



TEXAS CRIMINAL
JUSTICE COALITION

WHAT CAN I EXPECT WHEN MY CHILD IS LOCKED UP?

IS MY CHILD GOING TO HAVE TO MISS SCHOOL?

When your child enters the juvenile justice system, the facility responsible for overseeing him or her is legally responsible for enrolling your child in school (within the facility) by your child's first school day.



IS MY CHILD'S EDUCATION GOING TO BE COMPROMISED?

Education services within Texas juvenile correctional facilities are regulated by the Texas Education Agency. This agency oversees all public schools outside of the correctional system and requires ALL correctional facilities to comply with its standards. Your child's progress while in a correctional facility should transfer to his or her regular school when he or she returns to the community.

WHAT TYPE OF TREATMENT WILL MY CHILD BE RECEIVING WHILE LOCKED UP?

The type of treatment your child receives varies according to the type(s) of problems he or she may have upon entering the system. Upon being admitted to a facility, your child will be assessed for various issues, such as:

- Risk to re-offend
- Substance abuse
- Medical problems
- Educational needs
- Mental health issues
- History of sexual offenses

It is VERY IMPORTANT to include yourself in your child's treatment plan. By becoming involved, you can understand what treatment your child is receiving, who is delivering the treatment, and the progress your child is making while under the system's care. After your child's first two weeks in the system, ask to see his or her treatment plan, and let your child's caseworker (a.k.a. social worker) know that you want to be involved.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS COMPLAINTS?

Every secure correctional facility has its own policy and procedures for handling grievances. These policies are required to be made available to both you and your child. A grievance made by a system-involved youth can range from something minor, such as not having adequate school supplies, to something major, such as an accusation of abuse. Accusations of abuse, neglect, or exploitation are very serious and you should immediately follow the procedure(s) in your family handbook or contact the chief juvenile probation officer of your child's department.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have additional questions about what to expect while your child is locked up, please contact our organization so that we may assist you.