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INTRODUCTION

Your child has been detained in juvenile hall...what is next? Whom should I call? What should I do?

This document is intended to provide you with information regarding the Court and Juvenile Hall processes and answer a variety of questions frequently asked by parents or guardians.

This handbook was prepared through collaboration between the Detention Services Bureau, the Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Department of Mental Health, Juvenile Court Health Services, and the Los Angeles County Office of Education and Parents.

THE COURT PROCESS

A minor may enter juvenile hall if arrested by law enforcement officers for a crime or if referred to court for a "Status Offense".

After a minor is arrested for a crime, law enforcement officers have three options:

1. Counsel the minor and call the parent or guardian to release the juvenile;
2. Ask the parent to sign a ticket promising to return the child to appear in court;
3. Take the minor to juvenile hall for detention. If a minor is taken to juvenile hall, a Deputy Probation Officer will determine if the youth should be counseled and released or placed on informal supervision. If the probation officer concludes that the offense is serious enough, the Probation Officer will refer the matter to the District Attorney to file formal charges on what is known as a "Petition" to the court. However, the Deputy Probation Officer must release the child home, unless the juvenile is a danger to the public, danger to him/herself, is likely to run away, or has no place to go. Generally speaking, if the minor is detained in juvenile hall, a petition must be filed within 48 hours (excluding non-judicial days), and then have a detention/arraignment hearing by the close of business the day after the petition is filed. You will be notified when and where to appear for this court hearing.

Two common status offenses are:

1. "Truancy" is defined as being absent from school without valid excuse three times in the school year. Truancy cases are filed with the court by the District Attorney's office;
2. A youth, who fails to obey reasonable instructions from the parent/guardian and continues to demonstrate out of control behavior, may be referred to as "habitually disobedient minor" These cases are filed by the Probation Officer.

There are three primary parts to the legal process a minor goes through known as:

1. Intake – how your child enters the system.
2. Detention – the time it takes for the court to make a decision about your child’s case.
3. Disposition – What the court decides to do with your child’s case.

People in Court:

In juvenile court, there are seven (7) parties that play a role in the court process, these parties are:

1. Minor - A young person under the age of eighteen (18) who has been arrested for a crime or has been brought before the court on a status offense. Your child will sit at counsel table. You will be seated in the audience and may speak if the judge permits you.
2. Defense Attorney – This lawyer’s job is to defend your child from charges brought against him/her by the District Attorney. This lawyer may be a “Public Defender”, “Conflict Panel Attorney” or “Private Attorney”. Conversations with the defense attorney are kept confidential (secret). It is the attorney’s job to ensure that your child’s due process rights are protected.
3. District Attorney/Prosecutor- This lawyer’s job is to keep communities safe from crimes by holding juveniles accountable for their behavior and by ensuring that services are provided to the youth to aid in rehabilitation. The District Attorney decides whether to file charges, what charges to file and whether or not to dismiss charges in a plea bargain or agreement involving the defense attorney. The District Attorney also evaluates the evidence in the case to ensure that there is evidence beyond a reasonable doubt to support the charges. If the District Attorney concludes there is insufficient evidence, the District Attorney should dismiss the petition. If the petition is filed, the District Attorney will present evidence to the judge to prove the charges being brought against your child are true.
4. Probation Officer - A Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) is in court and writes down instructions for your child, obtains your signature on documents and helps to get you connected with services. If placed on informal or formal probation, your child may also be assigned to a DPO near where you live to monitor his/her behavior and make certain he/she does what the court tells them to do. The DPO submits periodic reports to the court to indicate how well your child is doing in the community. If your child is not doing well, the DPO might recommend that your child return to court for additional sanctions.
5. Court Stenographer - The stenographer (transcriber) records every word said on the record during a court hearing. If there is a question regarding what someone said, the typed written document can be provided for clarification.
6. Bailiff - The Bailiff is a Deputy Sheriff charged with keeping order in the court. He/she will direct people into the courtroom and is responsible for maintaining security and order in the court.
7. Interpreter - An interpreter is used when the minor, family, or witness prefers to communicate in court in a language other than English. It is important to know what is being said, so if you need an interpreter ask the court, an attorney or the bailiff to request one.

