



# Lyon County Juvenile Probation -Family Handbook-



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## **MISSION**

Our mission is to hold juvenile offenders accountable through fairness and integrity, while prioritizing community safety and victim restoration. By fostering personal growth and rehabilitation, we aim to leave each juvenile better equipped for a positive future.

## **VALUES**

Lyon County Juvenile Probation is committed to integrity, respect, and accountability, fostering empathy and collaboration to support youth rehabilitation. We prioritize safety, education and fairness, empowering youth while ensuring equitable treatment for all.

## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the Family Handbook for the Lyon County Juvenile Probation Department. If you are reading this, your child has most likely received some type of referral to our Department. They may have had contact with law enforcement in the community, received a traffic or criminal citation or may have been arrested and placed in a detention center.

It is our hope that this handbook will serve you as a guide and answer many of your questions and/or concerns.

When your child has contact with law enforcement, receives a citation, or, in a worst-case scenario, gets arrested, it can often be overwhelming, confusing, and even traumatic. You may experience a mixture of emotions and will surely have many questions. Oftentimes you may feel anger and fear due to not having all the information you wish to have. Reviewing this handbook is one way to get the information you need to understand, become involved and feel empowered.

The goal of this Department is to relay all information about your child to you as clearly and quickly as possible. We want you to understand the juvenile justice system, your rights and responsibilities, as well as your child's rights and responsibilities. This will also lead to a better relationship with the juvenile probation officer involved in your child's case.

This handbook is designed to help guide you and your child's path through the juvenile justice system in Lyon County. While we cannot address every specific situation, we will provide an overview of what to expect, specific contacts, answer frequently asked questions, provide an explanation about legal rights, define terminology and hopefully make it easier for you to cope with the stresses of the juvenile justice system.

We are here for you; we want to be a part of your team and we are committed to the success of your child. We will always do what is in the best interest of your child, even though you may disagree, and are committed to working with you and your child toward a positive outcome. Patience, understanding and a willingness to try new things is going to be something we expect from you as well as from ourselves.

## MY CHILD HAS HAD CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

Your child may come into contact with law enforcement. Here are some possible reasons:

1. **Consensual contact**- this means that an individual is approached by a law enforcement officer and the conversation with that officer is voluntary and your child is free to leave at any time.
2. **Welfare check**- this means that an officer was advised there may be concern for your child's health, safety or welfare and they come to check on your child, ex., missing school, mental health concern, etc.
3. **Traffic offense**- this means that your child committed a traffic offense and was detained by a law enforcement officer. The result may be a warning and release or your child may have received a citation. In Nevada, many minor traffic offenses, like minor speeding or equipment violations, were shifted from criminal misdemeanors to civil infractions by Assembly Bill 116, which became effective in 2023. This will mean no arrest, no criminal record, and penalties for your child may include fines (up to \$500 per violation), traffic school, or payment plans, with points still on your license. You must respond to civil tickets within 90 days by paying the amount requested, contesting the charge and having a hearing set, or arranging a plan to pay the fine in full. Failure to respond to civil tickets could result in driver's license suspension and the fine being sent to collections. All civil tickets are handled by your local justice court.
4. **Delinquent offense**- this means that your child allegedly committed a criminal offense, may have been questioned and detained. In most cases, you will be notified by law enforcement of these situations. If your son/daughter is questioned about a crime, you have the right to be present during questioning. Three things may occur in this situation:
  - a. **Written Citation**- this means that your child was cited for a criminal offense, ex., petit larceny, battery, minor in consumption of alcohol, etc. In this case, you will be notified by mail, phone or personal service from a law enforcement officer. You will have a set date to appear before the Juvenile Court or the opportunity to meet with a Juvenile Probation Officer for an informal (diversion) hearing.
  - b. **Arrest**- this means that your child was taken into custody for a criminal offense, ex., domestic battery, burglary, weapons related offense. This scenario usually occurs when the youth is a risk to harming themselves, the community/some other person or, in some cases, someone's personal property. You will be notified that your child has been taken into custody by any of the following: 1) the arresting officer, 2) the Juvenile Detention Center where your child is detained, or 3) the Juvenile Probation Officer in charge of handling your child's case. Following this, you will be notified by mail, phone or personal service from a law enforcement officer that you will have a set date to appear before the Juvenile Court or the opportunity to meet with a Juvenile Probation Officer for an informal (diversion) hearing.
  - c. **Report**- this means that law enforcement was called regarding a specific incident in which your child was involved and identified as either a suspect, witness or victim. When crimes are being investigated and the responding Officer(s) are conducting their reports, their goal is to provide to the prosecuting District Attorney a detailed narrative describing their initial findings and determinations about what transpired.

Investigating Officers may notify you to request an interview with your child which you have the right to be present for. In the instance your child was identified as a suspect in the report, you will be notified by mail, phone or personal service from a law enforcement Officer that you will have a set date to appear before the Juvenile Court or the opportunity to meet with a Juvenile Probation Officer for an informal (diversion) hearing. If your child was identified as a witness, there is a possibility you may be contacted by the District Attorney requesting your child to speak with them about what they were witness to in the case and possibly testify about their involvement in Court if the case were to go to trial. If your child was identified as a victim in the report, you will be contacted and notified by the District Attorney the status of the case as things progress and ultimately the outcome of the case and what was decided by the Court. Victims of crime are afforded specific rights under Marsy's Law which are summarized in the following provisions:

