



Juvenile Court Service Unit

To serve the Loudoun County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court by allowing individuals access to the Court to resolve domestic relations matters. The Juvenile Court Service Unit (JCSU), more commonly referred to as the Court Service Unit (or CSU), is a statutorily-mandated state entity that also assists the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) with the protection of the public by preparing court-involved youth to be productive members of society through professional supervision and services to juvenile offenders and families. The JCSU operates the Loudoun County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) and recently opened the RISE (Reaching for Insight, Success, and Empowerment) Youth Shelter for court-involved youth. In addition, the JCSU provides delinquency prevention services to youth and families, offering screenings and linkages to community-based supports.

Department Programs

Intake

Receives and reviews delinquency complaints 24 hours per day. Determines whether a delinquency petition is to be filed with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and, if so, whether the youth should be released to family or detained. Completes diagnostic assessments of court-involved youth for the Court. Determines jurisdiction, venue, and controversy in domestic relations matters.

Activities

- Intake
- Diagnostic Services

Probation and Parole Services

Provides probation supervision. Virginia juvenile probation strives to achieve a "balanced approach," focused on the principles of community protection, accountability, and competency development. Provides parole services to help transition offenders back to the community. Initiates transitional services, provides case management, and monitors the offender's reentry to ensure a smooth transition to the community. Provides referrals for family and individual counseling and other resources, including vocational or specialized educational services.

- Probation and Parole Services



Prevention and Intervention Services

Assists youth and their families prior to referral to the JCSU, and prior to official involvement with the Court. Some services may also be court ordered. Provides evidence-based screening and referrals to community-based supports to Loudoun youth demonstrating risky behavior, as well as to their families. Provides diversion services for first-time offenders including restorative justice sessions, evidence-based prevention and educational programming, and community service. Additional intervention services include supervised release as an alternative to detention.

- Youth and Family Resource Center
- Diversion Program
- Supervised Release Program (SRP)

Residential Services

Provides community-based, out-of-home placements for court-involved youth. These services include a secure program providing long- and short-term secure placement for court-ordered youth and a staff-secure shelter program providing short-term placement for court-involved youth.

- Juvenile Detention Center (JDC)
- RISE (Reaching for Insight, Success, and Empowerment) Youth Shelter

Financial Information

FY 2024 Adopted Information^{1, 2}

	Expenditures	Revenue	LTF	FTE
Intake	\$519,250	\$0	\$519,250	2.91
Probation and Parole Services	1,040,286	0	1,040,286	5.82
Prevention and Intervention Services	1,392,785	145,706	1,247,079	7.80
Residential Services	6,207,846	838,215	5,369,631	51.01
Total	\$9,160,168	\$983,921	\$8,176,247	67.54

¹ Sums may not equal due to rounding.

² All financial and FTE information reflects the County budget and FTE for the JCSU, which also has a state budget and FTE.



JCSU: Intake

Intake

What We Do: Intake is the point of entry for Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts across the Commonwealth of Virginia. In Loudoun County, the intake unit accepts and processes juvenile status complaints, delinquency complaints, and domestic relations requests. Intake activities include the completion of an intake interview, determination of probable cause or domestic relations controversy, consideration for the issuance of a petition (a request to appear in court), consideration for diversion or referral away from court, and brief crisis intervention in some instances. Specific domestic relations services include issuing petitions for paternity, custody, visitation, and desertion/non-support, as well as requests for protection matters. This activity operates 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, with staff on-call to respond to juvenile delinquency matters that occur after traditional business hours.

Mandate Information: Pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 16.1-260, "...all matters alleged to be within the jurisdiction of the court shall be commenced with the filing of a petition.... Complaints, requests, and the processing of petitions to initiate a case shall be the responsibility of the intake officer."

Who Does It: County and state staff provide this service.

Why We Do It: The intake unit provides a mechanism for the filing of petitions, as mandated by state law. The unit's intake process allows for juvenile status and delinquency complaints to be routed through juvenile justice professionals, rather than the court system. Routing through professionals allows the Court to focus on adult criminal behavior, and it allows the intake unit to complete their investigation and implement responses that are "liberal and remedial" in nature, as mandated by the Code of Virginia § 16.1-227. These responses reduce the scheduling strain on the Court's docket and allow for the Court's response to domestic relations matters. Furthermore, the intake unit is able to provide information and a formal response to litigants representing themselves in domestic relations matters.

