

Detention Services FAQs

Q. How soon will my child go to court?

A. Within 24 hours after being taken into custody, your child will appear in court and have a detention hearing before a judge who will authorize his/her detention status. If the judge continues his/her detention status, his length of stay may extend up to 21 days or more.

Q. Are boys and girls kept in the same detention centers?

A. Yes. Male and female youth are kept in the same detention centers. However, males and females are separated into different housing units.

Q. Will my family and I be able to visit him/her in the detention center?

A. Yes. Visitation is an important part of your child's stay in detention. Parents, legal guardians and grandparents are encouraged to visit each child.

- Other family members may visit only if that visitation is ordered by the court or is specifically approved by the detention center's superintendent or designee.
- Contact your child's JPO to get approval of any visitation list additions and special visitation arrangements.
- Your child's lawyer, DJJ probation staff, law enforcement officers, members of the clergy, and other professionals may visit your child at times other than scheduled visitation hours as necessary. Those visits are subject to any requirements regarding signing-in and contraband.
- All visitors are subject to electronic search. Visitors shall not bring personal items (e.g. keys, purses, cell phones, packages, etc.) into the secure area. The introduction of any unauthorized items into a detention facility is a Third Degree Felony and is punishable by law.

Q. What happens to my child's possessions?

A. All of your child's property is inventoried at admission to the detention center. Valuable property is stored in the facility's safe. Other personal property (clothing, shoes, etc.) is stored in a locked storage room for the duration of your child's stay. When your child is released from the detention center, his property is released.

Q. Will a mental health professional see my child while in detention?

A. Yes. Depending on your child's needs, mental health professionals will ensure that any identified mental health, substance abuse or suicidal tendencies are addressed. Your child may be seen by licensed mental health professionals for screening, assessment, and crisis intervention services.

Q. What is Home Detention?

A. A Home Detention program allows eligible youth to await his/her next court appearance at home or at another appropriate placement.

- All detained youth are screened for Home Detention prior to a detention hearing. At the time of the detention hearing, the judge will specify whether the youth is to be held in secure detention, placed in Home Detention, or Released.
- When a youth is placed on Home Detention, a JPO will provide supervision.
- The parent or legal guardian and youth sign a supervision contract. If for any reason this contract is violated or the youth is charged with a new law violation, he/she can be transferred back to secure detention until their case is resolved.

