A woman with vibrant red hair is shown in profile, hugging a young child with black hair from behind. They are standing in front of a wall made of rough, brown and tan stones. The woman has her eyes closed and a gentle expression, while the child is smiling slightly. The overall mood is one of love and support.

HOW TO  
**HELP  
YOUR  
CHILD**  
AFTER ARREST

**PARENT GUIDEBOOK**

THE SAN MATEO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION

# CONNECT

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## San Mateo County Youth Service Center (YSC)

Location: 222 Paul Scannell Drive, San Mateo, CA

*The YSC is at the intersection of highways 280 and 92. Take the Ralston Avenue Exit from 92. Turn right on Polhemus Road. Take the first left (Paul Scannell Drive). Go to the top of the hill.*

### Assessment Center

Phone: (650) 312-8816

Location: 1st floor, YSC Probation Department

*Turn right just after security.*

### Juvenile Probation Department

Phone: (650) 312-8816

(800) 312-8806 (toll free)

Location: YSC 1st floor

*Turn right just after security.*

### Juvenile Hall and Visiting

Phone: (650) 312-5327 (Mon-Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm)

(650) 312-5200 (after 5:00 pm and on weekends)

Visiting: (650) 312-5240 (call for an appointment)

Location: YSC lobby

*On weekdays during regular business hours, go through the lobby to the courtyard and up the stairs to Visiting. You can also take the elevator to the second floor. Turn left, then left again. The ramp outside the doors leads to Visiting.*

*On weekends, or after 5:00 pm, press the button beside the inside front door. An officer will come down to take you to Visiting.*

### Court Lobby

Location: YSC 2nd floor

*Go up the stairs or elevator and turn left. The court lobby is on the right.*

### Private Defender Program (provides no-cost lawyers)

Phone: (650) 312-5396

Location: YSC 2nd floor

*Walk down the hall at the end of the court lobby.*

### Court Dates

Call the Juvenile Court Clerk's Office (for court dates and case number)

Phone: (650) 261-5100, extension 8 (Juvenile Court Clerk's Office)

Location: 2nd floor, YSC

*Go up the stairs or elevator and turn left. The clerk's office is directly ahead.*



## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION COMMISSION SAN MATEO COUNTY

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention commissioners, we are community volunteers who advocate for children in the juvenile justice system. We wrote this guide to help you and your child get through the legal process so you can be your child's best supporter.

This guidebook answers questions you may have about arrest, getting a lawyer, court, probation, and juvenile hall. Because each child's situation is different, you may read this guidebook in any order. We suggest that:

- Whenever you have questions about your child's situation, you talk with your child's lawyer or probation officer.
- The sooner your child can get out of the juvenile justice system, the better off your child will be. You can influence this by your actions. (FAQ 5)
- If your child is given an offer that avoids criminal charges, seriously consider that offer *after speaking with a lawyer*. You can get a free lawyer and/or legal advice on hiring your own lawyer through the Private Defender's Office. (FAQ 11)
- If you are not confident in English, always use an interpreter. You can ask for a free legal interpreter from the County. (FAQ 21)
- For more advice, read "Your Child and the Juvenile Justice System: Tips on How to Advocate for Your Child in the Juvenile Justice System," available at:  
**[http://www.dougmaner.com/assets/resource\\_209-handbook-your-child-and-the-juvenile-justice-system-books-not-bars-\(1\).pdf](http://www.dougmaner.com/assets/resource_209-handbook-your-child-and-the-juvenile-justice-system-books-not-bars-(1).pdf)**.

An arrest is upsetting for both you and your child. Stress and anxiety are normal in this situation. Emotional support is available through San Mateo County's ACCESS Call Center at (800) 686-0101.

We hope your child's time in the juvenile justice system will be short. Remember your child will grow up and this time will be a thing of the past.

Wishing you both the best,

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission  
San Mateo County  
October 2020

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# AFTER ARREST

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## 1. Why was my child arrested and what is next?

The law enforcement officer – either a police officer or sheriff’s deputy – thought your child committed a crime. Your child may have been taken to juvenile hall or may have been sent home with a **citation**, similar to a ticket. A County probation officer received the arrest report and wrote or called you about your child’s legal situation.