Parent/Guardian Responsibility:

You will be informed when and where you need to attend each of your child's court hearings. Court starts at 8:30 am and you are expected to arrive in plenty of time so that when your child's case is called your child will have had time to speak with his/her attorney.

Types of Court Hearings:

Certain cases are open to the public in juvenile court. The clerk posts a list of those cases open to the public each day. Whether the case is open to the public depends on the seriousness of the crime. There is a list of crimes that determines whether the case is open or confidential.

- The initial hearing is known as an "Arraignment Hearing." At this hearing, the court or the attorney reads the charges to your child, and explains your child's constitutional rights. If your child does not already have an attorney, the Public Defender or Conflict Panel attorney will be appointed to represent your child. Your child will be asked to admit or deny the charges made against him/her through the attorney. You may retain a private attorney for your child. You may also retain an attorney to represent you as a parent although there is a limited opportunity for the parent to participate in the proceedings. An attorney appointed to represent your child is not your attorney.

The initial hearing may also include a "Detention Hearing" when your child has been detained in juvenile hall, the judge will decide at this hearing if your child will be released or will remain detained until the next court hearing.

Pre-plea Hearing – The court has already ordered a report from probation which has a recommendation as to the disposition plan in the event your child has been found to have committed a crime. At this hearing, your child may admit a charge or charges. Your child's attorney will consult with your child to determine if your child wants to admit a charge or accept an informal disposition of the case where appropriate. If your child wants to have a trial, that trial will be scheduled at a later date. If your child is in custody, he/she has the right to a trial within fifteen (15) court days of the detention hearing, excluding non-judicial days.

Disposition Hearing - At this hearing the judge considers the "Pre-plea" or "Disposition Report" written by a Deputy Probation Officer that considers the minor's social history (school, family, criminal history, victim's statement and recommendation). Based on this report and arguments presented by the attorneys in court, the judge decides what to do with the minor. The judge may place the minor on an informal program of supervision, diversion, home on probation, in a Placement facility, in a probation camp or with the Division of Juvenile Justice (a prison for youth).

THE JUVENILE HALL PROCESS

Your child has been detained at one of three Juvenile Halls in Los Angeles County:

| Juvenile Hall/Address/Phone Number | Visiting Hours | | |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| | After Court Monday through Friday (20 Minutes Only) | Saturday | Sunday |
| Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall 16350 Filbert Street Sylmar, Ca 91342 Movement Control: (818) 364-2011 | 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm |
| Central Juvenile Hall 1605 Eastlake Avenue Los Angeles, Ca 90033 Movement Control: (323) 226-8611 | After Court Hearing until 7:00 pm | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm |
| Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall 7285 Quill Drive Downey, Ca 90242 Movement Control: (562) 940-8681 | 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm |

Juvenile Hall Staff

Each juvenile hall has probation staff on duty to ensure your child resides in a safe and secure environment. Staff assigned to a juvenile hall is as follows:

1. Group Supervisor, Nights (GSN) – This probation employee is assigned to work 10:00 pm – 6:00 am. This employee cares for your child in the living unit during the night.
2. Detention Services Officer (DSO) – This probation employee is assigned to work 6:00 am – 2:00 pm or 2:00 pm – 10:00 pm. This employee cares for your child in the living unit during the day and evening.
3. Senior Detention Services Officer (SrDSO) – This probation employee is assigned as the Lead Person in the living unit and provides guidance to the DSOs and GSNs.
4. Supervising Detention Services Officer (SDSO) – This probation employee is assigned to supervise the SrDSO, DSO and GSN assigned to your child’s living unit.

If you have a problem that needs to be resolved, contact Movement Control (telephone numbers are listed on page 6) and ask for the Officer of the Day (O.D.). The “O.D.” is a Supervisor and should be able to address any issues arising with your child.

5. Division Director – This probation employee is assigned to manage a Division. A Division consists of several living units and the Division Director supervises the Supervising Detention Services Officers (SDSO) assigned to the Division. There is a Division Director on duty seven (7) days per week at each of the juvenile halls. If a Supervisor cannot resolve issues arising with your child, do not hesitate to ask for the Division Director on duty.
6. Assistant Superintendent - This probation employee is responsible for the safety and security of the facility and day-to-day operations of the juvenile hall.
7. Superintendent – This probation employee is the Administrator responsible for the overall operation of the juvenile hall.

