

Understanding the Juvenile Justice System

The Juvenile Justice System can be very hard to understand. It is important to ask questions and show concern for your child.

- A police officer has the legal right to speak with your child, however your child has the right to remain silent to prevent them from making self-incriminating statements (known as Miranda Rights). The police officer may take your child to the Youth Services Center (YSC) for processing, depending on the incident.
- At the Youth Services Center, a Group Supervisor (the person who supervises your child while held at YSC) will notify you of your child's arrest and the location of the YSC detention facility (222 Paul Scannell Drive, San Mateo).
- Parents have the right to visit with their child within 24 hours of their arrival at YSC. Ask the Group Supervisor about scheduling a visit.
- Ask to speak with your child to check his/her emotional and physical state. If you are worried, tell the Group Supervisor. We share the goal of keeping your child safe.
- Write down all information given to you by the YSC Group Supervisor and ask questions as needed.
- If your child is held for a misdemeanor crime, a petition* will be filed with the

court and a detention hearing will be held within 2 days of your child's arrival at YSC.

- If your child is held for a felony crime, a petition will be filed with the court within two days of your child's arrival at YSC and a detention hearing will be held by the third day of his/her detainment.

Please note that your child's detention time will be longer if it falls within a weekend, holiday, or non-operating court day.

*A petition is a statement of your child's suspected crime(s). A detention hearing decides whether your child is released or remains held at YSC.

Court Hearings

- Call the Juvenile Court Clerk's Office (650) 261-5100, ext. 8 to find out the date and time of your child's court hearing(s).
- Parent(s) or guardian(s) are strongly encouraged to attend. Siblings should not attend.
- The court hearing(s) will decide what happens to your child and will continue with or without the parent(s)/guardian(s) being present.
- You may request an interpreter to attend all court hearings through your child's Probation Officer, Social Worker or other service provider. Call Juvenile Probation Department at (650) 312-8816 to ask for your child's Probation Officer's information.

Visiting Your Child

- Call to schedule a visit (see below).
- Only parents or legal guardians may visit.
- Arrive **15 minutes** before your scheduled visit.
- Bring your Photo ID.
- All visitors will be screened by security.
- All tattoos must be covered.
- Visits are one hour—up to twice a week.
- Reading items and/or photos must be approved by the Group Supervisor **before** your visit. Metals, staples and/or paper clips are not allowed.
- **Food, candy, drinks and gum are not allowed in the visiting area.**

To Schedule a Visit, call:
(650) 312-5327

Visiting Hours:
Monday-Thursday

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm &
6:45 pm - 7:45 pm

Saturday and Sunday

Visiting hours vary - please call.

For Questions & Family Emergencies:

Contact your child's Probation Officer. Parent(s)/guardian(s) may also call the Administration Desk at (650) 312-5200 and ask to speak with the Officer of The Day.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I get support for my family through this difficult time?

A. Family Partners are people who support families with children in the Juvenile Justice System. Contact the Counseling Unit if you have questions and/or need more information at (650) 312-5322.

Q. Can I call my child?

A. Parents or guardians cannot call their child directly at the Youth Services Center. Your child may write or place a collect call to your home phone—not a cell phone.

Q. Will my child receive medical treatment?

A. The Youth Services Center has medical staff who manages your child's medical concerns.

Q. My child takes medication. What do I do?

A. Bring your child's medication to the Youth Services Center in its original container with a completed label issued by a licensed pharmacy.

Q. Are counseling services available for my child?

A. Yes, you or your child can ask for counseling services at Youth Services Center. A staff member can also refer your child to a therapist if it is determined that your child needs support.

Q. What costs am I responsible for?

A. Parent(s)/legal guardians are responsible for their child's Private Defender fees, detention costs, fines, and victim restitution. You will be notified of the cost, which varies case by case.

Youth Services Center Receptionist
(650) 312-5327 (Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm)
(650) 312-5200 (After 5 pm & weekends)

Juvenile Probation Department
(650) 312-8816 • (800) 312-8816 toll free
<http://probation.smcgov.org>

Juvenile Court Clerk's Office
(650) 261-5100, ext. 8

Private Defender's Program Office
(650) 312-5396

Behavioral Health & Recovery Services (BHRS)
Youth Services Center-Counseling Unit
Support for Families: (650) 312-5322
www.smchealth.org/BHRS

Assigned Probation Officer:

Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Private Defender (Attorney):

Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Therapist/Counselor:

Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Other:

Name: _____

Phone: (____) _____

*Developed by San Mateo County BHRS in collaboration
with the Juvenile Justice Department.*



Behavioral Health and Recovery Services
Youth Services Center
222 Paul Scannell Drive
San Mateo, CA 94402
Phone: (650) 312-5322
www.smchealth.org/BHRS

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My Child Was Arrested What Do I Do ?

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San Mateo County
Juvenile Justice System



Youth Services Center

*Helping families
when it matters most*

222 Paul Scannell Drive, San Mateo, CA 94402