## 2. What is a probation officer?

A **probation officer** is a county law enforcement officer. Their goal is to support your child while preventing future crime. Probation officers have several jobs in the juvenile justice system:

A probation officer in the Assessment Center makes the first decisions about your child’s legal situation. They interview you and your child, read the arrest report, and may: 1. write your child a **“letter of reprimand”** – an official warning that they must not break the law again, 2. offer your child a diversion program (*See FAQ 5 “What is a diversion program?”*) or 3) send your child’s case to the **District Attorney**, the lawyer who represents the public interest, for possible charges. If your child is charged and goes to court, the judge will decide if your child is legally responsible for the crime.

If your child does go to court and is found legally responsible for the crime, a probation officer in the Investigations Unit writes a report to the judge about your child for the **dispositional hearing**. (*See FAQ 22 “What are the different types of court hearings?”*)

If your child is on probation, a probation officer in the Supervision Unit makes sure your child is following the judge’s orders. (*See FAQ 24 “What happens if my child successfully completes probation?” and FAQ 25 “What happens if my child does not complete probation?”*)

For information from the San Mateo County Probation Department, go to <https://probation.smcgov.org/juvenile-and-institutions-services-division>.

## 3. Should my child talk about the crime with a probation officer?

We recommend your child talk to a lawyer before speaking to any police, sheriff, or probation officer. The Private Defender Program provides free legal advice and can be contacted here:



Phone: (650) 312-5396

Location: YSC 2nd floor down the hall at the far end of the court lobby

Before an officer asks your child about what happened, the officer must first tell your child about their **Miranda rights**. These rights apply to all people no matter their legal status, documentation, or age. They will say:

You have the right to remain silent. Anything you say can and will be used against you in a court of law. You have the right to a lawyer. If you cannot afford a lawyer, one will be provided for you. Do you understand the rights I have just read to you? With these rights in mind, do you wish to speak to me?

Any information you or your child share with a probation officer might be used as evidence against your child now or when your child is in court. You can respond:

"We want to speak to a lawyer before we speak with you."

"My child would like to speak to a lawyer before speaking with you."

Sometimes a child may choose to talk about the crime with a probation officer, for example, to clear up a misunderstanding or to show regret for their actions. This information can help the probation officer find better solutions to your child's situation. **But your child should talk to a lawyer before discussing the crime.**

If your child has an upcoming in-person appointment with a probation officer, there is time to speak with a lawyer in advance. (See FAQ 18 "How do I get a lawyer for my child?")

Call the Private Defender Program at (650) 312-5396 for more information.

## ASSESSMENT

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### 4. What happens when we meet with the Assessment Center probation officer?

This probation officer makes the first decisions about your child's legal situation. Probation Department reception is on the right just past security.

The officer will interview you and your child and consider:

- The seriousness of the crime



## ASSESSMENT

- Whether your child accepts responsibility for and regrets the crime
- Past crime
- Risk of future crime
- Substance abuse
- Gang activity
- Mental health
- Success at school
- Ability to follow the rules at home.



The officer also considers your involvement as a parent. Can you:

- Set expectations and consequences at home for your child's future behavior? (The County offers free parent coaching through the Parent Project.<sup>®</sup> Tell the officer if you'd like to participate.)
- Give your child a healthy home? (Tell the officer if you need whole family services such as family counseling, medical care, or food assistance.)

After the meeting, the probation officer may:

- Close your child's case. Your child is done with the juvenile justice system.
- Offer your child a diversion program (see FAQ 5 "What is a diversion program?"), or
- Recommend that the **District Attorney** – the lawyer that represents the public – take your child's case to court.

## 5. What is a diversion program?

A **diversion program** holds a child responsible for their actions while avoiding the possibility of criminal charges. There are different types of diversion programs depending on the child and the crime(s). As examples, a diversion program may include individual or family therapy, meeting the victim, drug awareness classes, and community service.

If your child joins a diversion program, make sure you support your child so they complete it successfully.

If your child doesn't choose to be in a diversion program or doesn't complete it, the probation



officer will send their case to the **District Attorney** – the lawyer that works for the public. Your child may be charged with a crime(s).