How We Do It Now – Current Service Level: In FY 2020, the service levels were comparable to current levels. Approximately 3,000 complaints are received each year, averaging 760 complaints accepted and processed per intake officer. Approximately 70 percent of juvenile complaints are diverted from court. At current service level, average intake wait time is approximately 15 minutes.

How We Plan to Do It in the Future – Recommended Service Level: As the County's population growth stabilizes over time, the JCSU anticipates that the demand for these services will stay the same as people continue to need to access the Court for juvenile and domestic issues. Staff will monitor the metrics below to ensure that resources are sufficient to meet service demands.

**JCSU: Intake**

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimated	FY 2025 Projected
Maintain a 40 percent or higher diversion rate for juvenile complaints.					
Total number of complaints received	2,791	3,055	2,918	3,550	3,550
Number of domestic relations complaints issued	1,576	1,740	1,715	1,600	1,600
Number of civil domestic violence complaints issued	453	487	471	614	614
Number of juvenile criminal complaints issued	658	613	845	600	600
Average number of complaints accepted and processed per staff member ¹	698	764	730	888	888
Percentage of juvenile complaints diverted ²	63%	71%	55%	50%	50%
Maintain an average intake wait time of 15 minutes or less.					
Number of intakes	1,944	2,166	2,113	2,000	2,000
Average number of intakes per staff member	486	542	528	500	500
Average intake wait time (in minutes)	14	15	15	15	15

¹ An individual case can involve multiple complaints.

² Diversion involves a plan or process where a complaint is redirected from further penetration into the justice system.



JCSU: Intake

Diagnostic Services

What We Do: The JCSU uses the evidence-based Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) to determine if youth are low-, moderate-, or high-risk offenders. Diagnostic Services completes the initial YASI assessment and writes the social history report based on YASI scores, interviews with the juvenile and their family, previous court involvement, and contact with the school and other service providers. Staff submits the reports to the judge with recommendations. The social history report then goes to the probation case manager for case planning and monitoring.

Specially trained staff conducts assessments, uses motivational interviewing techniques, and collects information from other service providers to create the social history report for the Court. These activities take place in the office, outside of court, and through home and school visits in the community.

Mandate Information: Pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 16.1-273, the Court may require an investigation that must include “a social history of the physical, mental, and social conditions, including an assessment of any affiliation with a criminal street gang, and personality of the child and the facts and circumstances surrounding the violation of law.” Such investigation reports must be provided to the courts 96 hours prior to disposition, at a minimum.

Who Does It: County and state staff provide this service.

Why We Do It: This activity ensures that each juvenile who comes before the Loudoun County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court receives the appropriate supervision and services to prevent further offending/criminal activity in Loudoun County.

How We Do It Now – Current Service Level: In FY 2020, the service levels were slightly higher than current levels. Approximately 40 Comprehensive Pre-Dispositional Reports are completed each year, averaging approximately 20 reports per officer.

How We Plan to Do It in the Future – Recommended Service Level: Crime and delinquency trends shift over time, and may be influenced by law enforcement strategies, the economy, population, and other unknown factors. The JCSU will monitor the metrics below to ensure that resources are sufficient to meet service demands.

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimated	FY 2025 Projected
Maintain a caseload of 100 Comprehensive Pre-Dispositional Reports (social history reports) or less per officer.					
Number of Comprehensive Pre-Dispositional Reports (social history reports) completed	50	39	55	50	50
Average number of reports completed per officer	25	20	28	25	25



JCSU: Probation and Parole Services

Probation and Parole Services

What We Do: The Probation and Parole Services activity assists juveniles on a pre- and post-dispositional basis and strives to achieve a balance of public safety and offender service delivery in a community setting. This activity uses the risk, need, and responsivity model and the YASI to identify risk levels associated with offending and to determine service levels. Probation officers provide services and supervision using the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative (JDAI) model to ensure that services are provided in the least restrictive environment possible (as an alternative to detention or further penetration into the justice system), with community and family partnerships to ensure appropriate outcomes. Parole officers assist juveniles with transitioning from the custody of the DJJ to the community by providing reentry services, including employment, housing, education, mental health, and health care. JCSU probation and parole officers follow the Effective Practices in Community Supervision (EPICS) model. This model requires frequent contact with higher-risk offenders, focuses on situations likely to cause criminal behavior, and helps clients modify their negative thought patterns and beliefs.