Your Child's Admission Into Juvenile Hall

When your child arrives at the juvenile facility he/she will be interviewed by a DSO or GSN. This is referred to at the "Intake Procedure". If your child has any visible signs of physical distress or injuries, he/she will be examined by staff from the Juvenile Court Health Services *prior* to being admitted to the juvenile facility.

During the Intake Process your child will be asked to provide information regarding parents, grandparents and/or legal guardians. This information will be used to list those individuals who will be visiting with the minor. Information will be obtained relative to your child's medical and mental health well being, educational needs and/or special needs (physical disabilities or hearing impaired).

After the Intake Process is completed your child will have a physical examination completed by medical professionals assigned to the Juvenile Court Health Services. Your child will also have a dental examination.

JUVENILE COURT HEALTH SERVICES (JCHS)

The juvenile hall has a Medical Unit which is staffed by medical professionals assigned to the Juvenile Court Health Services. Your child will receive a physical exam by a physician within 3-7 days after admission. If immunization records are not available we will start the immunization process. It is important that you bring a photocopy of your child's immunization records to the facility where your child is housed. Contact the Nurse Manager at the juvenile facility if:

1. Your child wears eyeglasses or contacts; or
2. Your child is taking prescribed medication.

If your child has been prescribed medication, he/she will be given access to their medication by the hall's medical staff. If you have questions regarding your child's medical health you may contact the Juvenile Court Health Services Nurse Manager at the appropriate juvenile facility:

- Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall: (818) 364 –2070
- Central Juvenile Hall: (323) 226-8779
- Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall: (562) 940-8701

After the medical process, your child will have a mental health screening and assessment completed by a clinician assigned to the Department of Mental Health.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH (DMH)

The juvenile hall has staff assigned by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to provide mental health services to your child while detained in juvenile hall. Services include: screening, crisis intervention, brief treatment, psychotropic medication evaluation and treatment. Services are provided seven (7) days a week.

Your child will receive a mental health screening shortly after admission to assess his/her possible at-risk behavior and/or mental health symptoms. If the screening suggests that your child may have mental health needs, a more extensive assessment and clinical interview will be conducted. Your child is then referred for individual and/or group counseling and a psychotropic medication evaluation if appropriate. At any time, your child may self refer, may be referred by a family member, probation staff, teachers, judges and attorneys.

Contact Information:

- Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall: (818) 364-2152
- Central Juvenile Hall: (323) 226-8826
- Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall: (562) 940-6077

After the mental health screening and assessment, your child will have an Educational assessment completed by a staff assigned to the Los Angeles Office of Education.

LOS ANGELES OFFICE OF EDUCATION (LACOE)

While at the juvenile facility, your child will be enrolled in school managed by staff assigned to the Los Angeles County Office of Education. LACOE focuses on moving at-risk youth toward literacy and academic achievement. Each child attends school year round, Monday through Friday, with the exception of holidays. All schools are fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Credits earned are accepted at all high schools, colleges and universities. Academic goals are achieved by:

- Immediate and follow-up assessment of student academic and special education need;
- Designing and implementing Individual Education Plans (IEPs) for students with special needs and Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) for regular education students;
- Small classes – maximum 17-to-1 student-to-teacher ratio;
- Intensive reading instruction supported by after-school homework and tutoring;
- Integrating the latest computer technology and software into the curriculum

Credits earned by your child while in the juvenile facility can be transferred to your child's Home District. Partial credits earned by students while in the juvenile facility are accepted by local school districts. When your child returns to the Home District, you may obtain their student transcript by contacting the Student File

Center at (562) 922-6322. Students meeting all the Court School requirements (and passing the California High School Exit Exam) may receive a High School Diploma. Your child may also take the General Educational Development (GED) exam to earn his/her GED. When your child is released from juvenile hall, you will be provided with an unofficial transcript prior to leaving juvenile hall which can be taken to your child's local school for admission. After signing a release for records, LACOE will mail you your child's official transcripts.