## 6. What is a charge?

A **charge** is a legal accusation that your child broke the law. In juvenile court, the name for a charge is a **petition**.

## 7. Are these meetings in English and can I have an interpreter?

Yes. All meetings are in English. The County provides free legal interpreters in all languages.

You may ask for an interpreter as soon as you know about the meeting. Call (650) 261-5023 or go to: [https://www.sanmateocourt.org/court\\_divisions/interpreter\\_services/interpreter\\_request.php](https://www.sanmateocourt.org/court_divisions/interpreter_services/interpreter_request.php).

Legal language is confusing. If an officer asks to have a family or staff member translate, we recommend that you **do not agree**. Reschedule the meeting and request an interpreter by phone or online. Even fluent English speakers struggle with legal language.

## 8. Do I have to tell a probation officer my child's or my immigration status?

No. You do not have to tell your immigration status to an officer. If your child's crime is serious, speak with an immigration lawyer. For help, go to <https://www.redwoodcity.org/residents/immigrant-services-resources/immigration-and-legal-services>.

## 9. How can I help my child when meeting with a probation officer?

Probation officers look at how much support you can give your child. Are you an involved parent? Do you offer your child a healthy home? Can you supervise your child?

Show care for your child through your actions:

- Be on time and prepared for all meetings and court hearings
- Come with ideas about what your child needs in order to avoid future criminal activity
- Let the probation officer know if you need whole-family services to help your child succeed. Probation officers can direct you to parenting classes, family counseling, food aid, medical care, and more.



## GETTING A LAWYER

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### 10. When should I get my child a lawyer?

Get a lawyer as soon as possible. ***You want to talk to a lawyer before you or your child talk to any members of law-enforcement***, including probation officers.

### 11. How do I get a lawyer for my child?

San Mateo County will likely offer your child a **free** lawyer. This lawyer practices juvenile law and is part of the San Mateo County Bar Association's Private Defender Program. Call the Private Defender Program at (650) 312-5396 to get the name and phone number of your child's lawyer.

You may choose to hire a private juvenile defense lawyer. You may contact the Private Defender Program at (650) 312-5396 for recommendations. More information about how to find a private lawyer is at <https://www.courts.ca.gov/selfhelp-findlawyer.htm>.

### 12. When do I meet my child's lawyer?

If your child has an upcoming assessment meeting, call the Private Defender Program at (650) 312-5396 and arrange to talk to a lawyer before your child's meeting.

If your child is in juvenile hall, call the Private Defender Program at (650) 312-5396 to find out your child's assigned lawyer. Often the lawyer is assigned the morning of the first court hearing. Arrive 30 minutes early to talk to the lawyer. You will have much more time with the lawyer to prepare for future hearings.

### 13. What will the lawyer do?

Your child's lawyer is a **defense lawyer** who speaks for your child both in and out of court. The lawyer will guide you and your child through the court process. ***Please tell your child to always tell their lawyer the truth about what happened even if they broke the law. The lawyer needs to know the truth in order to give your child the best legal help.***

It is important that you understand that the lawyer works for your child – not for you or your family members. By law, a parent's comments about the crime can be used as evidence against their child. This means that your child will need to have some private talks with the lawyer that do not include you.



Whatever your child says to their lawyer is private. This is called **attorney-client privilege**.

However, there are situations when attorney-client privilege does not apply and the lawyer must tell law enforcement: 1. if a child says that someone may be badly hurt or die and the lawyer believes that telling may keep this from happening or 2. if a child asks the lawyer for advice on how to commit a crime.

You can be most helpful by giving the lawyer as much information as possible about your child, their home environment, school needs, or anything else. You can also ask the lawyer for referrals to services that can help your family, such as family or individual therapy, drug/alcohol counseling, housing, food, or other needs your child may have.

## 14. What if my child wants a different lawyer?

If your child has a free lawyer, your child should call the Private Defender's Office at (650) 312-5396. If your child has a private lawyer, you or your child may fire the lawyer and hire a new one.

## 15. Who can I ask for help if I'm confused?

If you ever have questions, you may ask your child's lawyer or your child's probation officer. You can also contact the Private Defender Program at (650) 312-5396.

