

Pre-DJS Youth Decision Process Flowchart Distribution Plan

Purpose

Distribute the flowchart as a public education tool that improves understanding of what typically happens when a youth comes to police attention prior to DJS involvement, while making the resource accessible to those most likely to use it: youth, parents, educators, law enforcement, and youth-facing service providers.

Core Distribution Goals

- Increase public understanding of pre-DJS decision points
- Reduce confusion about arrest, diversion, referral, custody, and detention
- Support consistent messaging across youth-serving systems
- Place the tool in the hands of trusted intermediaries who regularly explain these processes to youth and families

Framing language

This flowchart is a public education resource developed by the Commission to help explain what typically happens when a youth comes to police attention before DJS involvement. It is descriptive, not prescriptive, and reflects statewide law enforcement input while acknowledging local variation.

Priority Audiences

1. Youth and Families

- Social media graphics or one-pager adaptation
- Youth-serving nonprofits
- Parent and family advocacy organizations
- School family engagement offices
- Public defender and legal aid partners
- Community meetings and youth forums

Format:

- Public-facing PDF
- Simplified one-page version
- FAQ companion document
- Website version with plain-language glossary

2. Schools and Educators

- State Department of Education
- Local school systems
- School safety offices
- SRO networks
- Pupil personnel and student services offices
- Educator listservs and principal associations

Format:

- Staff-facing PDF
- Slide for training decks
- One-page explainer for administrators and family liaisons

3. Law Enforcement

- Maryland Chiefs of Police Association
- Maryland Sheriffs' Association
- SRO networks
- Regional command meetings
- Police academy / in-service training reference materials

Format:

- Final validated flowchart
- Brief memo explaining intended use
- Companion narrative emphasizing jurisdictional variation

4. Youth-Facing Service Providers

- Local Management Boards
- Community-based diversion providers
- Behavioral health providers
- Youth mentoring and violence interruption programs
- Family support and wraparound providers
- Victim services programs

Format:

- Printable PDF
- One-page briefing

5. State and Local Government Stakeholders

- DJS
- Governor's Office of Crime Prevention and Policy
- Governor's Office of Children
- Local government youth and family offices
- State's Attorney and Public Defender training networks
- Juvenile justice advisory groups

Format:

- Formal memo with attachment
- Presentation slide
- Inclusion in resource libraries or agency websites