- i. The right to be notified of court proceedings and the status of their offender
  - ii. The right to be heard during criminal proceedings, including bail, sentencing, and parole hearings
  - iii. The right to be protected from the accused
  - iv. The right to restitution from the convicted offender
  - v. The right to be informed about the offender's custody status and release
- To learn more specific details about Marsy's law and how it functions within the state of Nevada, please visit: [Marsy's Law Nevada](#)

## WHAT OCCURS AFTER MY CHILD'S CONTACT WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

There are a few things that may occur following your child's contact with law enforcement:

1. **Consensual contact-** In the event that your child had consensual contact with a law enforcement officer, it was simply a voluntary conversation that will, in most cases, lead to nothing further.
2. **Welfare check-** In the event that your child was checked up on by law enforcement, a few things may occur:
  - a. Nothing may occur. The law enforcement officer may just respond, check to make sure your child was okay, and take a report.
  - b. The law enforcement officer may write a report based on the findings of the event they were checking on. In this case, if further action is required you will be contacted by an agency, such as the child's school, Human Services, etc., who is able to assist with your child's needs.
3. **Traffic offense-** In the event that your child received a criminal traffic citation, you will be notified by mail or personal service from a law enforcement officer that your child has a set date to appear before the Juvenile Court. When your child appears at the Juvenile Court with you, report early as you may be speaking to an attorney (District Attorney / your own attorney) or have pertinent paperwork to complete prior to the hearing. Dress appropriately, usually in business attire, so you appear presentable before the Judge.
4. **Delinquent offense-** In this case, you will be notified by a Juvenile Probation Officer, by mail or personal service from a law enforcement officer that your child has a set date to appear

before the Juvenile Court. This is known as a formal Court hearing. Or, if contacted by a Juvenile Probation Officer, they may ask you to handle the case outside of Court in an informal (diversion) hearing.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY CHILD GOES TO COURT

As previously mentioned, you will be notified how to proceed with your child throughout their legal process.

1. **Formal Court hearing-** In this hearing, you and your child will appear before a Judge. This may take place in one of several locations. The goal of the Court and Juvenile Probation is to provide you with ample notification of your child's hearings prior to their hearing taking place whenever possible. The Court will always attempt to provide you with a minimum of one week's notice prior to your child's hearing. Due to the dynamic nature of some juvenile cases and the scheduling conflicts that regularly transpire between all parties involved in juvenile cases, there will be instances where the Court and Juvenile Probation will be unable to provide this one week's notice. In rare instances, the Juvenile Court will need to set what is known as an "emergency" hearing. Due to the unique circumstances of these cases which necessitate expediency, it may require you to appear for these hearings with little or no notice. Employers are prohibited by law under Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) Chapter 62D.130 from threatening to terminate or terminating your employment as a consequence of you attending your child's hearing. Learn more about the specific details of protections you are afforded over your employment for Court appearances here: [Terminating or threatening to terminate employment of parent or guardian for appearance at proceeding prohibited](#)

Your child's hearing will, most likely, occur in the area where you reside, at the Juvenile Court. Although there may be instances where this is not the case, the Court is determined to work with families and establish a location that will be the least impactful to the family. If for some reason your child is scheduled to appear at a Juvenile Court location in Lyon County different from where you currently reside, you do have the ability to call the Juvenile Court directly and request your hearing location be moved to where you reside or, if you have already appeared to the hearing, request to the Juvenile Court your preference for future hearings to take place in the area you reside. Currently there are Juvenile Court locations in Yerington, Dayton and Fernley. Juvenile Court does not hold hearings in the areas of Silver Springs, Stagecoach and Smith Valley. In some instances, the offense your child received may require their hearing to occur at the District Court, located in Yerington, NV. Zoom (online) hearings may be approved by the Juvenile Court on a case by case basis and are not guaranteed. In order to receive approval for a zoom hearing, you must request in writing to the Juvenile Court or District Court your desire for the zoom hearing and the specific circumstances that would warrant it. Contact information for the Courts is included at the end of this document.

If your child committed an offense outside of Lyon County, then you and your child will report to the County where the offense occurred unless other arrangements have been made with Lyon County Juvenile Probation.

### **Arraignment**

Once in the Courtroom, the Judge will confirm who you and your child are. The Judge will ask you basic questions such as your name, your child's name, date of birth and your relationship to the child. Once this is determined to be the correct information, the Judge will confirm with you the specific charge(s)/violation(s) that your child is in Court for. The Judge will read your child their rights as a Juvenile under NRS Chapter 62D.010 – 62D.130 and confirm with your child he/she understands them. To learn more about the rights of children under Chapter 62D visit here: [Juvenile Rights](#)

Once confirmed, the Judge will offer your child the ability to speak to an attorney prior to entering a plea (unless an attorney has been obtained by you prior to the hearing). If an attorney is requested, the hearing will be postponed, the Judge will appoint your child an attorney and a Court date will be rescheduled so your child may consult with an attorney prior to any plea.

If your child declines to speak to an attorney or after your child has consulted with an attorney, your child will be asked to enter a plea. The possible pleas are as follows:

- a. **Admission** – a plea in which your child accepts responsibility for the act which brought them to Court.
- b. **Denial** – a plea in which your child does not accept responsibility for the act which brought them to Court.
- c. **No Contest** (nolo contendere) – a plea in which your child accepts the consequences and sanctions of the court without admitting responsibility for the act committed. (If the matter moves into a civil hearing involving restitution payments owed, this type of plea typically cannot be used against them as an admission of guilt in civil proceedings.)

If your child **admits** to the charge(s)/violation(s) that brought him/her to Court, your child will be asked by the Judge to tell them exactly what he/she is admitting to. Once this occurs, the Court will schedule a Dispositional (sentencing) hearing where your child will return to Court and receive the sanctions or penalties according to the Nevada Revised Statutes, NRS.