# COURT HEARINGS

---

## 16. Is my child being charged?

The Assessment Center probation officer will call you if the District Attorney files criminal charges against your child. A **charge** is a legal accusation that your child broke the law. Each charge has a legal code you can look up online, for example, Penal Code (PC) 487(d)(1) is the code for car theft.

## 17. When are my child's court hearings scheduled?

You will be told the date and time of your child's court hearing. However, you should always call the Private Defender Program at (650) 312-5396 the day before the hearing to make sure.



## COURT HEARINGS

### **18. What if I arrive at court and find out my child's case is not that day?**

Go to the Private Defender Program office. Walk to the end of the court lobby and down the hallway. It will be on the right. Tell them that your child's case was scheduled for today, but it isn't on the court list and ask them to help you.

### **19. How long are court hearings?**

Plan to be there for several hours whenever you need to come to court with your child. Court has two sessions each day: 9:00 am to noon and 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Arrive 30 minutes early to speak to your child's lawyer.

When you are in the courtroom, you may be surprised that some hearings are short. This is normal. Your child will have longer hearings when important decisions are being made.

### **20. How do I prepare for court hearings?**

- Arrive 30 minutes earlier than your court time. Your child's lawyer may need to meet with you before court.
- Prepare questions for your child's lawyer.
- Being in front of a judge is very serious. Your child should act with respect. Ask your child to: sit up straight, make eye contact with the judge, speak clearly, and say "Your Honor" when speaking to the judge. Your child's behavior in court may affect the judge's decisions.
- With the judge's permission, you may visit your child for 30 minutes after each court hearing.

Some other advice is to:

- Dress neatly (no jeans, t-shirts, or other casual clothes; no hats; and avoid gang colors).
- Bring a snack and drink as you may have a long wait before court. There is a vending machine with healthy snacks in the outdoor courtyard.
- There is WiFi for you to use, but keep your phone on silent.
- Don't talk on the phone when you are in the court lobby or courtroom.
- Sometimes children are allowed in the courtroom, but it is best to not bring them to court. Any teenager who is not a family member will not be allowed into the courtroom.



## 21. Are court hearings in English?

Court hearings are in English. Spanish interpreters are always at court. If you need a different language, ask for an interpreter as soon as possible by calling (650) 261-5023 or by going to: [https://www.sanmateocourt.org/court\\_divisions/interpreter\\_services/interpreter\\_request.php](https://www.sanmateocourt.org/court_divisions/interpreter_services/interpreter_request.php).



## 22. What are the different types of court hearings?

**Court hearings** are a series of meetings a child has in front of a judge. Your child's lawyer will tell you more about each hearing. Common juvenile hearings are:

**ARRAIGNMENT.** A **petition** lists your child's accused crime(s) (similar to charges). At the **arraignment**, the judge hears the petition and asks the child if they do or do not take legal responsibility for the crime(s). This is a short hearing.

If your child is in juvenile hall, the lawyer from the Private Defender Program may be assigned the morning of the arraignment. Arrive 30 minutes early to talk to the lawyer. You will have much more time with the lawyer to prepare for future hearings.

**DETENTION HEARING.** At the **detention hearing**, the judge decides whether a child must stay in juvenile hall or may go home before the next hearing. This hearing must happen within 2-3 court days (weekends and holidays are not counted). This is a short hearing.

The judge's decision is based on whether the judge believes:

- You can supervise your child's behavior
- Your home is a stable place without risk of neglect or abuse
- Your child will come to future court hearings and not leave the area
- Your child will, or will not, commit more crime.
- Your child needs to remain in juvenile hall for their own protection or the protection of the public
- There are other legal problems to solve.



## COURT HEARINGS

### **PRETRIAL**

**CONFERENCE.** The **pretrial conference** is a meeting of the judge, your child's lawyer, and the District Attorney to try to resolve a child's legal situation without a trial.

### **JURISDICTIONAL**

**HEARING.** The **jurisdictional hearing** is similar to a trial in adult court, but there

is no jury. The judge hears from the child, the lawyers, and any witnesses to decide if the child committed the crime(s) with which they were charged.



