



## Division of Community Services

# PROJECT: *RIGHT TURN*

*Turning Youth in the Right Direction through Education*



### The Need

Among the many challenges communities face when dealing with at-risk youth is helping them fully understand the consequences of their behavior. Parents, guardians, teachers, counselors, police, and even Family Court Judges can tell a youth about the consequences of crime and where they might end up if their delinquent behavior continues, but often these youth might not *believe* what they are being told until its too late. The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is committed to finding ways to effectively demonstrate the consequences of delinquent behavior to at-risk youth in an effort to divert them from the juvenile justice system.

### Seeing is Believing

There is often no better way to help a youth understand the consequences of their behavior than showing them first-hand what can happen if they do not change their ways. One such program for accomplishing this is PROJECT: *Right Turn* (PRT), a two-hour educational program for at-risk youth and their parents/guardians. PRT is not a “scared-straight” program but rather a carefully orchestrated experiential learning program designed to show at-risk youth the potential consequences of continued delinquent behavior and its impact on their lives and personal freedoms.

As a key component for DJJ’s prevention and intervention efforts in the community, PRT is an invaluable resource to our County Offices, Juvenile Arbitration Programs, and Family Court Judges. Juveniles who attend PRT are under an order of the Family Court, on a behavior contract, or referred by a DJJ Probation/Parole Officer.

PROJECT: *Right Turn* also illustrates DJJ’s focus on the practice of Restorative Justice by providing competency development for young offenders, and their parents or guardians through effective educational learning experiences.

### The PROJECT: *Right Turn* Tour

PRT takes place monthly at DJJ’s Upstate Evaluation Center (UEC) in Union (typically the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month), the Midlands Evaluation Center (MEC) in Columbia (typically the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday for Arbitration and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday for DJJ), and the Coastal Evaluation Center (CEC) in Ridgeville (typically on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month). The tours encompass all aspects of the facility operations and have three main components:

- 1 – Youth who are 12 and older are provided with an educational tour focusing on making good choices. They experience first-hand just what it’s like to lose personal freedoms. Led by juvenile correctional officers the tour includes all the major areas of the facility and frank discussions about the daily lives of incarcerated youth.
- 2 – While youth are touring, the parents/guardians participate in a separate educational component provided by evaluation center management. This includes a brief facility tour followed by an informational program about DJJ services, community resources, and a discussion about the challenges that confront young people and families potentially involved with DJJ.
- 3 – At the end of the tour youth and their parents/guardians are joined to hear a presentation by *The Insiders*, a group of trained incarcerated youth who share their personal stories to educate their audience about the effects of poor choices and the impact on others. A question and answer session for youth participants follows *The Insiders’* presentation.

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For more information please contact your local DJJ County Office or [ProjectRightTurn@scdjj.net](mailto:ProjectRightTurn@scdjj.net)

For additional DJJ resources please visit our website:  
<http://www.state.sc.us/djj/>

## DJJ County Office Directory

Abbeville  
864-366-5312

Darlington  
843-393-5641

Lee  
803-484-4550

Aiken  
803-641-7735

Dillon  
843-774-4147

Lexington  
803-359-5526

Allendale  
803-584-4751

Dorchester  
843-832-4265

Marion  
843-431-1110

Anderson  
864-260-4041

Fairfield  
803-712-6533

Marlboro  
843-479-2961

Barnwell  
803-259-7114

Florence  
843-665-3080

Newberry  
803-276-8243

Bamberg  
803-245-5184

Greenville  
864-467-5875

Oconee  
864-638-9537

Beaufort  
843-525-1351

Greenwood  
864-229-6648

Orangeburg/Calhoun  
803-533-6270

Berkeley  
843-761-8194

Georgetown  
843-546-8723

Pickens  
864-878-7560

Charleston  
843-740-1649

Hampton  
803-943-4296

Richland  
803-253-4050

Cherokee  
864-487-2564

Horry  
843-915-8969

Spartanburg  
864-562-4200

Chester  
803-377-8104

Jasper  
843-726-5666

Sumter  
803-778-2368

Chesterfield  
843-623-2378

Kershaw  
803-432-9171

Union  
864-429-1640

Clarendon  
803-435-8587

Lancaster  
803-285-9447

Williamsburg  
843-355-2772

Colleton  
843-549-1509

Laurens  
864-984-2518

York  
803-909-7500

Tri-Counties  
(Edgefield, McCormick, Saluda)  
864-445-8138

*The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is the state cabinet agency responsible for providing custodial care and rehabilitation for the state's children who are incarcerated, on probation or parole, or in community placement for a criminal or status offense. Our mission is to protect the public and reclaim juveniles through prevention, community services, education, and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.*