If your child **denies** the charge(s)/violation(s) that brought him/her to Court then the Court will schedule an Evidentiary Hearing (trial). At this hearing the District Attorney has the responsibility to demonstrate the child's involvement in the delinquent act beyond a reasonable doubt.

If the District Attorney fails to establish your child's responsibility in the delinquent act to the Judge, then the charge(s)/violation(s) against your child will be dismissed and you and your child will be free to leave.

If the District Attorney does, in fact, prove your child's involvement beyond a reasonable doubt, then the Court will set a Disposition hearing (referred to above) and you and your child will be required to return for that Court hearing.

If your child enters a **no contest** (nolo contendere) plea, your child will be accepting their responsibility in the act but not be required to admit to any fault. They will also receive the sanctions or penalties according to the Nevada Revised Statutes, NRS. In this instance, the District Attorney will notify the Judge what they intended to prove your child did.

### **Disposition**

At this hearing, the Judicial Officer will make a decision about what will happen to your child based on the recommendations they receive from your child's attorney, the District Attorney and the Juvenile Probation Department. The Judicial Officer will hear from you, as the parent, and the Juvenile Probation Officer as well. The Judicial Officer can follow the recommendations from any one of these individuals, follow only a few of the recommendations or the Judicial Officer may not agree to any of them and sanction your child with the conditions they believe will best serve your child and the community.

Upon the Judicial Officer making their final Order they will submit their findings in a document known as a "Findings and Recommendations". The Judicial Officer will file these findings and recommendations not later than 10 days after the case is heard. You and your child will be informed at the conclusion of their case your right to object to the Judicial Officer's recommendations within 5 business days of the Judicial Officer providing notice of their findings and recommendations. A District Court Judge will sign the Judicial Officer's findings and recommendations thereby making them enforceable. Learn more about objecting to the findings and recommendations of a Juvenile Officer here: [Objecting to the Judicial Officer's Recommendations](#)

Orders from the District Court are final and are immediately enforceable.

A Juvenile Probation Officer will confirm these Court Orders are being complied with.

### **Evidentiary Hearing**

At this hearing, the District Attorney will have the task of proving that your child committed the delinquent act(s) they were petitioned to the Court for. The District Attorney must prove to the Judge (**not a jury of their peers**) that the offense(s) occurred beyond a reasonable doubt. If the District Attorney is unable to do this, then the Petition to the Court will be dismissed.

2. **Informal (Diversion) Hearings** – Lyon County Juvenile Probation will, whenever possible, attempt informal measures with your child that do not involve the formal court system. There are several notable benefits for your child to handle matters informally which include but are not limited to:
  - Avoids formal juvenile record, protecting their future opportunities for education, employment, and housing

- Keeps them in their home environment with family support rather than in detention
- Allows them to continue school without disruption
- Provides rehabilitation and guidance while maintaining normal daily life
- Often includes constructive interventions like counseling, mentoring, cognitive behavioral or skill-building programs
- Generally costs less than formal court processing and detention
- Reduces likelihood of repeat offenses compared to formal processing
- Minimizes exposure to higher-risk peers they might encounter in detention
- Allows for personalized intervention plans based on the youth's specific needs
- If completed successfully, helps them learn from mistakes without lasting consequences

These benefits align with Lyon County Juvenile Probation's goals of rehabilitation rather than punishment, while still holding your child accountable for their actions.

**Schedule A Agreement** - In this meeting, you and your child will meet with a Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO). This Probation Officer will be meeting with you because the District Attorney has decided to allow your child the opportunity to prove that they do not need to appear before a Judge for their offense.

During this meeting, your child will be given the same opportunity to consult with an attorney. If your child decides they want to consult with an attorney, the meeting will be postponed, you will be allowed to leave and a Court date will be scheduled where you and your child will ask the Judge to appoint an attorney to represent you. Once you and your child meet with the attorney, they can speak to the Judge on your child's behalf and recommend how they would like to see your child's case move forward.

If your child waives their right to consult with an attorney, the Schedule A Agreement will proceed. Your child will be required to take responsibility for their actions related to what delinquent act they have committed. You and your child will be required to agree to specific terms/conditions to follow for a period of up to 180-days. Some examples of these terms/conditions are completing community service, an apology letter, reporting to a probation officer, attending school, remaining free and clear from all drugs and alcohol, obeying all laws, etc. During this period your child will be informally supervised and monitored by his/her JPO. Within this agreement will be the clear understanding that your child's belongings may be searched for illegal or forbidden items such as drugs, weapons or contraband. In certain instances, and depending on the nature of your child's offenses, your child may also be expected to partake in random drug testing administered at the discretion of the JPO.

If your child does well on the Schedule A Agreement, the JPO handling the case reserves the right to terminate the agreement and close the case. However, if your child fails to comply and complete the Schedule A Agreement, the JPO will meet with you and your child to explain that your child has not complied with the agreed upon terms/conditions of the Agreement and may submit a formal petition to the District Attorney for the original charge.

**90-day contract-** In this meeting, you and your child will meet with a Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO). This Probation Officer will be meeting with you because the District Attorney has decided to allow your child the opportunity to prove that they do not need to appear before a Judge.

During this meeting, your child will be given the same opportunity to consult with an attorney. If your child decides they want to consult with an attorney, the informal hearing will be postponed, you will be allowed to leave and a Court date will be scheduled where you and your child will ask the Judge to appoint an attorney to represent you. Once you and your child meet with the attorney, they can speak to the Judge on your child's behalf and recommend how they would like to see your child's case move forward.