If the judge decides your child did not commit the crime(s), your child's case is closed and your child is free to go.

If the judge decides your child is legally responsible for the crime, the judge will say **"the petition is sustained,"** which means "guilty".

If your child is guilty, you and your child will meet with a probation officer from the Investigations Unit to get ready for the dispositional hearing. A **disposition** lists the consequences for your child. It is similar to a sentence. The probation officer's report:

- Recommends your child's sentence to the judge
- Includes your child's arrest record, school report, juvenile hall behavior report (if your child has been in juvenile hall), a victim's statement, and a statement by you
- Discusses the crime and your child's guilt.

***This meeting is very important because it affects your child's future.*** Before you meet with the Probation Officer, you will be given a form to fill out. Fill out the form before you arrive and include:

- What you think your child needs to stay out of trouble
- Your child's positive activities (like school, job, sports, babysitting, taking care of a sibling, church activities) or interests that you would like to encourage



- Important people in your child's life (like grandparents, aunts, uncles, Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), mentors, coaches)
- Anything else your child's lawyer recommends.

**DISPOSITIONAL HEARING.** If the charges have been **sustained** (similar to guilty), the judge decides the consequences at the **dispositional hearing**. Ask your child's lawyer what kind of disposition to expect.

## PROBATION

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### 23. What does being "on probation" mean?

As part of a child's **disposition** (sentence), the judge may order the child to be "**on probation**." This court order is called "**conditions of probation**." The child must follow very specific rules. These rules can be different depending on each child's needs and can be more or less strict.

A child's probation rules might include:

- Drug testing
- Following rules at home
- No contact with certain people (such as gang members)
- Community service (select a volunteer activity meaningful to your child)
- Counseling
- Paying back victims for damages or theft
- Avoiding criminal activity
- Wearing an ankle bracelet (one step below being in juvenile hall).

The judge makes these rules and only the judge can change these rules. A probation officer from the Supervision Unit enforces the rules.

### 24. What happens if my child successfully completes probation?

Their involvement with the juvenile justice system ends. In most cases, they can have their records sealed when they finish probation. (See question 28. "Can my child's record be sealed?" to learn more.) Call the Private Defender Program at (650) 312-5396 for more information.



## 25. What happens if my child does not complete probation?

***Do all that you can to have your child successfully complete probation!*** If your child does not follow the rules of their probation, there can be serious consequences: for example, house arrest with ankle monitoring, removal of your child from your home to place in foster care, or incarceration.

## 26. What if my child wants a different probation officer?

Your child should talk to their lawyer.

# VISITING JUVENILE HALL

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## 27. How can I reach my child when they first arrive at juvenile hall?

When your child arrives at juvenile hall, a staff member will call to tell you where your child is and when you can visit. The staff member will schedule your first visiting appointment during this call. You can visit your child outside of normal visiting hours with the approval of the facility director.

## 28. How do I visit my child?

You must have an appointment. To make an appointment, call juvenile hall reception (650) 312-5327 or (650) 312-5240 before 4:00 p.m. weekdays, or 650-312-5200 weekdays after 4:00 p.m. and weekends.

Visits are one hour. Your child may have **2 one-hour visits** each week (the week begins on Sunday). With the judge's permission, your child may have a 30-minute visit after each court hearing. Up to two people may visit your child at one time.

Visitors must be on the approved visiting list. Usually, only parents or legal guardians are on the list. If your child is a parent, their child can also visit with approval. Your child may ask to add other important adults to their visiting list. Your child may ask their lawyer or probation officer to request approval.

For visits during regular business hours Monday through Friday, arrive 15 minutes before your scheduled visit time and check in at Visiting. On evenings and weekends, press the intercom



button in the entrance lobby. A staff member will come down to let you in and do a security screening. You must be on time in order to visit. You must bring a photo ID (driver's license, passport, state identification card, alien registration card, visa, or a Mexican Consulate registration form).

You cannot bring personal items into your visit. Items

such as cell phones, purses, keys, and lighters must be left outside or stored in lockers in the Visiting lobby.

You may bring books or magazines from the approved reading list. All items brought into the facility will be inspected by Juvenile Hall staff.



