

Important Updates to Connecticut's Juvenile Justice Reforms

The minimum age of court jurisdiction was raised from 7 years old to 10 years old.



The earlier a youth is involved in the criminal legal system, the more likely they will further their court involvement. Avoiding court involvement and providing effective responses and interventions greatly increases the chances of a child remaining at home, in their communities, and in their schools.

What should schools, law enforcement, and parents/caregivers do to support this raise in age?



Schools should develop a response protocol for youth behavior of the under age 10 population.

- Create a plan to identify and intervene with behaviors before they become a crisis
- When necessary, utilize 211/Mobile Crisis when behaviors become a safety concern
- Keep youth safe while awaiting Mobile Crisis arrival
- Make an appropriate referral to the Youth Service Bureau (YSB) in a non-crisis situation

Law enforcement and parents/caregivers should be educated on the use of 211/Mobile Crisis and the referral process to the Youth Service Bureau (YSB) described below.

- Law enforcement should establish a connection to their local YSB and JRB, described below, to craft referral processes tailored to the local resources
- Parents can contact their local YSB directly to seek services

Diversion Options

Youth Service Bureau (YSB):

Coordinates prevention and diversion programs for "delinquent and pre-delinquent youth, pregnant and parenting youth, and troubled youth up to 18 years old." There are 105 YSBs serving 133 towns in CT. PA 16-147 identified YSBs as diversion hubs.

Find your YSB [here!](#)

Restorative Justice



Juvenile Review Board (JRB):

Community-based diversion process, operating under a restorative justice philosophy, for youth 8-18 years old, exhibiting minor criminal or status offense behaviors. There are 90 JRBs, serving 140 towns in CT. For youth of any age committing low level offenses, it is recommended that law enforcement make a referral to the JRB in lieu of arrest. Contact your local YSB for more information.



For further information regarding diversion, visit: www.ctyouthservices.org
To locate behavioral health services in your area, visit www.connectingtocarect.org
CONNECTING Children and Families to Care