

## **Wood County Juvenile Probation**

### **Prevention and Intervention Program (P&I)**

Wood County Juvenile Probation offers a prevention and intervention program for those children who are at risk of entering the juvenile system. This program is a six week program and is meant to detour children between the ages of 9 to 16 from criminalistic behaviors. Probation Officers will work with your child and ensure that they offer services to provide the best possible chance of your child not violating the law and to keep them out of the juvenile system.

Children who are offered services through the department are NOT formally referred to this department. This is an agreement between the parent and the probation officer to provide services at no cost to the parent. Services that can be provided are counseling, one on one visits with the probation department, psychological testing, and/ or advocate services. Probation officers will attend ARD meetings, upon a parent's invitation, and other meetings with counselors, psychiatrists, or medical doctor's, should the need arise. This program is an advocacy program and will remain an advocacy program, until your child is discharged from services.

Children who qualify for the program are at risk of being involved in the juvenile justice system. We will try to organize a plan for your child, however, the parent and probation department has to be viewed as an ally and not a disciplinary precaution to your child. It is not good practice to use the probation officers as a threat, they need to be viewed as a firm but fair pro-action, while the parent does the parenting. The probation officer will give ideas and reasonable solutions to issues. The counselor will use their practices and will not divulge the information that your child gives them to hurt the family in any way; they will be ethical and moral in their practice, as will the probation department.

Parents will be held accountable for their behaviors and issues. The probation officer will require a commitment from the parent in order to work the services to the maximum benefit. At anytime that the probation department feels that the parent is not working services, the child may be discharged out of the program and the file will be noted should future issues cause the child to become involved with the department.

Should the child not work services, or if the child refuses services, the program will be withdrawn and it will be deemed unsuccessful, which will be documented for future reference, should the child become involved with the juvenile justice system.

Parents will need to fill out the referral form and will need to meet with the probation officer, without the child, before the program can be started. This meeting is to gather the history of the child, what has been done, and what services are being offered to the child. The program will initiate upon the staffing with the chief, which occurs, within days of the parent initiating the process of beginning the prevention and intervention program through their referral and the meeting with the probation officer.