

The background of the slide features a large, semi-transparent seal of the Alaska Division of Juvenile Justice. The seal is circular with a gold border. Inside the border, the words "ALASKA DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE" are written in a circular path. The center of the seal depicts a blue mountain range with a white peak, set against a dark blue background. Two white stars are positioned at the top of the seal. A solid red rectangle is located in the top right corner of the slide.

ALASKA DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM (DJJ)

JUVENILE PROBATION OVERVIEW AND TRIBAL PARTNERSHIPS WITH
RURAL DIVERSION PROGRAMS

ALASKA TRIBAL COURT CONFERENCE

AUGUST 17-19, 2021

The Division of Juvenile Justice; Our Mission

- ▶ Hold juvenile offenders accountable for their behavior.
- ▶ Promote the safety and restoration of victims and communities.
- ▶ Assist juvenile offenders and their families in developing skills to prevent crime.

Restorative Justice

- ▶ What harm was done?
- ▶ What can be done to repair the harm?
- ▶ Who is responsible to repair the harm?

The responsibility is shared by the youth, the youth's family, the victim, the community and DJJ.

System Differences Between Juvenile & Adult Justice

Juvenile

Restorative

Primarily Confidential

No right to bail

Must look at least restrict options

Adjudicated Delinquent

Disposition

Adult

Punitive/Retributive

Public

Reasonable bail

Criminal Conviction

Sentence

Jurisdiction

- ▶ Under 18 years of age, but can remain in our system until age 19.
- ▶ Not all crimes committed by youth come to DJJ
 - Fish and Game violations
 - Traffic violations including DUI, reckless driving
 - Youth who are 16 or older and commit very serious “waiver” offenses such as murder and sexual assault (unclassified and A felonies)
- ▶ These youth are handled just like an adult.
- ▶ Youth who commit an auto-waiver offense will be housed at a juvenile justice detention facility until they turn 18 yoa due to HB 105 which came into effect on July 8, 2021.

DJJ has three components:

- ▶ Juvenile Probation – Receives police referrals and supervises youth on probation (intake and supervision)
- ▶ Youth Facilities – There are 6 detention facilities and 4 treatment facilities that are co-located with a detention facility throughout Alaska.
- ▶ State Office – Manages grants, sets the Division's policies and procedures, provides training and programming

Probation Intake Services

- ▶ Receive Police Reports and Make Detention Screening
- ▶ Conduct Informal Adjustment / Diversion from formal court
- ▶ Formal Court Processing

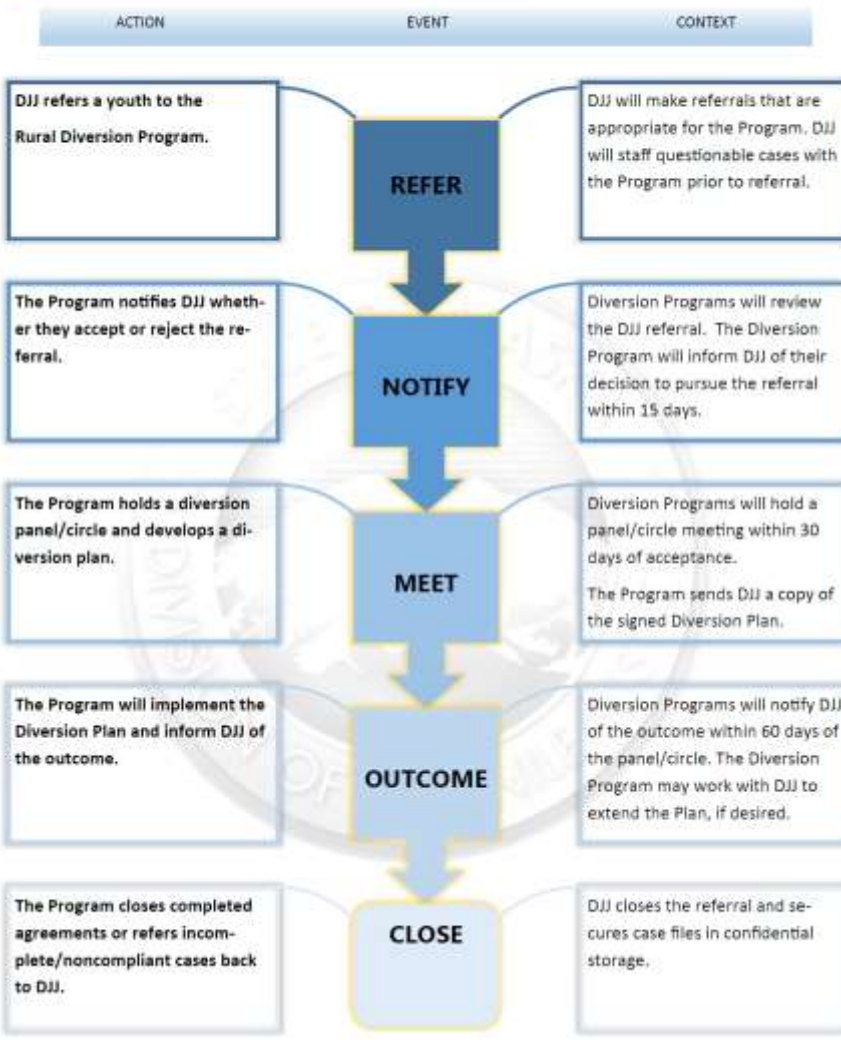
- How do tribal courts receive delinquency cases from the Division?