If your child waives their right to consult with an attorney, the 90-day contract will proceed. Your child will be required to take responsibility for their actions related to what crime they have committed. You and your child will be required to agree to specific terms/conditions to follow for a period of up to 90-days. Some examples of these terms/conditions are community service, an apology letter, report to a probation officer, attend school, obey all laws, etc. There is no search and seizure clause built into the 90-day contract nor will JPOs drug test your child if/when they are placed on a 90-day contract.

If your child does well on the 90-day contract, the JPO handling the case reserves the right to terminate the Agreement and close the case. However, if your child fails to comply and complete the contract, the JPO will meet with you and your child and explain the agreed upon terms/conditions of the Diversion Agreement were not met and submit a formal petition request to the District Attorney on the original charge.

**Walk in referral** - this is an informal meeting between the JPO and a parent who self-initiates contact with Juvenile Probation. Officers may assign limited sanctions; essays, cognitive training booklets, apology letters, etc. Community based agencies are the main resource and JPOs may ask for your consent during this meeting in making a referral to one of our community partners to better assist your family (full list of resources is included in the back of this document).

**Warn and Counsel** – this is an informal meeting where decisions regarding consequences are issued during an office appointment with the parent, child and JPO. Statute may require a warning for the first offense or the offense does not warrant a higher level of intervention. Minimal sanctions are used and cannot exceed what's listed in JPO's warn and counsel form. If your child complies, the case is closed. If your child is non-compliant, the case proceeds as necessary.

In following best practice, many youth who are referred to our agency with low level offenses (status offenses) are immediately redirected and referred to our partnering agency, Lyon County Human Services (LCHS). LCHS is able to help families address underlying issues that may be causing problematic behavior - like family conflicts, mental health challenges,

substance use, or academic struggles - before they escalate to law violations. They are able to connect families to community resources and support networks while providing comprehensive support without your child having to become involved in the formal Court system. LCHS has been invaluable in assisting JPO with youth who can and should be redirected away from the Juvenile Justice system.

### **HOW ARE SANCTIONS DETERMINED – Formal Court Hearing**

NRS 62B.610 and 62B.625 state that each child will submit to a validated risk assessment and a validated mental health screening prior to the disposition of their case. This will assist the Juvenile Court and the Lyon County Juvenile Probation Department in determining the appropriate actions to take for each child subject to the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court.

The Lyon County Juvenile Probation Department utilizes the Youth Level of Services / Case Management Inventory 2.0 (YLS/CMI 2.0) risk assessment. This assessment is a validated tool used to identify risk and need factors in youth offenders. The eight areas inventoried are those shown by research to be the strongest predictors if a youth will re-offend. Youth are scored as being low (requiring little to no services), moderate (requiring minimal services), high (requiring a higher level of services), or very high (requiring the highest level of service).

The Lyon County Juvenile Probation Department utilizes the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument-Second Version (MAYSI-2) mental health screening tool. This instrument is a brief mental health screening tool for routine administration at entry to any juvenile justice facility or service. The seven areas inventoried are those shown by research to be predictors a youth may be struggling with a mental health illness. The areas assessed are Alcohol/Drug Use, Angry-Irritable, Depressed-Anxious, Somatic Complaints, Suicidal Ideation, Thought Disturbance (boys) and Traumatic Experience.

Once you and your child complete your child's arraignment hearing, you will meet with your child's assigned Juvenile Probation Officer. He/she will meet with you and your child at first separately and then together as a group to ask a multitude of questions that will help guide them in determining what risk/needs your child may possess. It is then that the assessment will be completed by the Probation Officer and a determination will be made on your child's risk / need level.

According to NRS 62B.645, the Probation Officer will then complete a Case Plan for the Report to the Court and with you and your child's input, based on the findings of these assessments, the recommendations to the Court will be made. It is crucial that you as a parent play an active role throughout the entire process of your child's probationary term. There is an expectation that the JPO will remain in regular contact with you as the parent. There is an equally important expectation that you as the parent share any and all pertinent information with the JPO about your child that will assist us in helping them successfully navigate probation. The parents of our probationers are our biggest asset in getting to know the personalities, tendencies, quirks and behaviors of your child. Together we can not only help your child successfully complete probation, but ultimately become better prepared and confident to navigate early adulthood.

Additionally, there are specific statutes in the NRS that state specific consequences shall be given. In this case, those consequences may be recommended by the Probation Department or District Attorney and/or ordered by the Judge.

### HOW ARE SANCTIONS DETERMINED – Informal Hearings

Lyon County Juvenile Probation is dedicated in its mission to ensuring fairness and integrity when holding juvenile offenders accountable. To stay in line with this mission and promote consistency when administering informal sanctions, Officers will reference a juvenile bail schedule unique to Lyon County Juvenile Probation. This bail schedule will outline an exhaustive list of offenses juveniles could potentially acquire and will include recommended sanctions for each offense. One example of an offense with recommended sanctions listed on the bail schedule is as follows:

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Battery (NRS 200.481)

Apology letter, 3 days (24 hours) of work crew,  
restitution, no contact with victim

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This bail schedule was created with the collaboration and input from the Lyon County District Attorney’s Office (DA). Each time the bail schedule is revised, it is done so with the guidance and assistance of the DA.

Officers are, however, afforded the discretion to include sanctions that are relevant to the offense for which the youth was referred. An example of this may be an Officer’s decision to have a youth who is having to appear for the offense of Battery on a fellow student write an essay on the impacts of violence in the school.