Specialized work within the Probation and Parole Services activity includes the Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program (SHOCAP) and the Sex Offender Program. SHOCAP provides intensive probation services to high-risk offenders in the community. The Sex Offender Program provides services that consist of assessment (psychosexual), therapeutic intervention (individual, group, and family) counseling, and polygraphs to help validate accuracy of perceived risk and honesty in reference to treatment and probation guidelines.

Mandate Information: The Code of Virginia §§ 16.1-233 and 16.1-237 requires probation officers to monitor compliance with court orders and probation rules.

Who Does It: County and state staff provide this service, supplemented by contract services for treatment of probation/parole cases and sex offenders.

Why We Do It: The probation and parole unit provides a high level of accountability to the public. Probation services provide options for youth in lieu of detention or further penetration into the justice system. Parole services allow offenders to be released from custody for supervision, monitoring, and treatment in a community setting. Staff helps ensure public safety for County residents and the efficacy of intervention/prevention programs in reducing delinquent behavior in Loudoun County.

How We Do It Now – Current Service Level: In FY 2020, the service levels were slightly higher than current levels. Currently, there are approximately 250 cases annually, with an average caseload per officer of eight. Current service level includes almost 6,000 contacts per year, including contacts at home, at school, in the community, and at the office.

How We Plan to Do It in the Future – Recommended Service Level: Crime and delinquency trends, as well as juvenile justice trends, shift over time. Influencing factors include law enforcement strategies, the economy, population, political shifts, and other unknown factors. The JCSU will monitor the metrics below to ensure that resources are sufficient to meet service demands.

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimated	FY 2025 Projected
Maintain the state-recommended average caseload of 15 or less per officer.					
Average caseload per officer	11	8	12	12	12
Total number of cases	180	249	270	300	300
Percentage of high-risk cases	49%	48%	40%	55%	55%
Percentage of moderate-risk cases	28%	32%	40%	25%	25%
Percentage of low-risk cases	23%	18%	20%	15%	15%
Total number of contacts	7,196	5,711	9,705	9,000	9,000



JCSU: Prevention and Intervention Services

Youth and Family Resource Center

What We Do: Delinquency prevention services are located at the Youth and Family Resource Center, located at the new Youth Services Center. The recently launched Youth and Family Resource Center offers evidence-based screening for youth demonstrating risky behaviors, and warm handoffs to community-based supports for the youth and their family. This short-term service is intended to make appropriate linkages to longer-term supports in the community.

Mandate Information: Localities are not statutorily mandated to provide delinquency prevention services. However, DJJ directs CSUs to offer pretrial services to youth pending court. These services are offered to pretrial youth, as well as non-court-involved youth, with the aim to link youth and families with appropriate community-based services and programs to prevent delinquent behavior and further court involvement.

Who Does It: County and state staff provide these services.

Why We Do It: Delinquency prevention services provide support and assistance to youth and caregivers during critical teenage years. The intent is to link youth and families to sustainable supports in the community to prevent more significant behavior issues, law enforcement action, and system involvement.

How We Do It Now – Current Service Level: This new program opened on April 19, 2023. At the time of writing this Program Review, the JCSU anticipates serving between 16 and 20 youth and families each month.

How We Plan to Do It in the Future – Recommended Service Level: The JCSU will track the metrics below to monitor service delivery levels and will adjust resources as necessary.

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimated	FY 2025 Projected
Total number of referrals received ¹	n/a	n/a	45	200	200
Number of screenings completed ¹	n/a	n/a	27	150	150
Number of service referrals made ¹	n/a	n/a	22	150	150
Number of successful referrals completed ¹	n/a	n/a	18	125	125

¹ Data shown as n/a indicates a measure that does not have historical data.



JCSU: Prevention and Intervention Services

Diversion Program

What We Do: Intervention services includes the Diversion Program, which assists youth and their families who have been formally referred to the JCSU for a delinquent or status offense. These youth are diverted from the submittal of a petition to the Court. These services include restorative justice conferencing, online evidence-based prevention courses, and community service.

Restorative justice conferencing is a victim-sensitive approach to addressing “wrongdoing” in a variety of ways that stress accountability, competency development, and community safety. Online evidence-based prevention courses address anger management, shoplifting, and substance use. Community service is coordinated with the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Services (PRCS) and other community partners.

Mandate Information: Pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 16.1-227, the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court “law shall be construed liberally and as remedial in character.” Furthermore, it states that “this law shall be interpreted and construed so as to effectuate the following purpose(s)... to divert from or within the juvenile justice system, to the extent possible, consistent with the protection of the public safety, those children who can be cared for or treated through alternative programs.”

