

# An Overview of the Colorado Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Corrections

The mission of the Division of Youth Corrections (DYC) is to protect, restore, and improve public safety through a continuum of services and programs that effectively supervise juvenile offenders, promote offender accountability to victims and communities, and build skills and competencies of youth to become responsible citizens.

## **DYC Detention Facilities**

DYC state detention facilities house youth who have been arrested but who have not yet been brought to trial or adjudicated (found guilty) of a crime. The juvenile may remain at a detention facility until his/her trial date or may be released to a parent or guardian, shelter, temporary holding facility, staff-secure facility, or released on bail.

The Adams Youth Services Center (Brighton), Gilliam Youth Services Center (Denver), Grand Mesa Youth Services Center (Grand Junction), Marvin W. Foote Youth Services Center (Englewood), Mount View Youth Services Center (Denver), Platte Valley Youth Services Center (Greeley), Pueblo Youth Service Center (Pueblo), and Spring Creek Youth Services Center (Colorado Springs) house detained youth. Some of these facilities also house youth who have been committed to the Department of Human Services.

## **DYC Commitment Facilities**

DYC state commitment facilities house youth who have been adjudicated (found guilty) of a crime. Legal custody of the youth is transferred to the Department of Human Services for a specific amount of time, determined by a judge at the sentencing hearing. Juveniles 10 to 20 years old may be committed to DYC for acts committed prior to the youth's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Individuals over the age of 18 at the time of sentencing may be sent to a county jail or to community corrections. The Division on Youth Corrections cannot maintain custody or supervision of any individual past the age of 21. Although the majority of the sentences to DYC are for approximately two years, individuals who are found to be "Aggravated Juvenile Offenders" can be sentenced to a commitment period of up to seven years, and may be transferred to the Department of Corrections (adult facility) after the age of 18.

The Grand Mesa Youth Services Center (Grand Junction), Lookout Mountain Youth Services Center (Golden), Marvin W. Foote Youth Services Center (Englewood), Mount View Youth Services Center (Denver), Platte Valley Youth Services Center (Greeley), Spring Creek Youth Services Center (Colorado Springs), Sol Vista Youth Services Center (Pueblo), and Zebulon Pike Youth Services Center (Colorado Springs) house committed youth. The Betty K. Marler Youth Services Center (Denver) and the Ridge View Youth Services Center (Watkins) are state-owned, privately operated facilities that also house committed youth. Some of these facilities also house youth who are being detained.

## **Assessment**

When a youth is committed to DYC, he/she is taken to one of four regional assessment centers where a full complement of assessment instruments is used to determine a youth's treatment needs. The assessment occurs in a secure facility, and the assessment period lasts for thirty days. Youth are evaluated on a wide variety of factors to determine where a youth will be placed (secure facility or community placement), and to develop a specific treatment plan.

## **Client Management**

During the first thirty days of a youth's commitment, a DYC Client Manager develops an individual care plan to ensure that the juvenile's specific needs and problems are addressed. The plan maps out what will happen to the juvenile during the period of commitment, the projected length of stay and the arrangements for aftercare. The Client Manager will monitor the youth's progress throughout his/her commitment and will serve as the youth's Parole Officer when he/she is placed on parole.

## **Services and Programs**

Services and programs designed to meet the assessed needs of committed youths may include offense-specific treatment; social development; sexual abuse treatment; drug/alcohol intervention and treatment; individual, group and family counseling; psychological/psychiatric services; victim awareness and empathy education; academic and vocational education; recreation; medical and dental care; spiritual, life and pastoral care; and community re-entry services.

### **The Victim Notification Program**

Becoming the victim of a crime can be frightening, confusing, and frustrating and feelings of fear, anger and vulnerability may occur. Often times, having information regarding the offender can mitigate some confusion and fear. As a victim of crime, you have rights that are guaranteed by the Constitution of the State of Colorado. One of these rights is to be notified of certain events that may occur during the juvenile's commitment period. The Victim Notification Program (VNP) will provide you with written notification of movements, hearings, and status changes of the juvenile perpetrator. The VNP can also answer any questions you may have regarding the juvenile justice system, the Division of Youth Corrections, or the services that are available to you in your area.

DYC is committed to providing timely notification and quality services to victims of crime. Our goal is to ensure that victims of crime are treated with fairness and compassion throughout the various stages of the criminal justice system.

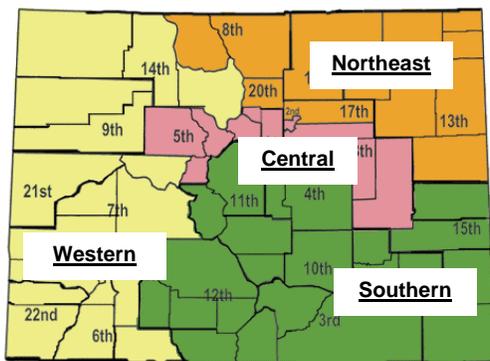
### **Juvenile Community Review Boards**

In accordance with Colorado law, counties may create a Juvenile Community Review Board (CRB) to approve DYC community level placements. CRB's review information such as a juvenile's delinquency history, social history, educational history, mental health treatment history, drug/alcohol treatment history, and a summary of the youth's institutional progress prior to approving community placement. Each CRB must have representatives from school districts, social/human services, the bar association, private citizens, law enforcement, probation, and the Division of Youth Corrections.

### **Juvenile Parole**

Juveniles who have been committed to DYC must serve a mandatory six-months on parole prior to being discharged (released) from the custody and supervision of the Department of Human Services. During this parole period, the juvenile must adhere to specific rules (conditions) set forth by the Juvenile Parole Board. If the juvenile does not abide by these rules, his/her parole may be revoked, and he/she may be returned to a secure facility. The Juvenile Parole Board may extend the parole period by an additional 15 months, if deemed necessary. During the parole period, the youth's original Client Manager serves as his/her Parole Officer. If the juvenile abides by the rules for the six-month parole period, then he/she will be successfully discharged from the custody and the supervision of the Department of Human Services/Division of Youth Corrections.

### **Regional Management**



DYC divides the state into four management regions so that services can be tailored to the special needs of Colorado's diverse mix of urban, suburban and rural communities.

For additional information regarding the Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Corrections, please visit our web site at: <http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/dyc/>

For a complete listing of your rights as a victim of crime, please visit the web site for the Division of Criminal Justice at: <http://dcj.state.co.us/ovp>

For information regarding victim services that are available in your area, please visit the web site for the Colorado Organization for Victim Assistance (COVA) at: [www.cova.civicore.com/](http://www.cova.civicore.com/)

**For information regarding the availability of Crime Victim Compensation funds, please call the Division of Criminal Justice at (303) 239-5719 to obtain the contact information for the Crime Victim Compensation Administrator in your area. Losses which may be compensated include reasonable medical expenses/hospital expenses; mental health counseling; loss of earnings; burial expenses; loss of support to dependants; eyeglasses or hearing aids; and replacement of doors, locks or windows damaged as a result of the crime.**