



# JUVENILE OPERATIONS

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## **I. POLICY**

The Anne Arundel County Police Department is committed to the development and perpetuation of programs designed to prevent and control juvenile delinquency. The department's juvenile operations and delinquency prevention efforts are not limited to the activities of specialized components. The responsibility for participating in and supporting juvenile operations is shared by all department components and personnel. All officers, especially patrol officers, should be familiar with the problem of delinquency and handling juvenile problems, which may be either criminal or non-criminal in nature. Officers dealing with juvenile offenders will use the least coercive among reasonable alternatives, consistent with preserving public safety, order and individual liberty.

## **II. ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**

Due to the unique procedural aspects of the juvenile justice system and the special needs and problems of youth, specialization is particularly important in juvenile matters. By virtue of their special training and understanding of procedural nuances, juvenile specialists often are better equipped than patrol officers to handle youth-related problems. A juvenile specialist can also be a great help to the agency in the development and implementation of delinquency prevention programs.

## **III. JUVENILE-VICTIM/WITNESS ASSISTANCE SECTION**

The Juvenile-Victim/Witness Assistance Section of the Criminal Investigations Division is responsible for staff supervision of all department juvenile operations pertaining to status and non-status offenders. The director of the Juvenile-Victim/Witness Assistance Section also tracks repeat adjudicated juvenile offenders. The Police Department and other involved agencies can focus additional attention on those juveniles who repeatedly commit serious crimes. *There is a Violence Prevention Initiative, run by the Department of Juvenile Justice, that tracks violent juvenile offenders.*

The Juvenile-Victim/Witness Assistance Section bears primary responsibility for:

- A. Follow-up processing of youth arrests;
- B. Coordinating or preparing court cases in which a juvenile offender is involved;
- C. Liaison with the Department of Juvenile Services, the Juvenile Court and the State's Attorney's Office;
- D. Designing and implementing programs intended to control delinquent and criminal behavior by youths;
- E. Diverting juvenile offenders out of the juvenile justice system and adjusting cases;
- F. Coordinating juvenile procedures and various changes within the juvenile justice system;
- G. Monitoring legislation affecting youth-related areas;
- H. Maintaining a list of social service agencies that provide services to youths (see Index Code 910); and
- I. Establishing liaison for review and comment by other elements of the juvenile justice system in the development of policies and procedures.

This list of activities should not be viewed as all inclusive; rather it is intended that the activities mentioned form a core around which other requirements or policies may be added as needs dictate.

**IV. PROGRAM COORDINATION & EVALUATION**

The directors or commanders of all organizational components responsible for programs relating to juvenile enforcement and prevention will ensure that all such programs are evaluated at least annually, to determine whether the program should be continued, modified, or ended. They are also responsible for mutual coordination of efforts to achieve the department's juvenile operations goals.

**V. PROPONENT UNIT:** Juvenile-Victim/Witness Assistance Section.

**VI. CANCELLATION:** This directive cancels Index Code 1700, dated 11-07-08.