It all starts with law enforcement (Troopers, VPO's, VPSO's and TPO's) who investigate a criminal allegation involving a juvenile offender. These reports are then sent to DJJ for processing. The Division will work with tribal entities and refer cases to tribal courts for youth to participate in either a tribal court hearing or a tribal diversion program.

Informal Adjustment

- ▶ The majority of youth that are referred to DJJ are not taken to court.
- ▶ DJJ attempts to resolve the issue with the youth, parent and victim without involving the court by;
- ▶ Paying for damages
- ▶ Letters of apology
- ▶ Community work service
- ▶ Referral for services (substance abuse treatment, counseling, and community programs such as youth court, tribal court, victim/offender mediation)
- ▶ Informal supervision

Rural Diversion Program Youth Referral Flowchart



Formal Court Processing

The Juvenile Probation Officer's base this decision on:

- ▶ Age of the youth
- ▶ Prior history
- ▶ Severity of offense
- ▶ Response to parental supervision
- ▶ Lack of response to prior interventions either from DJJ or parent(s)/guardian
- ▶ Failing to remain in placement/flight risk

Juvenile Rights in the Juvenile Justice System

Youth connected to the juvenile justice system have the same rights as an adults which include:

- ▶ Right to have a parent or guardian present.
- ▶ Right to an attorney.
- ▶ Right to confront and cross-examine witnesses.
- ▶ Privilege against self-incrimination.
- ▶ Notice of charges.
- ▶ Jury trial.
- ▶ Proof beyond a reasonable doubt.

RECIDIVISM

- ▶ Recidivism, or youth continuing to commit crimes, is an ongoing systemic issue for all youth but is of significant concern for Alaska Native youth.
- ▶ DJJ has been actively working on this issue in an effort to reduce recidivism.
 - ▶ Working collaboratively with tribal entities early on is one way the Division is working to reduce recidivism.
 - ▶ Understanding the effects Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE's) and trauma have on a youth's development.
- ▶ Involving the parents, school and community to support youth to have a successful transition.
- ▶ Re-entry services are critical.

Community Connections are key

- ▶ Providing activities in their community to keep youth engaged in meaningful activities.
 - ▶ Cultural Activities/Tribal programs
 - ▶ Americorp Programs
 - ▶ Elder Programs
 - ▶ Organized sports
- ▶ Assisting youth and their families develop skills to help them overcome adversity will also reduce recidivism rates.
- ▶ Helping youth feel connected to their community is also key to youth being successful.

Developing support systems in the community

- ▶ What support systems are there for the youth?
- ▶ Overcoming reputations, repairing the harm, finding strengths within each youth and family unit.
- ▶ Who can be a mentor for the youth?
- ▶ Transitioning youth back into a school setting is significant due to the number of pro-social activities that occur in this setting.

Division of Juvenile Justice and Rural Diversion Programs/Tribal Courts

WORKING
TOGETHER
AS
PARTNERS FOR OUR YOUTH