If your child has trouble speaking, reading, or writing English, he/she will be assessed for proficiency and may be placed in an English Language Development class to assist in developing his/her English skills. If your child was in Special Education class at his/her school please contact the Special Education office at the appropriate juvenile facility:

- Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall: (818) 364-2170
- Central Juvenile Hall: (323) 226-8452
- Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall: (562) 803-6640

VISITING AT JUVENILE HALL

It is the policy of the Los Angeles County Probation Department that the following visiting requirements shall be adhered to during approved visiting hours at all three (3) juvenile halls. Safety and security require these strict rules and regulations.

Please note that visits are limited to parents, legal guardians and grandparents only. A Legal Guardian is any person that has been granted guardianship by order of the Court. If you are a Legal Guardian, you must bring such verification to the facility in order for the visit to be approved.

You will be subject to a search of your person prior to entering the facility and are prohibited from bringing personal items into the juvenile facility for your child. Prior to entering the juvenile facility, you will enter through a metal detector and shall be subject to a search of your person with a metal detecting wand if the metal detector goes off when you walk through it. Additionally, you will be tested for controlled substances by placing your finger on a Vapor Tracer unit before entering the juvenile facility. Your visit may not be granted if you test positive on the Vapor Trace Machine. Visitors suspected of being under the influence of a controlled substance/alcohol shall be denied entrance into the facility.

Please ask for the Officer of the Day (OD) or Director on duty if you have questions regarding this process. Visits may be shortened or postponed based on the safety and security of the facility. A Probation Director shall make the final decision.

Visiting Hours & Instructions

| Juvenile Hall/Address/Phone Number | Visiting Hours | | |
|--|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| | After Court Monday through Friday (20 Minutes Only) | Saturday | Sunday |
| Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall 16350 Filbert Street Sylmar, Ca 91342 Movement Control: (818) 364-2011 | 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm |
| Central Juvenile Hall 1605 Eastlake Avenue Los Angeles, Ca 90033 Movement Control: (323) 226-8611 | After court hearing until 7:00 pm | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm |
| Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall 7285 Quill Drive Downey, Ca 90242 Movement Control: (562) 940-8681 | 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm | 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm | 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm |

Visiting hours are final and shall not be changed unless ordered by the Court, the Superintendent or his/her designee. You are encouraged to call the juvenile facility prior to visiting to verify if your child is still housed at that facility. Please note that there are no provisions for childcare at the juvenile halls and children may not be left unattended during the visit.

Visiting Requirements

In order to gain entry into the juvenile facility, all visitors must bring a current government issued picture identification. Acceptable forms of identification include:

- valid driver's license with photo
- valid state identification card with photo
- Department of Justice identification card with photo
- Passport with photo
- Military identification card with photo
- Identification card with photo issued by the Department of Immigration; and
- Naturalization Service, Certificado de Matricula Consular identification cards, (honored for only sixty (60) days from the date of issuance).

The Officer of the Day (OD) or the Director on duty can approve questionable identifications. Photocopied, altered, laminated, expired and identifications with no photo will not be accepted.

You may only bring two (2) keys on a key ring with no attachments, and your identification into the facility. These items must remain in your pocket or on your lap during your visit and may not be placed on the table or in your child's hands.

Money, tokens and bus passes cannot be taken into the visitation areas, and need to be left with the Movement Control staff in an envelope that will be provided. Visitors will need to place their name on the envelope for identification and pickup envelope at conclusion of the visit. Movement Control staff can only hold a maximum of \$5.00 in an envelope. A receipt shall be given indicating the amount of money being held.

If you have a disability, (such as, you need a wheelchair, crutches, walker, or other medically necessary equipment) you shall be escorted to an appropriate location for visiting.

If you have extensive tattooing that cannot be covered with clothing (such as, tattoo on face or neck) you shall be escorted to an appropriate location for visiting.

If you are prescribed Nitroglycerin tablets or an inhaler, you will be allowed to take these items into the juvenile facility during your visit. Your child is not to handle or use this medication. If you are prescribed medication that is not a life or death necessity you will not be allowed to bring this medication into the juvenile facility. If you need this medication, you will be escorted to the entrance of the facility to take your medication and be allowed to return to complete your visit.

