

How can I help my child be successful?

There are several ways that you can help your child be successful when he/she is in the Community. Here are some things that you can do:



- Participate in treatment with your child and follow through on recommended interventions.
- Ensure that your child makes it to appointments (with DJJ, medical, mental health, etc.).
- Make sure that your child is attending school and encourage him or her to do well in course work.
- Notify the JSW if your child's school, employment, or residence change.
- Provide the JSW with a list of all prescribed medications that your child is taking and of any changes to the medications or dosages.
- Return phone calls or emails from the JSW.
- Notify the JSW if your child gets into any legal trouble, violates curfew, does not attend school/ GED, or is AWOL.
- Notify the JSW if you desire to travel out of the state of KY so that the proper documentation can be obtained and the travel request can be reviewed for approval.
- Inform the JSW if you suspect that your child may be drinking or using drugs.
- Make sure that your child does not own, possess, or purchase a deadly weapon (including knives, muzzle loaders, guns, etc.).
- Keep your child from socializing with other children or adults with a known criminal history.

Why do I have to participate in my child's treatment?

The court expects, and may order, a parent, guardian, or custodian to cooperate and be actively involved in a youth's treatment or social service programs.

The goal of treatment or social service program involvement is to enhance the best interests of the child and family unity. Working together in a partnership with your child's Juvenile Service Work may help your child's treatment be more effective.

The court may issue a summons for the parents if the court finds that they have failed to cooperate and actively participate in the youth's treatment or social service programs.



The summons will require the parents to attend a court hearing in which they may dispute any evidence that may claim they have violated a court order.

During the hearing, if the court finds that the parents are not cooperating, the court may issue a contempt of court charge against the parents or use other corrective actions provided by law to force the parents to obey the court's orders.

(Reference <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/610-00/160.PDF>)

Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice

Parent's Responsibilities



REVISED 01/21/2010

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This project was supported by Grant No. 2009-JB-FX-0060 awarded through the Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs.



What information does DJJ need from me?

As part of the court process, your Juvenile Services Worker (JSW) may complete a Predisposition Investigation Report (PDI) on your child. The JSW will ask you and your child for several pieces of information that are important for both the court processes and for your child's treatment or social service programs. This information may include:

- Child's SSN and DOB
- Parent or Guardian SSN and DOB
- SSN and DOB for all persons residing in the home
- Address of Child and Parents
- Child's habits and activities
- Child's school records
- Child and Parents' reputation and character
- Child and Parents' Medical and Mental Health history
- Child and Parents' substance abuse history
- Parents' legal and abuse/neglect history
- Financial information (to assess parent's ability to pay all or part of the cost of the child's care)
- The home environment of the child



Why do I have to pay child support?

Prior to disposition, the judge will require an investigation and assessment of the parent, guardian, or custodian's ability to pay all or part of the cost of the child's care, should the child be ordered into a treatment program or placed on supervised probation.

The result of the investigation will be reported in writing to the court and to legal counsel for all concerned parties prior to the child's dispositional hearing.

If it is determined that the parents are able to contribute to the support of the child, the court will enter an order requiring the parent or the child's estate to pay a reasonable sum for the support, maintenance, or education of the child.

The court order will specify that the child support payments are to be paid directly to the circuit clerk. The money will then be disbursed as ordered by the court.



The court may suspend an order for child support payments if it so chooses. However, if the parent disobeys other court orders, the court may again order payment of child support.

Child support payments do not apply when the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child was the victim of the child's criminal conduct.

(Reference <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/610-00/100.PDF>)

(Reference <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/610-00/170.PDF>)

Why do I have to pay a fee if my child is delinquent?

A parent, guardian, or custodian of a child has the power to exercise parental control and authority over the child.



When a child is adjudicated as a public offender and placed on probation, the court will investigate if the parents of the child have failed or neglected to subject him to reasonable parental control and authority.

If it is found at the court hearing that the parents' failure or neglect is the cause of the child's acts for which he/she was adjudicated, the court may require the child's parents to pay a fee in the amount of no more than five hundred dollars (\$500). If the child does not commit any additional acts, the money will be returned by the court when the child is discharged from the conditions of probation.

If the child does commit additional acts for which he/she is adjudicated as a public offender, or if the child violates the conditions of probation and it is found at the court hearing that the parents' failure or neglect is the cause of the child's acts for which he/she was adjudicated, the court may declare that all or a part of the above mentioned fee be applied toward the payment of any damages (current or future) which may have been caused by the child before he/she reaches his/her eighteenth (18th) birthday. On that date, any remaining proceeds from the fee will be returned to the parent.

(Reference <http://www.lrc.ky.gov/KRS/610-00/180.PDF>)