## 29. How do I talk to my child by phone?

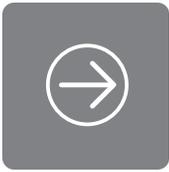
Your child may choose to (but does not have to) call you when they arrive at juvenile hall.

After that, they may have a 10-minute call 4 times each week. They may call people on their approved telephone list, usually, only parents and guardians. Your child may ask their lawyer or probation officer to request approval to add other important adults to their visiting list.

Your child is not allowed to speak with anyone not on their approved call list (for example, a girlfriend or boyfriend, friends, and extended family members) during your phone call. If your child talks to someone who is not on their approved call list, they may lose their right to make phone calls.

***Your child has the right to call their lawyer at any time.***

It is important to talk with your child as often as possible. Phone calls typically happen between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm, but sometimes they are earlier in the afternoon. There is no way to know beforehand if and when your child will call, so always keep your phone nearby.



## 30. How can I support my child while they are in juvenile hall?

We asked other children in juvenile hall how you can support your child. They suggest that you:

- Visit your child as often as you can. This helps your child emotionally while they are in juvenile hall and leads to better family relationships when they return home.
- Keep your phone nearby with the ringer on so that you can answer their phone calls.
- Bring them soft-cover books to read. A child often discovers that they enjoy reading while they are in juvenile hall.
- Send letters (but no packages) using the following address:

Your Child's Name  
Juvenile Hall  
222 Paul Scannell Drive  
San Mateo, CA 94403

# MOVING FORWARD

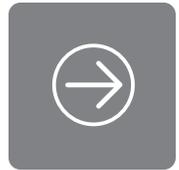
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## 31. Could my child have stayed out of the County juvenile justice system?

Some police departments and the sheriff's department offer a local **diversion program**. If your child successfully completes the program, they will not enter the County juvenile justice system and will not have a court record. This is often the best option for your child.

To be accepted into a local diversion program, a child must:

- Have been arrested for a low-level crime
- Accept responsibility for the crime
- Agree to do the programming they are assigned
- Have been arrested in a community with a diversion program: South San Francisco, San Mateo, Redwood City, Millbrae, San Carlos, Portola Valley, Woodside, Half Moon Bay, La Honda, and unincorporated San Mateo County.



The arresting police or sheriff's office will call you if your child is able to participate in a 6-to-12 month local diversion program. If your child does not want to do the program or does not finish the program, your child will enter the County juvenile justice system. Call the Private Defender Program at (650) 312-5396 to get advice on what to do.

Note: A local diversion program is different from the San Mateo County Probation Department's diversion program.

## 32. What should I do if my child gets expelled from school?

Being **expelled** means your child is not allowed to attend a regular school. A student has the legal right to a hearing and to bring a lawyer to represent them. Call Legal Services for Children at (415) 863-3762 on Monday, Wednesday, or Friday from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. to ask for a free lawyer.

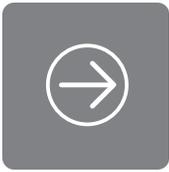
## 33. How do I get help parenting my difficult child?

There are many parenting classes in our County: [https://hsa.smcgov.org/sites/hsa.smcgov.org/files/documents/files/ParentingEducation\\_final.pdf](https://hsa.smcgov.org/sites/hsa.smcgov.org/files/documents/files/ParentingEducation_final.pdf).

The Probation Department also offers parenting classes. The Parent Project® is a free, 12-week course that is offered in English and Spanish to anyone who cares for a child or adolescent. The classes meet for three hours each week. Parents learn parenting skills and get information about resources and other support available in their communities. Parents/caregivers learn and practice skills such as:

- Better ways to discipline
- Preventing or stopping alcohol, drug, and tobacco use
- Improving communication skills
- Improving grades and school attendance.

Information about The Parent Project® is at <https://www.smchealth.org/general-information/parent-project-r> or call (650) 573-5037.



## 34. Can my child's record be sealed?

***In California, if your child has ever been arrested, there is a record that they have had problems with the law.*** Having a record may keep them from getting a driver's license, college financial aid, a loan for a car or house, or being able to rent an apartment in the future. These are just a few examples.