You are not allowed to walk about the dayroom or juvenile hall during the visit. You must remain in the visiting area, if you leave the visiting area, your visit may be terminated.

Special Visits

Visits by persons other than parents, grandparents or legal guardians are considered "Special Visits". These visits are conducted at times other than the stated visiting hours. Special visits require prior permission that may be obtained through a Court Order, from the juvenile facility Superintendent or his/her designee, or the Deputy Probation Officer.

Persons under the age of twenty-one (21) years are not allowed to visit unless authorized by a Court Order. This is also considered a "special visit" which, as indicated above, requires prior permission that may be obtained through a Court Order, from the juvenile facility Superintendent or his/her designee, or the Deputy Probation Officer.

Baby and Me

In an effort to promote family reunification, your child will be allowed supervised visits with their children. These visits are requested by your child and authorized by facility administration. Contact Movement Control (Refer to page 6 for phone number) at the facility where your child is housed and ask for the Supervisor or Division Director in your child's unit for information relative to bringing your grandchild to visit his/her parent in the juvenile facility.

Dress Code

You must be appropriately dressed and shoes must be worn at all times. Clothing considered inappropriate includes:

- White t-shirts as outer wear, strapless tops, spaghetti straps, transparent (see-through) outfits, tank tops, halter tops, low cut tops;
- Short skirts or short dresses (higher than mid thigh), shorts, tight fitting clothing, clothing exposing midsection of stomach;
- Dresses and clothing bearing inappropriate messages and/or insignias;
- Bandanas, sun glasses, hats, broaches, stickpins; and
- Open-toe shoes or shoes with heels higher than 2 inches.

Items Not Allowed During Visitation

The following items are prohibited (not allowed) and if found in your possession during the visit will result in the termination of your visit:

- Writing instruments (such as, pens, pencils, markers);
- Metal (such as, handcuffs, handcuff keys, paperclips, staples, pointers, laser pointers);
- Sharp Instruments (such as, knives, scissors, box cutters tweezers);
- Wood (such as, rulers);
- Glass;
- Accessories (such as, backpacks or fanny packs, purses, wallets);
- Money or prepaid phone cards;
- Electronic devices (such as, cellular phones, pagers, cameras, MP3/CD/DVD players/IPods);
- Smoking Items (such as, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, lighters or matches);
- Beverages (such as, alcohol, water, soda);
- Snacks (such as, chewing gum, chips, candy);
- Controlled Substances (such as, unauthorized and/or illegal drugs);
- Hygiene (such as, mouthwash, toothpaste or toothbrushes);
- Firearms or any item built for the purpose of propelling an object or ammunition, or any object that can be used as a weapon; and
- Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (O.C. Spray)

Programs and Activities

The Probation Department has many programs for your child while in juvenile hall. The Behavior Management Program (BMP) offers your child a structured program of activities. These activities will help your child develop better relationships with family and friends. Also, BMP will help motivate your child to be consistent in displaying good behavior by rewarding him/her when they follow the rules, but there will consequences when they do not. The staff can provide a safe and caring community to help your child learn better ways of solving problems, and resolving differences.

The BMP uses a point system to reward your child for good behavior. The points earned can be traded to obtain items at the “Al Jones Store” (the store named in honor of a former Probation Director). The points your child earns can be used to buy snack items (such as, cookies, potato chips) and/or personal items (such as, lotion, shampoo, writing paper). Additionally, the points can be used for movie nights or time in the game room.