## IMPORTANT NOTICES TO PARENTS

### Legal Advice

During your child's probationary period, you may have questions seeking legal advice. Juvenile Probation Officers are **prohibited** from providing any type of legal advice and will advise you to consult with your child's attorney. Your child has the right to be represented at any and all stages of their Court proceedings.

### Education

Your child's education is extremely valuable to their future and is something we place great emphasis on during our time with them. Your child will receive educational services during their stay in all facilities or programs they enter. These services are provided on the grounds of each facility or in some cases, such as the Western Nevada Regional Youth Center (WNRYS), on a school campus.

If your child is receiving special education services, has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or receives accommodations through a 504 Plan, those services will be provided. Your child is entitled to services through age 21, even if they are in a juvenile facility or placement. The school at these facilities/placements will provide the education and related services in the IEP or 504 Plan until a new plan is developed.

If your child has taken special education classes because of behavior, learning or other needs, you should inform facility staff or your child's probation officer so they can verify your child is receiving the services they need.

### Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

PREA is a federal law that was signed on September 4, 2003 and became effective on August 20, 2012. The PREA standards provide rules to prevent, detect and respond to sexual abuse and sexual harassment within correctional systems. PREA applies to all federal and state prisons, jails, detention centers, private facilities and community correctional settings that house male and female adults and juveniles.

Lyon County Juvenile Probation has zero tolerance toward all forms of sexual abuse and sexual harassment while in a correctional facility. If you suspect your child has experienced either of these while in a facility or placement, please report this to:

1. Staff member
2. Your child's Probation Officer
3. Local law enforcement

### Juvenile Justice Bill of Rights

**NRS 62B.510 Rights of child placed in detention facility.** Except as otherwise provided in [NRS 62B.520](#), a child who is placed in the care and custody of a detention facility within this State has the right:

1. To receive information concerning his or her rights set forth in this title.

2. To be treated with basic human dignity and respect, without intentional infliction of humiliation.
3. To have fair and equal access to services, placement, care, treatment and benefits.
4. To a program of education that meets the requirements of law and is appropriate for the developmental maturity of the child.
5. To receive adequate, healthy and appropriate food.
6. To receive adequate, appropriate and accessible basic necessities, including, without limitation, shelter, clean clothing and personal hygiene products and facilities.
7. To have access to necessary medical and behavioral health care services, including, without limitation:
  - (a) Dental, vision and mental health services;
  - (b) Medical and psychological screening, assessment and testing; and
  - (c) Referral to and receipt of medical, emotional, psychological or psychiatric evaluation and treatment as soon as practicable after the need for such services has been identified.
8. To be free from:
  - (a) Abuse or neglect, as defined in [NRS 432B.020](#).
  - (b) Corporal punishment, as defined in [NRS 388.478](#), except the reasonable use of force that is necessary to preserve the order, security or safety of the child, the public, the staff of the detention facility or other children who are detained in the detention facility.
  - (c) The administration of psychotropic medication unless the administration is consistent with the policies established pursuant to [NRS 62B.530](#).
  - (d) Discrimination or harassment on the basis of his or her actual or perceived race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, mental or physical disability or exposure to any communicable disease.
  - (e) The deprivation of food, sleep, exercise, education, pillows, blankets or personal hygiene products as a form of punishment or discipline.
  - (f) Being searched for the purpose of harassment or as a form of punishment or discipline.
  - (g) Being restricted from a daily shower, clean clothing, drinking water, a toilet or reading materials relating to the education or detention of the child as a form of punishment or discipline.
9. To have reasonable access and accommodations to participate in religious services of his or her choice when reasonably available on the premises of the detention facility or to refuse to participate in religious services.
10. To communicate with other persons, including, without limitation, the right:
  - (a) To have regular contact through visits, telephone calls and mail with:
    - (1) Biological children;
    - (2) Parents;
    - (3) Guardians;
    - (4) Attorneys; and
    - (5) Other adults with whom the child has established a familial or mentoring relationship, including, without limitation, clergy, caseworkers, teachers, mentors and other persons, upon approval of the detention facility.
  - (b) To communicate confidentially with:

- (1) Any agency which provides child welfare services to the child concerning his or her care;
- (2) Attorneys, legal services organizations and their employees and staff;
- (3) Ombudspersons and other advocates;
- (4) Members of the clergy; and
- (5) Holders of public office, and people who work at a state or federal court.

Except as otherwise provided by specific statute, a communication made pursuant to this paragraph is not a privileged communication.

- (c) To report any alleged violation of his or her rights pursuant to [NRS 62B.525](#) without being threatened or punished.
11. To participate, in person, by telephone or by videoconference, in all court hearings pertaining to the circumstances which led to the detention of the child. (Added to NRS by [2017, 744](#))

**NRS 62B.520 Reasonable restrictions on exercise of rights by child.** A detention facility may impose reasonable restrictions on the time, place and manner in which a child may exercise his or her rights set forth in [NRS 62B.510](#) if such restrictions are necessary to preserve the order, security or safety of the child, the public, the staff of the detention facility or other children who are detained in the detention facility. (Added to NRS by [2017, 746](#))

#### **Additional Protections**

In July 2017, the state passed into law NRS 63.425, which ensures that youth receiving services receive treatment in accordance with the child's gender identity or expression, including establishing factors for a juvenile court to consider before committing a child to a facility and protocols for a facility to follow when placing a child within the facility, that ensures each child who is so committed is placed in a manner that is appropriate for their gender identity or expression.