Who Does It: County and state staff provide this service, supplemented by contract services for prevention courses and specialized prevention programming.

Why We Do It: These services provide additional education and consequences to youth and families to protect public safety and prevent future delinquent behavior. Diversion itself is a consequence for behavior that resulted in a law enforcement referral to a CSU intake.

How We Do It Now – Current Service Level: In FY 2020, service levels were comparable to current service levels. Current service level reflects about 400 diversion cases per year.

How We Plan to Do It in the Future – Recommended Service Level: Crime and delinquency trends, as well as juvenile justice trends, shift over time. Influencing factors include law enforcement strategies, the economy, population, political shifts, and other unknown factors. The JCSU will monitor the metrics below to ensure that resources are sufficient to meet service demands.

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimated	FY 2025 Projected
Number of diversion cases	249	359	375	325	325
Percentage of successful diversion cases (agreement made and completed) ¹	n/a	76%	83%	80%	80%
Percentage of community service hours completed ¹	n/a	83%	85%	85%	85%
Number of other diversion services assigned ¹	n/a	95	104	100	100

¹ Data shown as n/a indicates a measure that does not have historical data.



JCSU: Prevention and Intervention Services

Supervised Release Program (SRP)

What We Do: The Supervised Release Program (SRP) is a detention-alternative program available to the Loudoun County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. It may be used as a pre-dispositional detention-alternative placement. The Court or a JCSU probation officer may also require supervised release as a post-dispositional intensive supervision placement or intermediate sanction. The SRP provides an array of monitoring services across a continuum of least restrictive to very restrictive.

Mandate Information: The Virginia DJJ strongly encourages the use of community-based alternatives to detention, including electronic monitoring.

Who Does It: County and state staff provide these services, supplemented by contract services for electronic monitoring equipment.

Why We Do It: These services provide additional supervision of court-involved youth while they reside in the community to protect public safety.

How We Do It Now – Current Service Level: In FY 2020, service levels were slightly lower than current service levels. Approximately 150 youth are supervised each year in the SRP. At this service level, the rate of recidivism while participants are in the SRP program is 1 percent or less. Current service level includes a total of approximately 2,000 days per year of equipment usage and approximately 800 days of house arrest and/or outreach for all youth served in the SRP.

How We Plan to Do It in the Future – Recommended Service Level: Crime and delinquency trends, as well as juvenile justice trends, shift over time. Influencing factors include law enforcement strategies, the economy, population, political shifts, and other unknown factors. The JCSU will monitor the metrics below to ensure that resources are sufficient to meet service demands.

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimated	FY 2025 Projected
Maintain a rate of recidivism while in the SRP at or below 3 percent.					
Percentage of juvenile recidivism while in the SRP	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Number of youth served by the SRP	112	133	149	200	200
Number of days served – Electronic monitoring equipment usage	1,656	2,004	2,739	2,500	2,500
Number of days served – House arrest	358	626	389	700	700
Number of days served – Outreach program	249	222	342	250	250



Juvenile Detention Center (JDC)

What We Do: The JDC is licensed by the Virginia DJJ and provides secure detention services 24 hours per day, seven days per week to youth detained by the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. The JDC was recently relocated to the new Youth Services Center on April 27, 2023. It is a community-based, residential facility that provides temporary care for youth requiring secure custody pending court disposition or placement, or who are placed in the facility by the Court as a sanction once found guilty of an offense. While detention is meant to be a short-term, pre-dispositional placement, youth participate in structured programs including school, prosocial and recreational activities, and clinical services as needed. All youth at the JDC are required to receive 5.5 hours of educational instruction daily, which is provided by Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) teachers assigned to the facility. Within the JDC, a post-dispositional program is also available to court-ordered youth. This program is an education-, treatment-, and behavioral-based program providing an alternative to placement at the DJJ's secure correctional facility near Richmond. This program is provided by an interagency team that includes LCPS; the Department of Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Developmental Services (MHSADS); the JCSU; PRCS; and the Department of Family Services (DFS).

Neighboring Rappahannock and Fauquier Counties contract with Loudoun County for JDC bedspace. They do not operate juvenile detention facilities.

Mandate Information: Localities are not mandated to operate juvenile detention centers. As a licensed facility by the DJJ, the JDC is required to meet standards promulgated by the Board of Juvenile Justice. Regulations governing juvenile detention centers are found in 6 Virginia Administrative Code 35-101.