Your child may earn up to thirty (30) points a day, a total of 210 points per week for the following:

- Attending and staying in school without problems – 12 points;
- Following the instructions of staff while in the living unit - 12 points;
- Displaying good behavior – 6 bonus points;

Daily Schedule

Your child will be housed based on age, maturity level, and the seriousness of the crime he/she is being detained for. Additional considerations are given to disabilities, special needs, medical and mental health needs, and security concerns. Typically, your child will be housed in a room with one other child. Your child will adhere to the following schedule while detained in the juvenile facility:

| Monday through Friday | | Saturday, Sundays and Holidays | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 6:15 am | Wake Up | 7:00 am | Wake Up |
| 7:00 am | Breakfast, clean-up and Nurses Clinic | 8:00 am | Breakfast, clean-up and Nurses Clinic |
| 8:30 am – 11:50 am | School | 9:00 am | Recreation/Religious Services |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch | 12:00 pm | Lunch |
| 1:00 pm – 2:40 pm | School | 1:00 pm | Visiting |
| 3:30 pm | Recreation/Dayroom | 5:00 pm | Dinner |
| 5:00 pm | Dinner | 6:00 pm | Recreation/Dayroom |
| 6:00 pm | Recreation/Homework | 8:00 pm | Showers |
| 8:00 pm | Showers/Nutritional Snack | 8:30 pm | Reading |
| 8:30 pm | Reading | 9:00 pm | Lights Out |
| 9:00 pm | Lights Out | | |
| | | | |

This general schedule may change based on rainy weather, special programs or events scheduled for the minors.

Religious Services

Catholic and Protestant services are held every Sunday morning. Your child needs to inform staff if he/she is of a different religion. Unit staff will have the Protestant Chaplain contact someone from your child’s faith to

assist him/her. Your child should ask staff if they want to talk to the Chaplain about a problem. Contact Numbers for the Chaplains are as follows:

- Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall
 1. Protestant Chaplain: (818) 364-2061
 2. Catholic Chaplain: (818) 364-2021

- Central Juvenile Hall
 1. Protestant Chaplain: (323) 226-8570
 2. Catholic Chaplain: (323) 226-8530

- Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall
 1. Protestant Chaplain: (562) 940 - 8712
 2. Catholic Chaplain: (562) 940-8711

Complaints by Parents

Probation will give persons with disabilities equal opportunity and access to services, programs, and activities. Your child has the right to be safe and to be treated fairly, regardless of race, religion, national origin (what country you or your family came from), disability, sex or sexual orientation. If anyone calls your child names, threatens your child, or hurts your child because of who you are inform the staff. If staff does not help, you can fill out a "grievance" (complaint) form or call the Ombudsman at (877) 822-3222. The office of the Ombudsman was established by the Chief Probation Officer and has been directed to do the following:

1. Ensure the voice of youth under the care and custody of the Probation Officer is heard, and acts on their behalf.
2. Create an avenue for youth to file complaints regarding their placement care and services without fear of retribution from those who provide their care and services.
3. Document complaints.
4. Act as an independent forum for the investigation and resolution of complaints made on behalf of youth placed in probation care and make appropriate referrals.
5. Ensure probation youth receive information on their rights when placed under probation supervision.
6. Maintain a toll-free telephone number (877) 822-3222 your child may call from within California to express their concerns and complaints.

7. Give feedback on actions and recommendations to every complainant as soon as possible but no later than ten business days from the date of the initial complaint.

Family Resource Center (FRC)

Parents, grandparents and/or legal guardians are encouraged to visit the Family Resource Center (FRC) which is located at each Juvenile Hall. The FRC provides family need assessments, referral services and informational brochures and pamphlets on family issues and topics. Our goal through the FRC is to provide you and your child with services and resources that will assist in your child's successful transition back into the community.

Contact Numbers:

- Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall: (818) 364- 6885
- Central Juvenile Hall: (323) 226-8700
- Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall: (562) 940-8640

The Juvenile Hall Advocacy Clinic

The Juvenile Hall Advocacy Clinic is a joint effort by - Mental Health Advocacy Services (MHAS) and Whittier Law School in collaboration with the Probation Department to provide legal advocacy to youth detained in Los Angeles county juvenile Halls regarding conditions of confinement and access to services.

We assist with:

- Access to medical, mental health and educational services in the halls;
- Quality of life issues including interaction with staff;
- Access to defense attorney's and general questions about the court process;
- Expediting placement for youth with suitable placement orders;
- Court advocacy for youth with special education, mental health needs, or regional center needs;
- Questions regarding immigration, independent living program services (ILP), transitional housing and sealing juvenile court records.
- We cannot and do not assist youth with their delinquency cases.