## RESOURCES & SERVICES UTILIZED

The Lyon County Juvenile Probation Department serves youth ages 10 – 21, and to a select few, as young as the age of 8, for specific crimes. Learn more about the special circumstances which would necessitate us to become involved with youth under 10 years of age here: [Persons capable of committing crimes](#)

We utilize a multitude of agencies to assist our youth and their families ensuring they receive the proper support to become healthy, productive members of society. Some of those services include parenting classes, outpatient counseling for mental and behavioral health concerns, inpatient treatment to address substance abuse and mental/behavioral health, summer and winter outdoor programs, residential behavioral health camps and in/out of State mental health hospitals and more. Here are a few of those services:

1. Community Chest Inc.  
Mental health counseling and other programs  
775.847.9311  
[communitychestnevada.net](http://communitychestnevada.net)
  
2. Pacific Behavioral Health  
Clinical mental health services for all ages  
775.287.8270  
[pbehavioralhealth.com](http://pbehavioralhealth.com)
  
3. Vitality Unlimited  
Clinical mental health services for all ages  
120 Pike Street  
Dayton, NV 89403  
775.241.9442
  
4. Rural Nevada Counseling  
Outpatient, non-emergent services  
775.577.6565  
775.431.0211 (Crisis line)  
[ruralnevadacounseling.org](http://ruralnevadacounseling.org)
  
5. Parent Project- parenting classes  
Offered by Lyon County Human Services  
775.577.5009 (Human Services)
  
5. Western Nevada Regional Youth Center (WNRYS)  
Inpatient substance addiction treatment  
775.577.4200

6. Lyon County Human Services  
Multiple services offered  
775.577.5009  
[lyon-county.org/175/Human-Services](http://lyon-county.org/175/Human-Services)
7. China Spring Youth Camp  
Residential behavioral health  
775.265.5350  
chinaspringyouthcamp.com
8. Churchill County Juvenile Justice Center  
Detention Services  
775.423.6587  
churchillcounty.org/159/Juvenile-Justice-Center
9. Carson City Juvenile Services  
Detention Services  
775.887.2034  
carson.org/government/departments-g-z/juvenile-services/juvenile-detention-center
10. Healthy Communities Coalition  
Community support and connection to resources: <https://www.healthycomm.org/>
11. SafeVoice
  - a. Call 1-833-216-SAFE (7233)
  - b. Make a report here: <https://www.p3campus.com/tipform.aspx?ID=5004>
  - c. Tip follow up: <https://www.p3campus.com/access.aspx?ReportingParty=1>

24-hour anonymous reporting and response system focused on student safety and well-being
12. Children’s Mobile Crisis Response Team  
Crisis intervention providing triage, mobile crisis response, crisis stabilization and aftercare  
775.688.1670  
knowcrisis.com
13. National Suicide Prevention Hotline  
24/7, free and confidential support for individuals in distress, crisis resources and prevention  
1.800.273.8255  
1.888.628.9454 (Spanish speaking line)  
suicidepreventionlifeline.org
14. Trevor Project  
Crisis & suicide intervention services to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning (LGBTQ) to individuals under age 25  
1.866.488.7386

15. National Domestic Violence Hotline  
1.800.799.7233
  
16. Boys and Girls Club of Truckee Meadows (Fernley)  
Provides a variety of academic and social programs for children and teens  
695 East Main St, Fernley, NV 89408  
775.460.4462  
<https://bgctm.org/>
  
17. Boys and Girls Club of the Mason Valley (Silver Springs, Dayton and Yerington)  
Provides a variety of academic and social programs for children and teens  
775.463.2334  
bgcmasonvalley.org
  
18. State of Nevada Victims of Crime  
Check eligibility, complete an application and find other victim assistance resources  
702.486.2740  
voc.nv.gov

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### **How long will my child be on probation?**

Depending on the specific offense(s) for which your child was referred to Juvenile Probation will dictate how long they are placed on formal probation. The time limits on Court Ordered Formal Probation can vary widely and may be ordered for an initial period of ninety days or up to 6 months. In instances which involve probation that is the result of committing a sex offense, statute may dictate your child to serve a minimum probation term of 3 years. Learn more about juvenile probationary term lengths here: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-062E.html#NRS062ESec708>

Your child's compliance with Court orders and their behavior throughout their probationary term will also have a tremendous impact on the length of their probation. If your child is non-compliant with Court orders and unwilling to follow the terms and conditions of their probation, their term could potentially be extended. If your child's behavior is positive and they have completed all their sanctions in a timely manner, Officers may request to the Court that their probation term be terminated early. Ultimately, it is up to your child. Their behavior, their actions, and their participation in the services they receive plays a large part in their success and discharge from probation. Informal probation, by way of a Schedule A agreement, can last up to a 180-day period.

### **What happens if my child commits a sexual offense?**

How to best address and rehabilitate youth who have committed sexual offenses has been an ongoing discussion within Nevada and across the United States for many years. These debates have often resulted in ongoing legislative changes that, every few years, have completely shifted or provided new directives to the Courts on how to adjudicate and manage these specific cases. Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) will heavily dictate the sanctions, term lengths and treatment your child will receive. Depending on the specific offense the District Attorney has charged your child with, there are mandates under NRS which must be followed. These mandates can seem overwhelming, but understand, we are committed to ensuring you are kept up to date and informed about every stage of the Court process. There will undoubtedly be questions that arise along the way which we will do our best to answer promptly and thoroughly. Additionally, your child will be appointed an attorney (Public Defender) who will remain intact as their legal representation for the longevity of their case. Due to the many intricacies of these cases which often involve significant negotiating and deliberating between your child's attorney and the District attorney prosecuting the case, it is impossible to accurately predict what the outcome of your child's case may be. Again, we are dedicated to answering any and all questions you have as they arise and also highly encourage you to remain in regular communication with your child's attorney through the entirety of their case proceedings. Learn more about Juvenile Sex Offenders in Nevada here: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-062F.html>

### **Do I have a say in what happens with my child?**

It is the expectation and hope of Lyon County Juvenile Probation that you will remain an active and engaged parent throughout the entirety of your child's probationary term. During the Court process, you will be asked about your child and your expectations of them. Additionally, your child's JPO will remain in regular communication with you, seeking your input and feedback on the issues which ultimately brought Juvenile Probation into you and your child's life. We want to know what you believe is best for your child and recognize that your input is invaluable as you know them much better than we do. Although the Judge holds the final say in what sanctions are given to your child, they will also seek out your input during every stage of your child's Court proceeding.