Who Does It: County staff provides all administrative and direct care services. The County contracts for physician services and specialized mental health services. Contracts with Fauquier and Rappahannock Counties – along with approximately \$730,000 in state aid – offset the amount of local tax funding used for the operation of this facility.

Why We Do It: If there were no detention center in Loudoun County, the County would be required to purchase bed space in other localities for each youth in need of detention, as ordered by the Court. The closest facilities are in Winchester and Staunton. As such, the County would incur an additional expense to the Sheriff's Office for transporting detainees back and forth for court purposes. In addition, if detainees were housed out of County, it would be much more difficult for probation officers, social workers, and other professionals to provide the appropriate level of services to the youth and their families. It would also reduce the amount of family engagement time possible for detained youth.

How We Do It Now – Current Service Level: In FY 2020, service levels were comparable to current service levels, although the trend indicates fewer youth in secure detention now as compared to FY 2020. Current service levels reflect the ability to support as many as 20 children daily at the JDC; however, the actual daily population averages four youth. The average length of stay is approximately 22 days. While housed at the JDC, youth continue to receive educational services in addition to any services identified as part of their mental health assessment. Youth are encouraged to participate in community service events and to receive visitors to maintain their engagement with their family and community.

How We Plan to Do It in the Future – Recommended Service Level: Crime and delinquency trends, as well as juvenile justice trends and trends regarding the use of secure detention, shift over time. Influencing factors include law enforcement strategies, the economy, population, political shifts, and other unknown factors. The JCSU will monitor the metrics with asterisks (*) below to ensure that resources are sufficient to meet service demands.



JCSU: Residential Services

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimated	FY 2025 Projected
Operate the JDC within state mandates and licensure requirements.					
Average daily population*	5.20	4.00	2.92	6.00	6.00
Number of child care days*	1,892	1,373	1,246	2,150	2,150
Total number of youth served	52	70	95	75	75
Average length of stay (in days)	27	22	12	22	22
Provide prosocial opportunities for youth to gain life skills.					
Number of hours of innovative psychoeducational groups provided	581	524	519	480	480
Number of hours of evidence-based life skills sessions provided	57	24	24	12	12
Number of hours of educational support provided during school programming	1,132	1,159	1,126	1,200	1,200
Percentage of youth who stay longer than ten days who obtain or maintain the two highest levels on the behavior management program	96%	100%	100%	90%	90%
Less than 10 percent of youth in the JDC will require the use of restraints.					
Percentage of youth requiring restraints	3%	4%	1%	5%	5%



RISE (Reaching for Insight, Success, and Empowerment) Youth Shelter

What We Do: The RISE Youth Shelter is a new program operated by the JCSU and is located in the new Youth Services Center, effective April 27, 2023. It is licensed by the Virginia DJJ for 16 beds and provides short-term shelter to court-involved youth between the ages of 11 and 17. The primary purpose of the program is to provide a safe and structured environment for youth pending court when they present a public safety concern, or when they cannot safely remain in their own home. Youth on probation may also be placed at the RISE Youth Shelter as an intermediate sanction.

Mandate Information: Localities are not mandated to operate a youth shelter. However, as a licensed facility under the Virginia DJJ, the facility is required to meet the standards established for licensed children's residential facilities. The state requirements of juvenile group homes are found in 66 Virginia Administrative Code 35-42.

Who Does It: County staff provides all administrative and direct care services. The County contracts for physician services and specialized mental health services.

Why We Do It: The RISE Youth Shelter provides a structured and safe setting for court-involved youth, protecting public safety and providing local services, reducing the need for youth to be placed outside of their community or in a secure facility.

How We Do It Now – Current Service Level: This new program opened on April 27, 2023. It has a capacity for up to 16 youth at any given time. The JCSU anticipates an average daily population of seven.

How We Plan to Do It in the Future – Recommended Service Level: Crime and delinquency trends, as well as juvenile justice trends and trends regarding the use of residential placements, shift over time. Influencing factors include law enforcement strategies, the economy, population, political shifts, and other unknown factors. The JCSU will monitor the metrics below to ensure that resources are sufficient to meet service demands.

	FY 2021 Actual	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Estimated	FY 2025 Projected
Operate a youth shelter to provide a structured placement for court-involved youth in the community.¹					
Average daily population	n/a	n/a	3	4	4
Maximum licensed capacity	n/a	n/a	16	16	16
Number of youth admitted	n/a	n/a	11	60	60
Average length of stay (in days)	n/a	n/a	23	30	30

¹ Data shown as n/a indicates a measure that does not have historical data.