Our advocates go to Central Juvenile Hall and Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall one to two times a week. We make announcements in the units and youth sign up to be seen that day or at the following clinic. We also take referrals from the Probation Department, Department of Mental Health (DMH), Department of Health Services (DHS) and Los Angeles Office of Education (LACOE).

Please feel free to call or email us at the numbers and addresses below to refer a child to our program.

Parents and youth may call us directly

Central Juvenile Hall: 1 – 2 times per week: 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

- Contact: Maggie Brandow, MHAS
(213) 389-2077 Extension: 20 or
mbrandow@mhas-la.org
- Contact Nancy Shea, MHAS
(213) 389-2077 Extension: 18 or
nshea@mhas-la.org

Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall: Saturday, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

- Contact: Craig Liu, Whittier Law School
(714) 444-4141 Extension: 314 or
craigliu@hotmail.com

HOW TO OBTAIN MEDICAL SERVICES AND MEDICATION FOR YOUR CHILD UPON RELEASE FROM JUVENILE HALL

Prior to your child's release, a Discharge Summary will be completed which includes information about your child's medical and mental health issues while they were detained in juvenile hall. If your child was taking medication while in juvenile hall and needs to continue to take that medication, a prescription will be provided prior to the child being released. In addition, you will be provided any follow-up appointment information.

If your child is in need of mental health services you can locate a local service provider by contacting the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health:

Telephone Number: (800) 854-7771
This is a Hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Website: http://dmh.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dmh/for_providers
This is an interactive map that lists providers by service areas.

If you would like to apply for Medi-Cal benefits for your child, you can contact the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services in order to find your local office to apply in person or to obtain an application to submit by mail.

Telephone Number: (877) 597-4777

Website: <http://dpss.lacounty.gov/dpss/health/default.cfm>

From this website you can print an application and mail it to the address below:

Northridge Regional Medi-Cal District #90
P.O. Box 10810

Canoga Park, CA 91309

Frequently Asked Questions

The following section was prepared by parents of children housed in the juvenile halls. These are questions commonly asked by parents, grandparents and/or legal guardians.

Question: What is happening to my child and is she/he safe?

Answer: When your child first arrived at the juvenile facility she/he underwent what is referred to as the Intake procedure. During Intake your child was asked to provide additional information to the Intake Officer who uses this information to determine which housing unit your child will be placed in, if your child is eligible to attend school and also understand about any medical or other special needs your child may have (for example, if your child is physically disabled or hearing impaired). Additionally, your child was asked to provide relation information regarding relatives, such as: mother, father, legal guardianship and grandparents. In most cases you should have already received a telephone call from the Intake Officer during this process.

Question: What if my child needs to take medication is disabled or has other medical needs? Who will take care of those needs?

Answer: While your child is detained in the juvenile facility, all of his/her medical needs will be taken care of by Juvenile Court Health Services staff. Each minor is screened for mental health, medical and educational needs. Your child will be fed, clothed, and provided with a place to sleep. Your child will also undergo a complete physical examination. If your child has been prescribed with medication he/she will be given access to this medication by Juvenile Court Health Services staff. You will not need to bring any medications to the juvenile facility. However, if there are special circumstances, you will be contacted by the Juvenile Court Health Service staff. If you need to make us aware of any medication(s) or any special needs your child may have, please contact Juvenile Court Health Services staff (Refer to page 7 for phone numbers). After hours you can always call Movement Control, (Refer to page 6 for phone numbers).

Question: Can I call my child on the telephone or leave a message for them to call me?

Answer: No. For security reasons, your child is not able to receive incoming calls or messages. We have no way to verify who is calling and perhaps representing themselves as a child's parent or guardian. If you have an emergency situation such as a death in the family or other legitimate emergency that requires that you communicate with your child, you should call Movement Control (Refer to page 6 for the phone numbers), identify yourself as a parent/guardian and ask to speak to the OD or the Director on duty and explain the situation.

Question: Can my child call me?

Answer: Yes. Telephones are provided for outgoing calls that your child can use at certain times during the day (typically in the early evening hours). In order to allow time for all minors to make calls, the amount of time your child may speak with you is limited.

Question: Who can I call if I'm worried and want to make sure my child is okay "just because?"