### **Will this incident affect my child's future? Will they have a record?**

We want to leave your child better than we found them. Our hope is that when your child has successfully completed their time with our department, whether that be informally or through the formal probationary process, they are better equipped to navigate the world as a young adult. We accomplish this through teaching accountability while recognizing and celebrating their acts of integrity, resilience, hard work and responsibility. Using cognitive behavioral training and targeted case management, we strive to empower your child to effectively learn from their mistakes. By learning to accept responsibility for their actions, they can cultivate resilience and develop coping mechanisms that can help them navigate young adulthood.

### **What happens if my child has mental health or substance abuse issues?**

Mental health and substance abuse are becoming more and more prevalent among youth throughout our nation. Teen mental health and substance abuse are influenced by multiple interconnected factors including biological development, social media use, family dynamics, peer pressure, academic stress, trauma, and genetic predisposition. Economic factors, social isolation, and limited access to healthcare also play significant roles. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated many of these challenges by disrupting routines, social connections, and educational experiences during critical developmental periods. Our goal will be to connect your child to appropriate therapeutic and behavioral health services that can guide them toward sobriety as well as healthy, effective coping mechanisms they can put to use for the remainder of their life. Your child's well-being is our top priority and we understand the road to sobriety and overcoming mental health challenges can be very difficult. We are committed to working with you and your child throughout their road to recovery.

### **Is information about my child confidential?**

Yes, your child's information is kept confidential under Nevada Revised Statutes section 62H.025. There are certain entities with which Juvenile Probation may share your child's juvenile justice information. Learn more about how your child's information is protected as well as the entities with whom our department may legally share your child's juvenile justice information with here:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-062H.html#NRS062HSec025>

### **If you send my child away to a placement/program, will I get to see them?**

Juvenile Probation will continually follow best practices when placing youth into a residential program. When researching appropriate placements for youth under our formal supervision, Juvenile Probation will seek out the least restrictive options that can appropriately accommodate the youths' particular mental health and behavioral needs as well as ensure in-state placement options have been exhausted prior to seeking out-of-state placements.

There is an expectation that parental participation will take place throughout the longevity of your child's placement. Yes, you will get to see your child throughout the length of their placement. These meetings with your child may happen under several different circumstances which can include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. You may be asked to meet in person or via zoom during family therapy sessions at the facility.
2. You may be asked to meet in person or via zoom to participate in monthly Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTs) where the overall progress of your child and their program overview is discussed.
3. Depending on your child's program, there may also be instances where your child is temporarily released from the program to go on passes with the family. These passes can include but are not limited to day passes that can last anywhere from 1 -8 hours as well as home passes that can last anywhere from 24 hours to several days.

### **How long will my child's probation term remain on their record?**

Juvenile records in Nevada are automatically sealed within 60 days after a child turns 18, except when the child remains under juvenile court jurisdiction at age 18 (such as for pending charges or ongoing supervision). In those cases, records seal within 60 days after the court's jurisdiction ends. Your child's juvenile record and the sealing of their record is outlined in detail under Nevada Revised Statutes section 62H.140 through 62H.170. Learn more about how and when your child's record will be sealed here: <https://www.leg.state.nv.us/nrs/NRS-062H.html#NRS062HSec140>

### **Will probation affect my child's future chances of employment, military enrollment or admission into college?**

In Nevada, your child being placed on juvenile probation should have minimal to no impact on their future employment and college admission opportunities due to automatic record sealing. However, military enlistment is the major exception where juvenile records can create significant barriers.

In regard to your child's employment: Once juvenile records are sealed (as discussed in the previous section titled "How long will my child's probation term remain on their record?") your child can legally answer "no" to questions about criminal history on job applications and deny the records ever existed. Employers, landlords, and banks cannot see sealed records.

Regarding college admissions, in most cases, having a juvenile record should not affect eligibility for colleges. Once records are sealed, they won't appear on background checks, and your child can legally deny their existence on applications.

In regard to Military enrollment, juvenile records do matter significantly. Federal regulations require military applicants to disclose all sealed, expunged, or juvenile records, and the military can access these

records even after they're sealed under state law. The military requires "moral fitness" and can deny enlistment based on certain juvenile adjudications, and being under civil restraint such as probation at the time of application cannot be waived. Applicants subject to pending charges are not eligible for enlistment, so your child would need to complete their probation before applying to the military.

**What if I am unhappy with my child's supervising Juvenile Probation Officer?**

In the instance you are unhappy with your child's supervising Juvenile Probation Officer, you can submit a written complaint to the Chief Deputy Juvenile Probation Officer (JPO) outlining the nature of your complaint. This complaint can be delivered via email or through postal services. Upon receiving the complaint, the Chief Deputy JPO will review your complaint and focus on the following items:

- Was there any conduct carried out by the Juvenile Probation Officer that was illegal or against the law?
- Was there any conduct carried out by the Juvenile Probation Officer that was unethical?
- Was there any conduct carried out by the Juvenile Probation Officer that was in direct violation of Lyon County Policies and Procedures?
- Was there any conduct carried out by the Juvenile Probation Officer that violated Lyon County Juvenile Probation's Internal Policies and Procedures?

