



Agency Overview



The mission of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice is to “*protect the public and reclaim juveniles through prevention, community programs, education and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.*”

About the Agency...

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), a state cabinet agency, is responsible for providing rehabilitation and custodial care for the state's juveniles who are on probation, incarcerated, or on parole for a criminal or status offense. DJJ is organized within five divisions and three support offices. The following information highlights the agency's responsibilities and organizational structure.

Division of Community Services

The Division of Community Services is responsible for a wide range of programs and services for juveniles and their families. Direct services are provided to juveniles and their families in the community through 43 county offices, servicing all 46 counties in the state. Case managers are involved with juveniles from the moment they enter the system until they complete probation and/or parole. In addition, they conduct detention screenings and intake interviews, complete risk/needs assessments, and make recommendations to the family court judges regarding case disposition. They also coordinate case diversion and supervise juveniles on probation or parole.

Additional support services are available to the community through collaboration or partnership with the family court system, schools, and local organizations throughout South Carolina. The Juvenile Arbitration Program, for example, works through solicitors' offices and law enforcement offices in 16 judicial circuits to utilize community volunteers who act as arbitrators in the resolution of cases involving non-violent first-time criminal offenders.

DJJ has also embraced the restorative justice model and established a Victim Services Program (VSP), which is responsible for contacting victims of juvenile crime prior to making disposition recommendations, informing victims of any post-adjudicatory hearing or juvenile release or transfer, referring victims to community resources, and advocating on behalf of victims.

DJJ also provides alternative treatment programs for nonviolent juvenile offenders, including:

- *Family preservation programs*—empower parents with skills and resources needed to raise their children.
- *Interstate compact*—arranges for supervision of delinquent youth who move to or from South Carolina.
- *Therapeutic foster care*—helps juveniles overcome a variety of emotional and behavioral problems within a family setting.
- *Community Residence Programs*—specialized programs that offer education, skill building, and residential services.

Division of Rehabilitative Services

The Division of Rehabilitative Services administers the agency's Broad River Road Complex (BRRC), providing juveniles committed by the family courts with custodial care and individualized treatment and rehabilitation. This division also administers DJJ's pre-trial evaluation centers and detention center. Facilities provide on-site:

- Education services through an independent school district;
- Psychological and social work services by licensed clinical staff;
- Medical/dental and mental healthcare services through licensed practitioners and medical facilities; psychiatric services provided by contracted licensed practitioners; custodial care by certified correctional staff;
- Recreational activities by trained staff; and
- Religious services by certified clinical chaplains.

The campuses providing supervision for committed juveniles are:

Willow Lane Program for Girls—is a gender responsive program comprised of educational, clinical and independent living experiences for girls. The program houses a Transition House, which incorporates transitional living into the rehabilitative process.

Birchwood—offers programs for boys with special needs, including the Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP), Pre-Release program, and Youthful Offender Program, Stabilizing Treatment to Enhance Potential Success (STEPS) program, and DJJ's Communities in Schools (CIS), program—one of the first in the nation in a juvenile correctional setting, offering skills/character development and specializing in educational services that prepare boys for postsecondary education. DJJ's Birchwood School is also located on the Birchwood campus.

John G. Richards—provides treatment services to drug-and alcohol-related behaviorally challenged boys and houses the Systemic Treatment for Aggression Replacement program (STAR) and DJJ's Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC), a cooperative effort between DJJ's school district and the U.S. Army.

Rehabilitative Services also operates three secure evaluation centers and a pretrial detention center. The evaluation centers provide court-ordered evaluations of adjudicated juveniles prior to final disposition of their cases. Each facility provides comprehensive psychological, social, and educational assessments to guide the court's disposition of cases. By law, the length of stay cannot exceed 45 days.

DJJ also operates a pretrial Detention Center, which serves juveniles from 43 of South Carolina's 46 counties. (Charleston, Greenville, and Richland counties operate their own juvenile pretrial detention facilities).

Division of Educational Services

DJJ operates its own school district with academic programs that are fully accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education. The juveniles committed to DJJ can earn either a high school diploma or a GED. The agency's school district offers educational programs in Columbia at Birchwood High School and Birchwood Middle School. Other satellite programs attached to these two schools are operated at DJJ's three regional evaluation centers, as well as the agency's Detention Center.

Specialized school programs are also available at community residence programs located throughout the state. Additionally, the district offers vocational courses, extensive special education services, and the nation's first Army JROTC and Communities in Schools (CIS) programs in a juvenile correctional facility setting.

Division of Administrative Services

DJJ's Division of Administrative Services provides a broad range of services to department personnel that are the underpinning for the day-to-day operations of the agency. The division is comprised of the following offices: Fiscal Affairs, Human Resources, Information Technology, Medicaid Administration, Staff Development and Training, and Support Services.

Division of Planning and Programs

The Division of Planning and Programs provides support to the divisions through programs and grants development, research and statistics, planning and evaluation, public affairs, and juvenile and family relations. The division's mission is to develop departmental efforts to strategically plan for agency growth, as well as to provide necessary information to effectively manage the agency's resources for quality service delivery and public information.

Essential functions of the division include the promotion of best practices as evidenced in research and evaluation; the continuous improvement of programs and services; the promotion of data-based decision making by DJJ staff and agency stakeholders through publication of statistical analysis and trends in juvenile crime; the development of tools and technologies to improve the department's performance and efficiency; and long-term, strategic planning.

In its juvenile and family relations function, the division advocates on behalf of DJJ juveniles and families by addressing juvenile and family concerns or questions, representing their rights, conducting disciplinary hearings, and inviting family involvement throughout a juvenile's rehabilitative progress.

Office of Treatment and Intervention Services

DJJ's Office of Treatment and Intervention Services provides Consultation and Evaluation Services, Social Work Services, Psychological Services, Specialized Trauma Services, as well as Reintegration and Classification Services.

Consultation and Evaluation Services supports psychological services to juveniles. Social Work and Psychological Services provide social work programs and services for juveniles and their families. Treatment services are provided both individually and in group settings. The goal of treatment groups is to teach juveniles the knowledge and necessary skills to correct their behavior and address issues or causes of their delinquency. Classification Services uses a classification process to classify and reclassify juveniles to the appropriate levels of custody, placement and supervision.

This office also provides Reintegration Services to help prepare juveniles for a successful transition back into the community through the delivery of services while at DJJ, and through effective aftercare planning.

Office of the Inspector General

DJJ's Inspector General ensures compliance with applicable state and federal laws, regulations, and policies and to promote professional accountability within the agency. Functions of the Office of Inspector General include public safety, internal affairs, internal audits, compliance, and inspection.

The Event Reporting Management Information System (ERMIS), a state-of-the-art computer system managed by the Office of the Inspector General, ensures the comprehensive tracking, reporting, and managing of events occurring within the agency on a statewide basis 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Monthly reports of specific events are reported to the State Law Enforcement Division.

Office of Legal, Legislative, and Policy Coordination

DJJ's office of Legal, Legislative, and Policy Coordination provides legal advice and assistance to all Department employees as they perform their day-to-day job related duties, assists the Department's Office of Human Resources in all employee personnel matters, and reviews all contracts and agreements which involve the expenditure of Agency funds or which involve the children that we serve. This office also assists in the monitoring of legislation that could impact the Department, the juvenile justice system and the children that we serve.

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