the Community Court Diversion Program), Intake Officer, six (6) Line Probation Officers, two (2) School-Based Probation Officers, a Community-Based Officer, a Fiscal Assistant, and two Administrative Assistants.

General Services Provided:

- 24-Hour Intake with Consultation available to Police Departments
- 24-hour Emergency access for youth and families under Juvenile Court supervision
- Investigation of Alleged Delinquency Referrals
- Bio-Psycho-Social investigations and Risk & Trauma Assessment completion
- Referral to and implementation of diversion services when appropriate based on offense and risk
- Scheduling of hearings and pre-disposition reports to the Court
- Oversight of youth found to be in need of treatment, supervision and/or rehabilitation
- Community protection efforts (Nightlight Program, Visibility Patrols, Curfew checks, search & seizure, drug-testing, etc.)
- Oversight of Community Service and collection of Restitution/Court Costs
- Monitoring community-based services and out-of-home residential placements
- Development of Aftercare Treatment Plans to facilitate a youth's reintegration into the community
- Delinquency Prevention Initiatives (SAP Teams, Aevidum Clubs, Suicide Prevention, Overdose Prevention, Communities That Care, etc…).

Juvenile Probation Department Hours and Contact Information

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS)

OFFICE PHONE: 724-662-3800 EXT 2499, 2500 OR 2501

24-HOUR EMERGENCY NUMBER: 724-456-9415