Upon thorough review and investigation of the complaint, the Chief Deputy JPO will provide a written recommendation to the Chief Juvenile Probation Officer for review. The written recommendation will outline whether there was evidence to support any of the above-mentioned bullet point items in the original complaint narrative, and also outline whether a change of Juvenile Probation Officers is warranted. Once the Chief approves these recommendations, the written recommendations will be provided directly to you, the parent. Any future complaints about your dissatisfaction with your child's supervising JPO can be generated in the same manner as described above.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Adjudication:** A hearing at which the juvenile court judge or other judicial officer determines that a juvenile is responsible for the offense that has been filed.

**Admission:** A plea in which your child accepts responsibility for the act which brought them to Court.

**Arraignment:** An act of bringing someone before the court to hear and answer formal charges.

**Arrest:** Using legal authority to deprive a person of his/her freedom of movement.

**Case Plan:** A comprehensive plan for each youth that is initially developed by the probation officer in consultation with the youth, the youth's family/guardian(s) and all other individuals deemed appropriate in the youth's life. This plan identifies the goals and objectives for each youth based on their identified needs.

**Case Management:** A service provided by JPO staff that provides structure to a youth's case, including case planning, treatment and program monitoring, re-entry planning, referrals to community-based resources and case file documentation.

**Commitment:** A youth who has been adjudicated by a juvenile court (found responsible for an offense) and ordered and placed into a correctional facility for treatment and rehabilitation.

**Consensual Contact:** When an individual is approached by a law enforcement officer and the officer initiates conversation. It does not involve officer commands or force.

**Consent Decree:** An Order of a Judge based upon an agreement instead of continuing the case through a formal court hearing.

**Delinquent:** A child who the court finds has committed an act that would be a crime if committed by an adult.

**Delinquent Act:** An offense committed by a juvenile that would be classified as a crime if committed by an adult.

**Denial:** A plea in which your child does not accept responsibility for the act which brought them to Court.

**Detention Facility:** A county locked facility where children await their next court hearing or placement.

**Disposition:** The final settlement of a matter; sentencing of a case.

**District Attorney:** An attorney for the government with the specific district.

**District Court:** The Court of general jurisdiction in a specific district, which oversees gross misdemeanor and felony offenses.

**Diversion Agreement:** An agreement with a Juvenile Probation Officer to handle a youth's case outside of a formal court hearing; also known as an informal hearing.

**Evidentiary Hearing:** The determination of an individual's innocence or guilt by due process of law.

**Facility:** A center that houses youth ordered for treatment and rehabilitation or mental health care.

**Handbook:** A manual of instruction or guidance.

**Juvenile:** A person who is alleged to have committed or who has been adjudicated as having committed a delinquent act prior to turning 18 years old.

**Juvenile Master Court:** The Court of general jurisdiction, which oversees all types of offenses throughout the different areas of Lyon County.

**No Contest (nolo contendere):** A plea in which your child accepts responsibility as though a guilty plea had been entered but does not admit guilt.

**Petition:** The formal legal document that initiates proceedings against a minor. It is the equivalent of a criminal complaint or indictment in adult court and serves to bring the child and their parents/guardians into court, giving them notice of the alleged wrongdoing.

**Public Defender:** An attorney appointed to represent an individual at the public's expense.

**Recidivism:** A tendency to relapse into a previous condition or mode of behavior, especially a relapse into criminal behavior.

**Residential Treatment:** A program that provides extensive behavioral, psychiatric or alcohol treatment while the individual is attending school and living in residence at the program.

**Risk Assessment:** An assessment used to assess a youth's likelihood (risk) of future re-offending.

**Sanction:** A penalty for a wrong or disobedience.

**Welfare Check:** When a law enforcement officer responds to a request to check on the safety and well-being of a person.

## **LYON COUNTY JUVENILE PROBATION OFFICE LOCATIONS**

### **Yerington, NV Office (Main Office)**

31 South Main St.  
Yerington, NV 89447  
775.463.6641 (phone)  
775.463.2204 (fax)

### **Silver Springs/Stagecoach Office**

1075 Pyramid St.  
Silver Springs, NV 89429  
775.577.5017 (phone)  
775.577.5095 (fax)

### **Dayton, NV Office**

50 River St.  
Dayton, NV 89403  
775.246.6215 (phone)  
775.246.6304 (fax)

### **Fernley, NV Office**

565 East Main St.  
Fernley, NV 89408  
775.575.3360 (phone)  
775.575.3367 (fax)

## **LYON COUNTY THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT**

Third Judicial District Court  
911 Harvey Lane  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Yerington, NV 89447  
775.463.6503

## **CONCLUSION**

**When your child becomes involved with the Juvenile Justice System, we understand it can be an incredibly stressful, confusing and hectic time for you as a parent. We want to minimize this stress by communicating with you often and keeping our communication with you honest and transparent.**

**We will collaborate with you to move your child through this stage and on to the next stage of their life with the sincere hope they become better equipped to deal with difficulty and adversity. Your role in their life is irreplaceable, and we will look to you for guidance and support in how to best help your child.**

**We look forward to working with you and your child.**

**“It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men”**

**-Frederick Douglass, abolitionist and statesman**

