

WHAT IS THE JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD?

The Juvenile Review Board (JRB) is a community-based program whose objective is to divert youth from the Juvenile Justice System by providing intervention services to prevent further court involvement.

The JRB acts as a preventative program by diverting first time offenders from court to an accessible community resource for appropriate services.

Diversions promote responsible behavior and help to solve problems that may be at the root of delinquent behavior. These diversions not only create opportunities for the juvenile offender, but also alleviate overcrowding in the court system.

The JRB works hard to identify patterns of delinquency and other risk factors so it may implement the most appropriate services for each individual case.

WHO ARE THE MEMBERS AND WHAT IS THEIR ROLE?

The Town of Windsor Juvenile Review Board includes representatives of agencies, organizations, and individuals who have a direct responsibility, contact, or concern with youth and their families. Agencies include the Windsor Public Schools system, the Windsor Youth Services Bureau (YSB), Hartford Juvenile Probation, Community Health Resources (CHR), the Windsor Police Department, as well as many others. The ability to collaborate resources and share ideas makes this a successful intervention process.

The members of the Windsor JRB are responsible for conducting a comprehensive assessment of all referred cases, maintaining case records, making appropriate recommendations for restitution, and referrals to community resources with the goal of preventing recidivism.

HOW DOES THE JRB PROCESS WORK?

A juvenile is referred from the Police Department, the school system, or a parent/guardian to the Juvenile Review Board. After background information is completed, the case is presented in front of the JRB. After discussion, the JRB decides on a meaningful and appropriate alternative that will divert the case from the Criminal Justice System.

The Juvenile Review Board presents the diversion alternative to the offender and his/her family, who must be present at the meeting. If they agree with the diversion and complete the recommendations, they will not have to appear in court regarding the offense.

All cases that do not comply with the recommendations are referred back to the referral source.

WHAT IS A DIVERSION ALTERNATIVE?

Diversion alternatives (recommendations) generally consist of a combination of elements from the following areas:

Personal Responsibility: restitution, apology, JRB supervision, probation, community service

Education: drug and alcohol workshops, educational-supportive counseling, research projects

Prevention: individual and family counseling, drug and alcohol counseling/treatment, positive youth development activities.

The Windsor JRB makes its recommendations based on each individual case. The goal is to recommend the most appropriate diversion for the juvenile and the offense for which they are appearing. Recommendations may include one or several of the above listed diversions.

WHY IS THE JRB IMPORTANT TO THE TOWN OF WINDSOR?

- Lowers the number of youth involved in the Juvenile Court System by providing an alternative intervention and appropriate restitution to avoid court involvement.
- Identifies and intervenes before youth can develop a pattern of delinquency.
- Serves as a resource for the Windsor Police Department, Windsor Public Schools, and the community in dealing with minor acts of delinquency.
- Provides some youth with a positive community service experience.



TOWN OF WINDSOR JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD

*Positive alternatives to
the Juvenile Justice
System*

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