Once your child is an adult, they must apply to have their record sealed. There are some serious crimes that cannot be sealed. Speak with your child's lawyer or call the Private Defender Program at (650) 312-5396.

General information on sealing juvenile records in California is at:

<https://www.courts.ca.gov/28120.html> and <https://www.shouselaw.com/expunge-criminal-records.html>.

## 35. What are my child's options after high school?

Most children are not limited by past criminal activity.

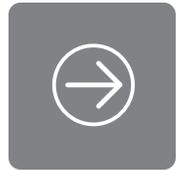
### **COLLEGE OR VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:**

Both documented and undocumented students can go to a 4-year or 2-year college to earn an academic degree. Community colleges also offer vocational training. Community college vocational programs are listed at <https://careered.cccco.edu/>.

California community colleges offer free tuition for documented and undocumented students who need financial help (as of October 2020). Go to <https://icanaffordcollege.com> to learn more. For in-person help filling out the form, contact any community college financial aid office. We suggest *all* students fill out the financial aid application because private grant programs also use this form.



Colleges can offer more help once your child is a student: free health and mental health care, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) for students who are the first in their



family to go to college or have other educational or economic challenges, UpNext for foster children, Disability Services, and, sometimes discounted or free childcare. Project Change is a program offered only at College of San Mateo that serves previously incarcerated students. Many children from our facility participate in this program once they are College of San Mateo students.

**MILITARY OR LAW-ENFORCEMENT:** If your child wants to go into the military or law enforcement, this may be possible, but they should talk to their lawyer.

### **36. My child is un-documented. Can they go to college?**

Yes. California colleges accept un-documented students. Contact the college financial aid office and the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services office (EOPS), which often serves undocumented students, to learn about admissions and financial aid.

### **37. How can I contact the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission?**

You may email us at [sanmateojjdp@gmail.com](mailto:sanmateojjdp@gmail.com) or attend our monthly Commission meetings. Our next meeting date is listed here: <https://probation.smcgov.org/juvenile-justice-delinquency-prevention-commission-meeting-archive>.

### **38. How can I volunteer in the juvenile justice system?**

Thank you for being willing to help others in the juvenile justice system.

You may choose to volunteer with community organizations, such as Fresh Lifelines for Youth (FLY) and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Contact us by email at [sanmateojjdp@gmail.com](mailto:sanmateojjdp@gmail.com) and we'll help you find the right organization to fit your interests.

You may also apply to be on our volunteer Commission. We advocate for incarcerated and underserved youth. Both youth (ages 14-21) and adults may become Commissioners. We welcome applicants of all backgrounds and especially encourage youth and adults with lived-experience in the juvenile justice system to apply. The application is at <https://probation.smcgov.org/juvenile-justice-delinquency-prevention-commission>.



## Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission

### MISSION, MEMBERSHIP, AND MEETINGS

It is the mission of the San Mateo County Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Commission to be a public conscience in the best interest of juveniles. The Commission advocates for programs and services that prevent youth entry into the juvenile justice system and promotes respect for the human dignity of all minors who do enter the system.

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Sonoo Thadaney  
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Sathvik Nori  
Melissa Wilson\*  
Rebecca Flores  
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Douglas Winter  
Michele Gustafson\*  
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*\*Guidebook Committee*

Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of each month, 5:15 pm to 7:15 pm at 455 County Center, Room 45, Redwood City. The public is always welcome. Email: [sanmateojjdpcc@gmail.com](mailto:sanmateojjdpcc@gmail.com).

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## FEEDBACK

Your feedback on this guide will help us improve our next edition.

Did you read the guide in  English or  Spanish?

What is your primary language? \_\_\_\_\_

How useful was this guide to you? ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

How easy was it to understand? ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

What did you like and what could we have done better? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return this form to your child's lawyer or send us an email at [sanmateojjdpcc@gmail.com](mailto:sanmateojjdpcc@gmail.com).  
The San Mateo County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission



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## **WHAT'S INSIDE**

Figuring out what to do when your child has been arrested can be a confusing and stressful process. This publication will lead you through the juvenile justice system and provide valuable information for you and your child.

OCTOBER 2020