

NEIGHBORHOOD ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

Diversion involves the handling of minor juvenile offenders within the community as an alternative to the formal Juvenile Court system. Four Diversion Boards are located geographically in the city and county and process cases referred from their area.

Neighborhood Accountability Board volunteers work as two-person teams under established guidelines to determine the most appropriate disposition for a case. Based on the team's decision, a Diversion Agreement, which is legally binding, is voluntarily entered into by the youth.

The goal of the program is to hold a youngster accountable for his/her behavior. Diversion Board members are asked to make a minimum commitment of one year, which involves meeting twice a month.



SPECIALIZED INTERNSHIPS & SERVICE LEARNING

Recognizing the value of practical experience in one's chosen field, or the desire to serve one's community, Juvenile Court also offers student internships and service learning opportunities. Our ability to provide a student with a rewarding, hands-on experience is dependent, in part, on the number of hours a student is able to devote.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE

When a petition has been filed alleging a child has been abused or neglected, the Juvenile Court appoints an individual to serve as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).



The role of the CASA is to represent the best interest of the child by making independent observations of the child's situation and submitting a written report to the Court.

CASA's initially spend 15 - 25 hours over a five week period preparing each case for the first hearing. After that, they must appear at court hearings, monitor the court order to insure that it is being followed and continues to work in the best interest of the child. CASA's are asked to commit themselves to the child for whom they are advocating while the case is in Juvenile Court, usually an 18-month period.

DETENTION & DETENTION ALTERNATIVE VOLUNTEERS

Mentoring and tutoring opportunities exist both within our locked facility serving detained youth, and in a community setting with youth who qualify for Detention Alternatives. Service Learning students and other volunteers receive training and orientation. Activities may include tutoring, visiting, sharing a hobby or craft project, and playing cards or board games.

Detention Mentors

Eighty-five percent of detained youth never receive a visit by a family member. The commitment to this program is for six months, and a minimum of one hour per week, within our detention facility. Mentors may be matched with more than one youth during that six-month period, and serve as positive, adult role models.



Spokane County Juvenile Court believes volunteers play an essential role in the effective implementation of our programs. It is recognized that their skills and abilities benefit the Court, the Family, and the Community. Volunteers make direct contributions to staff effectiveness, provide families with intensive direct services, and through their added awareness of juvenile issues, benefit the community at large.

Our services are expanded and strengthened by using volunteers in a variety of ways depending upon individual interests, knowledge, skills and talents. We regard volunteers as key members of the Juvenile Court team.

Juvenile Court Volunteers attend orientation sessions and receive supervision and consultation from staff members.

Volunteers draw upon their own experiences and apply common sense, understanding and sincerity in their various roles. By working together, we can continue to build strong programs that provide a meaningful way to become involved in the difficult task of helping people to help themselves.



VOLUNTEER

SPOKANE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

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SPOKANE COUNTY JUVENILE COURT SERVICES

- ◆ Neighborhood Accountability Board
- ◆ Court Appointed Special Advocate
- ◆ Detention Mentors
- ◆ Specialized Internships & Service Learning
 - Probation
 - Diversion
 - Detention Services
 - At-Risk-Youth



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