

# BELKNAP COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE



Prepared by  
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Juvenile offenders in Belknap County are managed through a graduated set of options that provide increased sanctions and supervision of the juvenile.



## CONTACT INFORMATION:

- BELKNAP COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PROGRAM 64 Court St, Laconia, NH 03246 527-5493 www.belknapcounty.org
- JUVENILE PROBATION AND PAROLE Laconia District Office, NH DHHS 65 Beacon St W Laconia, NH 03246 524-4485
- YOUTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PO Box 3068, Northfield, NH 03276 286-8577
- YOUTH SERVICES BUREAU 306 Union Ave, Laconia, NH 03246 524-9457 www.youthservicesbureau.org

The entry point into this continuum is determined by the juvenile's age, the nature of the incident or offense, and whether or not this is a first-time offense.

## WHAT IS COURT DIVERSION?

Court Diversion offers youth offenders an opportunity to make amends for their mistakes without carrying a court record for the rest of their lives. Youth who acknowledge their mistakes meet with an adult volunteer panel from the community. This panel prepares a restorative contract with the youth including provisions for restoring the damage he/she has caused, such as apologies to the victim; community service; expectations for school performance and attendance; and opportunities to develop their own skills and interests. If the youth completes these contracts within a specified time frame, the offense is erased.

- **First Time Offenders** These youth are referred directly to the Youth Assistance Program or Youth Services Bureau and do not usually appear in Court.
- **Second Time Offenders** These youth must appear before a Juvenile Judge in Family Court. They are usually referred to the Belknap County Restorative Juvenile Justice Program where they spend a year working on a more demanding restorative contract. If successful, the offense is erased.

Youth in both of these programs are not court-involved.

## WHAT IS PROBATION AND PAROLE?

Youth who are repeat offenders or who require intense supervision and added services are referred by the Juvenile Judge to Juvenile Probation and Parole. These youth are court-involved.

## WHAT IS COMMUNITY SERVICE?

Efforts are made to find meaningful community projects for youth that develop competencies, build relationships, and make key connections to help them develop their own unique skills, interests, and long-term resiliency.

## WHAT IS PREVENTION?

Prevention programs and strategies strive to keep all youth, especially those considered at-risk, out of the court system by bolstering their personal, family, and community connections and by minimizing the negative influences in their lives. There are numerous prevention-oriented organizations and programs that are partners within the juvenile justice system in Belknap County.



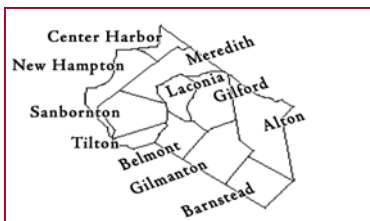
## WHAT IS RESTORATIVE JUSTICE?

*A set of principles placing equal emphasis on:*

- The well being and restoration of the victim
- The safety of the community
- Holding the offender accountable
- Developing competencies and life skills in the offender

*While there is a specific program in Belknap County called the Restorative Justice Program, all programs and services for youth in Belknap County use Restorative Justice principles including:*

- Helping the youth to understand the result of his/her offense on victims, their families, and their community
- Helping the youth to find ways to repair the harm caused
- Respecting the individual value of each youth and helping them to develop their own unique strengths and skills



Belknap County

## KEY CONTACT INFORMATION

Alton Police Dept—875-3752

Barnstead Police Dept—269-8100

Belmont Police Dept—267-8350

Center Harbor Police Dept—253-9756

Gilford Police Dept—524-4737

Gilmanton Police Dept—364-7400

Laconia Police Dept—524-5257

Meredith Police Dept—279-4561

New Hampton Police Dept—524-8585

Sanbornton Police Dept—286-4323

Tilton Police Dept—286-4442

Belknap County Sheriff—527-5454

Belknap County Citizens Council on Children and Families—528-3815

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- All youth need to feel connected to their community.
- Juvenile offenders often see themselves in a negative light. They do not have aspirations and plans for the future. They do not know their own strengths.
- An hour or two of your time with a youth makes a difference! The most powerful message this time has for youth is that someone cares.
- Your role with a teen can be very simple or more complex. It can be up to you!
- Spend a few hours helping a youth develop skills and interests: music to auto mechanics to woodworking to photography. You decide!
- Opportunities for job training, job shadowing, and internships prepare a youth for productive employment.