Answer: If you have any concerns about your child you can call Movement Control (Refer to page 6 for phone numbers), ask for the OD, identify yourself as a parent/guardian and explain the situation.

Question: Can I visit my child?

Answer: Yes. Please refer to the "Visiting in Juvenile Hall" section on page 9 for instructions regarding visiting. Please be aware that your child may be transferred to another facility without prior notice to you. In order to avoid any confusion, you are advised to verify his/her location by telephone prior to visiting. Call Movement Control (Refer to page 6 for phone numbers), identify yourself as a parent and tell the person you need to verify if your child is still at the facility.

Question: When can I visit my child?

Answer: You may visit on Saturday from 1:00 pm until 3:00 pm, and on Sunday from 1:00 pm until 4:00 pm. During the week after a court hearing you may visit from 5:00 pm until 7:00pm for twenty (20) minutes

Question: Are there any other times I can visit my child?

Answer: Yes. You may request a special visit. Please refer to the section, "Special Visits" on page 11.

Question: What if my child returns to the juvenile hall after visiting hours are over?

Answer: In some cases your child may have a court appearance at a court that is offsite. Your child may arrive back at the juvenile facility after visiting hours, so it is best to call and see if your child has in fact arrived at the juvenile facility before you visit. Please call Movement Control (Refer to page 5 for phone numbers), identify yourself as a parent of a child who had an offsite court appearance and ask if your child has returned to the juvenile facility. If your child is not returned or is not anticipated to be returned before visiting hours are over you can visit

the following day during regular visiting hours. If your child has returned to the juvenile facility and visiting hours are still in effect you can visit your child that day.

Question: Can other family members visit, such as an uncle, brother or sister?

Answer: Yes. Visits by persons other than those on the approved visiting list are referred to as "Special Visits". Please refer to the section "Special Visits" on page 10.

Question: How many people can visit at one time?

Answer: Visits are typically limited to two (2) people at one time, although you are allowed to have more than two visitors a day. For example, if the parents visit from 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm and leave, the child's grandparents can enter at 2:00 pm and stay until visiting is over. Exceptions may be made in special circumstances, such as a grandparent who uses a wheelchair that may need assistance from a family member.

Question: Can I bring my child things from home or other things like food or snacks when I visit?

Answer: No. Your child's dietary needs will be met by Morrison's (food service staff) at the juvenile hall.

Question: Can my child send and receive mail?

Answer: Yes. Parents are encouraged to send their children letters and photos from home. For security reasons, items are checked prior to being given to the detainee. Items must not be offensive in nature (for example, sexually suggestive or explicit). Your child can get mail and send mail. Your child cannot write to another hall, camp, or the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ). Your child cannot write to anyone in jail or prison unless it is your guardian or parent.

Question: Can I send my child anything other than letters through the mail?

Answer: No. For security reasons your child may not receive anything other than mail.

Note: Remember that you cannot hand deliver anything for your child, even if it is something that would normally be allowed to be sent via the mail. This is for security reasons.

Question: I heard that my child will be attending school while she/he is detained. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes. Your child will normally go to school 5 (five) days a week (Monday through Friday). Refer to section "Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) on page 8 for further information.

Question: **If I want to talk with someone about my child's schooling, whom do I call?**

Answer: If you have any other questions, please call Movement Control (Refer to page 5 for phone numbers.) during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.), identify yourself as a parent / guardian and ask to be transferred to the school.

Question: **Are there religious services provided for my child?**

Answer: Yes. Catholic and Protestant services are held every Sunday morning. Refer to the section, "Religious Services" on page 13 for information.

Question: **What will my child's daily schedule be like? Will she/he just be locked up all day alone?**

Answer: Your child will be assigned housing based upon age, maturity level and the seriousness of the offenses. Additional considerations are given to disabilities and security concerns. Typically your child will be housed in a room with one other individual and follow a routine similar to the schedule listed under "Daily Schedule" on page 13.

Question: **What if I have legal questions about my child's case?**

Answer: For legal issues you should contact your child's attorney (if your child does not have a private attorney, then she/he will be represented by a county appointed attorney called a public defender).