
PARTICIPANT HANDBOOK

1st Judicial District
Young Offender Program "Youngers"

This book belongs to:



Dear Youngers participant:

Welcome to the First Judicial District's Young Juvenile 'Youngers' Program. This handbook will serve as a guide and may answer many of your questions about our program. The Youngers Professional Team is here to assist and support your family and answer questions that you might have. Please review all of the information carefully.

Our commitment to you:

- Communicate openly and clearly with you about your youth.
- Provide quality services to your family based on identified needs.
- Treat your family with dignity, respect, and fairness.
- Continually assess how we can do things better to meet the needs of your family.
- Listen actively and share information in open, honest, and appropriate ways.
- Work with you to resolve any conflicts or concerns.
- Respect your cultural preferences.

The goal of the Youngers Program is to keep young juveniles out of the justice system, reduce the use of detention time and out of home placements, address struggles in school, and reduce recidivism for young individuals in Jefferson County. We believe the [family is a critical part of the team](#). We strive to adequately honor family experience and culture, empower all family members, utilize family strengths, and instill hope for a safe and successful future. We would like you to know that we are committed to your success. That means that we will reinforce your strengths and positive changes, support you during difficult times and respond to behaviors that interfere with your progress.

We are excited to partner with you in this journey. Please let us know how we can better serve you and other participants. The Youngers Program will only get better with your feedback.

Team Members

Meet your TEAM:

- Case Manager
- District Attorney
- Division of Children, Youth and Families
- Family Support Partners
- Guardian Ad Litem
- Judge / Magistrate
- Jefferson Center for Mental Health
- Jefferson County Public Schools



Youngers Case Manager: Your case manager will support the youth and family as they move through the Juvenile Justice process.

District Attorney: is the lawyer in charge of prosecuting the case on behalf of the "People of Colorado". They may offer your youth a plea agreement to settle the case. If the case is taken to trial, the District Attorney will attempt to prove that your youth committed the offense in question.

Division of Children, Youth and Families: a caseworker or supervisor from CYF may participate in professional meetings; their role will include consultation, child abuse and neglect identification and services consultation. If a CYF case is opened, a caseworker will be assigned to your case.

Family Support Partners: a Family Support Partner is a parent/caregiver of a youth that has experience in navigating multiple systems and ensure the family's voice is heard.

Guardian Ad Litem: is an attorney appointed by the court to advocate for the interest of youth who have been accused of crimes.

Judge/Magistrate: is an impartial mediator who will oversee the progress of the case, consider the arguments for and against your youth, and issue appropriate orders. If your youth is found guilty, the judge will impose a sentence.

Jefferson Center for Mental Health: a therapist from Jefferson Center for Mental Health will work with the family to determine and provide appropriate services.

Jefferson County Public Schools: a representative from the school district will be working with the student and family to assist with making school a more successful experience.

Family Information

No one knows your family like you do. **You're the expert** on your child and family. Family members are encouraged to take part in all aspects of their youth's involvement with the Younger's Program, from the initial assessment process through the program. You may be involved in family therapy, treatment team meetings, educational planning meetings, and other activities that allow you to take part in decisions about your youth. Here are some suggestions of things you can do to be involved with your youth's care.



- Ask questions
- Get answers
- Provide input on your child and family
- Encourage your youth
- Attend meetings
- Communicate, communicate, communicate
- Collaborate with professionals

Advocate

Advocating for your child in a room full of professionals can be intimidating and overwhelming. Here are some tips to help you advocate for yourself and your child.

- Be organized.
- Read and request copies of all reports about your youth and your youth's case.
- Write everything down.
- Attend all meetings and court hearings and always arrive on time.
- Help others to understand your youth.
- Speak up in meetings
- Always be respectful.
- Be prepared



Check-list

Preparing for a meeting in an unfamiliar juvenile justice system can be overwhelming. Use this checklist to help prepare for meetings.

Education

- Last School Attended
- Special education/copy of IEP or 504
- Copy of report cards/transcripts
- School issues or concerns

Medical/Psychiatric History

- Diagnosis
- Medical concerns
- Medications and dosages
- Allergies
- Mental health treatment providers

Health Insurance Information

- Medicaid
- Private insurance

Substance Use History

- Drugs used (to your knowledge)
- Frequency of drug used and last date used
- Alcohol use
- Treatment received, place, type of treatment (inpatient/outpatient)

Youth's Strengths

- Interests (sports, music, arts, computers)
- Personality (outgoing, quiet, humorous)
- Favorite subjects in school
- Favorite activities
- Important people in their life
- Letters from supportive adults



Contacts

Here is a place for you to record important information about your youth so that you have it readily available. You might consider using pencil to fill out this page or make a copy since some of the information may change during your youth's involvement with the Young Offender Program.

Attorney:

Phone #:

Email:

Guardian Ad Litem:

Phone #:

Email:

Youngers Case Manager:

Phone #:

Email:

Probation Officer:

Phone #:

Email:

Youth Therapist/Counselor:

Phone #:

Email:

Family Therapist:

Phone #:

Email:

CYF Case Worker:

Phone #:

Email:

School Official:

Phone #:

Fax #:

Other:

Phone #:

Email:

Other:

Phone #:

Email:





Court Information

It is expected that the youth and parent/guardian attend every hearing. Participants are expected to attend court appearances; a warrant for your arrest will be issued if you fail to appear.

When in the Courtroom the following standards of dress and behavior are expected:

- ✓ No use of any tobacco product during court
- ✓ No chewing gum while standing at the podium
- ✓ Address the Judge/Magistrate as "Your Honor" or "Judge"
- ✓ If it is deemed that your dress or behavior is inappropriate you will be informed and redirected
- ✓ It is expected that the youth and parent/guardian will be present at all hearings



Case Information

Magistrate:

Division/Court Room:

Case #:

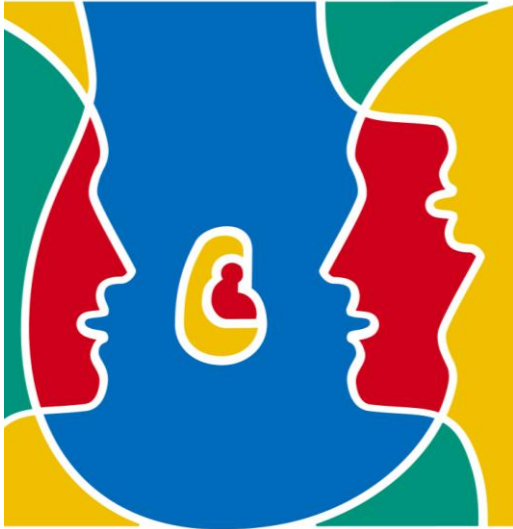
Date of Offense:

Sentencing date:

Upcoming court dates/time:

Other:

Know the Lingo



- CYF:** Division of Children, Youth and Families
- CASA:** Court-Appointed Special Advocate
- CJRA:** Colorado Juvenile Risk Assessment
- DA:** District Attorney
- FERPA:** Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act
- GAL:** Guardian Ad Litem
- HIPPA:** Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act
- IA:** Informal Adjustment
- IEP:** Individualized Education Plan/504
- MDT:** Multi-disciplinary Team
- PD:** Public Defender
- SB94:** Senate Bill 94 - Pretrial Supervision