

Harris County Juvenile Probation Department

Juveniles who are referred to the department are provided direct and indirect services by the following divisions:

PRE-ADJUDICATION FACILITY SERVICES

Pre-adjudication Facility Services oversees the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC). JDC is a secure residential facility for juveniles awaiting court action. The center also houses youth who are awaiting transfer to residential placement facilities or the Texas Youth Commission. Basic residential services include educational, medical and dental services, physical and psychological assessment, short-term therapy, crisis intervention and daily physical education activities. The facility is operational 24 hours per day, seven days per week, 365 day per year.

HEALTH SERVICES

Many youth referred to the department have a variety of medial and mental health needs. This division consists of the MHMRA Forensics Unit, Psychological and Social Services Department, and Medical Services Department. The Forensics Unit is staffed by mental health professionals under the supervision of a licensed psychologist and the unit performs psychological evaluations and psychiatric assessments. The Social Services Department has Master-level therapists that conduct assessments, and individual and group counseling sessions. Youth with severe psychiatric symptoms are treated outside the department in a special 16-bed unit at the Harris County Psychiatric Center. Medical Services Department is staff with a licensed physician, dentist, registered nurses, and other staff who provide basic screenings, medical, dental and other services.

RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES AND REALATED SERVICES

The court may order out of home placement for a child if it is in the best interest of the child and the community and efforts to prevent or eliminate the need for the child to be removed from the home have been unsuccessful. Placement involves the careful screening of each case to determine the appropriate residential program for each child. This can include placement at one of four secure and non-secure county-operated facilities. Each facility has unique programs designed to address specific behavioral, educational, vocational and social service needs. Related services include the Harris County Advocates Program (H-CAP), a community-based alternative to placement. It offers a range of individualized non-traditional wraparound and advocacy services for youth and family.

INTAKE COURT SERVICES

When a child is taken into custody, law enforcement may take the child to one of two 24 hour Intake units. One such unit is located in the Youth Services Center and accepts youth between the ages of 10 and 16, who are picked-up for status offenses, such as runaway, truancy, curfew violations, or Class C Misdemeanors, such as theft, disorderly conduct, or public intoxication. Available services include screening and assessment, crisis intervention, counseling, emergency shelter, referrals, and follow-up. Juveniles who commit more serious delinquent conduct offenses or commit a delinquent conduct offense after having a history of committing offenses are taken to the Intake Unit at the Juvenile Justice Center. Here, skilled Intake Probation Officers use criteria specified by statute to determine if the child can be released to a parent or responsible adult that will return them to court for a hearing on the merits of the case, or if the child must be held at the Juvenile Detention Center for a Detention Hearing.

Once the District Attorney's Office has filed a petition, the Court Services staff prepares a comprehensive profile of the juvenile and the case. This detailed report may be used with other information to assist the judge in determining a suitable disposition for the child's case.

FIELD SERVICES

Most juveniles who go through the court system remain at home under probation supervision. The time period is usually one year, but the court may lengthen probation time to age 18. Probation Services provides supervision and rehabilitative services for youth and their families in 10 offices located throughout Harris County.

The following is a partial list of Field Services programs:

- The Intensive Supervision Program consists of close supervision and rehabilitative services designed to divert high-risk youth from the state institutions of the Texas Youth Commission or other residential facilities.
- The Aftercare Intensive Supervision Program provides intensive supervision for youth leaving all county institutions. This program includes specialized supervision programs for youth living with mental impairments, chemical dependency problems and employment training needs.

EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

Educational Services provides educational programs for every expelled student and delinquent youth placed in a county-operated juvenile facility. Academic services focus on accelerated academic growth and behavior skills that will help students be successful when they return to their home school. Ancillary services include academic transition services, mental health services, health-related services, vocational training, substance abuse intervention, after school programs and other services.

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BUDGET AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

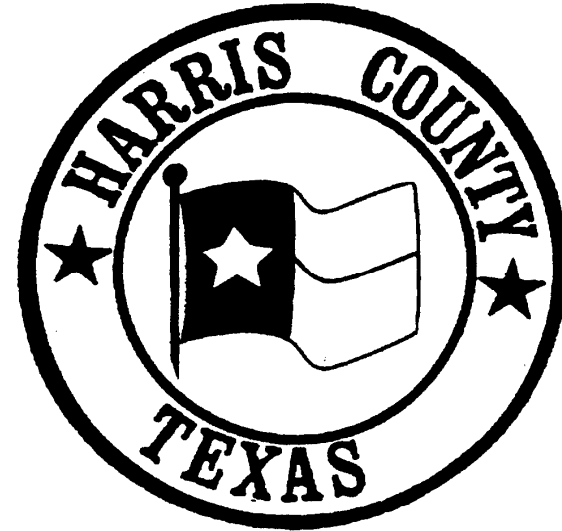
Budget and Technology Services provides services in the areas fiscal management, information systems management and supportive services operations. The Budget Unit is responsible for the preparation and management of the annual budget and regulates the agency's expenditures and receipts. The Technology and Systems Development Unit maintains the department's computer network system and resources for research, planning and management.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Personnel Unit provides staffing for the department and ensures that county hiring guidelines are followed throughout the agency. The Payroll Unit handles payroll, insurance benefits and staff identification. The Training and Staff Development Unit provides in-service training to enhance staff skills and meet the state training standards for all departmental staff.

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

Volunteers and interns from the community are welcome to provide services to the department and to youth and families after extensive training. Volunteers conduct religious services, motivational programs and both cultural and career-oriented presentations in addition to mentoring youth. Crossroads: Community Partnership for Youth, Inc., a non-profit United Way agency handles all volunteer and intern activities for the department. For more information, call Crossroads (713)295-2789.



HARRIS COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Executive Director/Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

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Roslyn Beaty, Human Resources

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William H. Thompson, Residential Facilities & Related Services

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Mission Statement

The Harris County Juvenile Probation Department is committed to the protection of the public and provision of services to youth referred for violations of the law. As mandated in the Texas Juvenile Justice Code, the department provides services including treatment, training, rehabilitation and incarceration while emphasizing responsibility and accountability of both parent and child for the child's conduct and offering the most opportunities for those youth who demonstrate the greatest potential for positive change.

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