

# DJJ - Do's, Don'ts, and Misconceptions



- DJJ makes referrals for services to some of the same providers we do. So we're all using resources out of the same pool - there are only a few services that they have available we don't use.
- When a case is open and pending (pending court and not on probation), they cannot court order a child to a commitment program, substance abuse treatment, or any other type of service. Everything is voluntary until they are placed on probation and court ordered to do things.
- DJJ cannot hold a child in secure detention because they keep running away, placement cannot be found or because they are difficult to place. Detention status is solely determined by the Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI) point system.
- Being committed to a DJJ Commitment program is a long, slow process which requires that every service available in the community has been exhausted before they can CONSIDER commitment.
  - If a child only has misdemeanor charges, they have to be placed on probation 5 times or more, before the program can be staffed with DJJ upper management to consider if commitment is appropriate.
  - Even with a felony offense, probation and available services have to be exhausted before commitment can be considered (meaning they can easily be put on probation 4, 5, or 6 times before commitment is considered).
- Just because a case is being staffed and considered for commitment *does not* mean the child will get commitment. The JPO will have to make the case and show everything that's been attempted to keep this child and the community safe, as well as their needs being served.
- Time frames are not set in stone. If a child is detained, it does not always mean they will remain detained for 21 days. That's the closest guess and maximum number of days. If the State files a petition for Arraignment earlier than 21 days, the child is arraigned, given a pretrial and trial date and then can/will be released; arraignment can be set 10 days from being detained or on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of detainment.