

## For Information, please contact:

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## Mission Statement

It is the mission of the City of St. Louis Family Court – Juvenile Division to administer justice with compassion, dignity and respect and in a manner that promotes child protection, safe communities, and juvenile competency through holding juveniles accountable, repairing harm to victims, and strengthening families.

### Program Mission & Goals

One of the goals of the Family Court – Juvenile Division is to reduce the overrepresentation of minorities in the juvenile justice system.

In addition, one of the Court's missions is to educate the community as it relates to the Detention Reform in the juvenile justice system in the City of St. Louis as well as the State of Missouri.



*If you need assistance or an accommodation in order to participate in these court services, please contact:*

**The Record Room  
at  
920 North Vandeventer Ave  
St. Louis, Missouri, 63108  
or by telephone  
VOICE (314) 552-2055  
TDD (314) 531-6158**

## Detention Alternatives Program



Family Court – Juvenile Division  
3847 Enright  
St. Louis, Missouri 63108

(314) 552-2194 (Detention Center)  
(314) 552-2000 (Main Court)  
(314) 552-2466 (Fax)

**Program Hours:** 12 noon – 8:00 p.m.

Monday-Friday  
10 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Weekends and Holidays

Dedicated to reducing disparity through detention reform while maintaining public safety.

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In determining the appropriate level of detention for a youth alleged to have committed an offense, it is the policy of the Family Court - Juvenile Division to select the least restrictive alternatives available that will maintain community safety.

The Detention Alternatives Program is the newly implemented effort of the St. Louis City Family Court developed to divert youth from the detention center while monitoring their activities in the community. The program and its components borrow from other successful programs and the basic principles of Detention Reform. Youth are held accountable for violations by the swift application of a graduated sanction system.

The Detention Alternatives Program is staffed by Detention Alternatives Officers (DAOs). The program is in operation 7 days a week, with DAOs visiting youth at their homes and at school, in accordance with a frequency determined by the nature of the alternative and the level of the youth in the program. The DAOs also conduct electronic monitoring installations and equipment troubleshooting calls. In addition, DAOs supervise youth as they complete an array of Community Service activities.

The Detention Alternatives Program offers several alternatives to secure detention, as well as sanctions when violating conditions of Official Court Supervision or the conditions of an Informal Adjustment Agreement. Program components can be combined, to maximize what is available and to tailor the alternatives to fit the needs of the youth who are brought before the court alleged to have committed a law violation, or have violated rules of formal or informal supervision.

### **Alternatives Available** (Least to Most Restrictive)

**Conditional Release** – occurs when a youth is released from secure detention by order of the court and is subject to specific guidelines.

**Evening Reporting Center (ERC)/Reporting Center (RC)** – is a center established for youth to report to during hours when delinquent behavior generally occurs. When school is in session, center hours are in the evening after school, during summer breaks, center hours are throughout the day. Structured activities are scheduled for the youth while at these centers and a meal is served.

**Home Detention** – Is an alternative to secure detention for youth who do not pose a risk of harm to the community and who can be monitored in their homes pending their court hearing. Youth assigned to Home Detention will be monitored without the use of GPS Monitoring.

**Global Positioning System (GPS) Monitoring** – a transmitter that is attached around the participant's ankle. Providing information similar to that of a GPS device in a vehicle, such as "On-Star", GPS monitoring is able to transmit virtual "real-time" information and provide the exact location of offenders at all times.

### **Sanctions Available**

**Weekend Community Service (WCS)** – is an alternative to filing a probation or conditional release violations that may result in secure detention. Youth given the sanction of WCS, as an alternative to secure detention, work on a crew for at least three hours.

**Weekend Home Detention (WHD)** – is also an alternative to filing a probation or conditional release violations that may result in secure detention. Youth given the sanction of WHD are confined to their homes from Friday afternoon until Monday morning. During the time of their confinement, DAP staff conduct multiple home visits to ensure that the youth comply with the sanction.

### **Entering the Program**

Youth are referred to the program each business day because of their Juvenile Detention Assessment Score (JDTA) and their case is reviewed by members of the Legal Department and the Detention Alternatives Program. Youth are also referred by order of the Court or by a referral from their assigned Deputy Juvenile Officer as a sanction for a probation violation.

### **Time in the Program**

A youth's time in the program is dependent upon several factors. The primary factor is compliance and order of the Court.

### **Program Violations**

Violations of the program may result in additional sanctions, to include more time being added to the time the youth has to spend in a particular program component. Although an important goal of the Detention Alternatives Program is to reduce the use of secure detention, persistent violations of the program may result in the youth being detained in the Court's detention center or other secure facility.