

# **Responding to Runaway and Incorrigible Youth: Guidelines for Law Enforcement Officers**



UNIVERSITY OF  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
School of Law

**Children's Law Center**

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## **Purpose of Guidelines**

### *Runaway and Incurrigible Youth*

These guidelines were developed to assist law enforcement officers who are called to respond to runaway and incorrigible youth. This resource should be used in accordance with your department policies and criminal justice training. Please treat it as a guide and remember that each situation may require a unique response. Running away and incorrigibility are offenses called status offenses, and would not be crimes if committed by an adult. They are only unlawful due to the child's age. Youth who commit these offenses often have complex underlying issues that result in these behaviors. These guidelines were created to offer law enforcement officers guidance regarding what constitutes these offenses and assistance in determining the appropriate response to these youth and families. A companion resource, *Juvenile Field Tips for Law Enforcement Officers*, was also developed.

### *Officer's role*

Responding to runaway and incorrigible youth often presents complex situations unlike those found when dealing with crimes and threats to public safety. These offenses often involve situations which are a result of dysfunctional families, or have been made worse by mental illness or substance abuse by the youth or family members. During these interactions, officers should commit to using age-appropriate, trauma-informed approaches. When interacting with youth, law enforcement officers can assist by de-escalating situations with families and connecting them to appropriate resources within the community.

## **Understanding Adolescent Behavior**

### *Brain development*

Understanding adolescent brain development and using it as a guide when interacting with youth and families can increase an officer's effectiveness. Research has proven significant ways in which the adolescent brain differs from the adult brain, giving helpful insight into the behavior of youth and how to respond to their behaviors. These differences in brain structures, coupled with hormonal changes that occur during adolescence, produce very different behaviors and responses than can be expected of adults.

During the transition to adulthood, many changes occur in the brain. As a result of these changes, youth have difficulty controlling their impulses and often engage in risky behaviors. They have trouble maintaining perspective on situations and often are unable to consider long-term consequences of their behavior without extra time to process the situation. Youth may be unable to self-regulate their emotions, and have difficulty seeing and understanding the emotions of others. Although these guidelines have been developed to assist with responding to youth under the age of seventeen, research on brain development has shown that the areas of a person's brain responsible for impulse control may not be fully developed until the person's early to mid-twenties.

Due to these ongoing changes, a normal adolescent is likely to engage in behaviors that may be considered obnoxious, dangerous, and even unlawful. Most adolescents will mature out of these behaviors as they grow older, without formal legal intervention. It is important that officers

consider adolescent development when working with youth, and recognize that their approach should be different than when responding to adults. Adults working with youth should align their expectations, responses, and interactions to the developmental stage of the youth they serve.

### **Practice Tips for an Initial Approach with Youth**

- Approach youth in a calm and respectful manner. Youth are often unable to accurately read facial expressions, and perceive anger in authority figures when none is displayed. This can escalate situations, as they become anxious and argumentative.
- Verbally state that you are not angry with the youth, and that you just want to talk to him or her.
- When possible, separate youth from other people before speaking with them. Youth behave differently around their peers than in a one-on-one setting, and may be less cooperative or respectful when around their peers.
- Ask the youth to tell you his or her name, and then call the youth by that name. Calling the youth by their name establishes a positive connection, and shows that you are concerned.
- Explain what is happening, why you are doing what you are doing, and what they can expect. Youth are more likely to remain calm and cooperative if they understand the motives of others.
- Youth may look older than they are or may have developmental delays. Some youth may appear “street smart,” but this does not necessarily reflect their true intelligence or ability to process information. A good approach is to assume youth are younger than they appear.
- Offer the youth options or choices, when available, even if they are very limited. Youth enjoy having choices, and tend to respond more positively when given options than when told what to do. Help them identify options that let them fix mistakes and save face.
- Give youth more time to process information and respond than you would give an adult. Giving youth extra time will counteract their brain’s natural inclination to respond impulsively, improving their response and cooperation.
- Don’t take things youth say personally, as it allows them to engage you in power struggles, which can escalate confrontations. Remember that adolescents naturally question information given to them and are eager to challenge and debate authority figures in general.
- When possible, let youth vent. Normal adolescent responses to stress include pacing, fidgeting, talking back, avoiding eye contact, and acting tough. Let them vent by respecting their personal space, giving them time to cool off, not touching them, before giving them clear directions in neutral terms.

**SAY YOU’RE NOT ANGRY**

**EXPLAIN WHAT’S HAPPENING**

**GIVE THEM EXTRA TIME TO PROCESS INFORMATION**

**REMEMBER YOUTH MAY BE YOUNGER THAN THEY LOOK**

## Practice Tips to De-Escalate Youth and Families

- Separate the youth from instigators, which may include guardians they are arguing with or peers/siblings on site. Officers will be able to build a better rapport with youth if they are in a one-on-one situation.
- Remain calm and collected when speaking to youth and adults. Modeling calm behavior will encourage them to calm down. Maintain professionalism by speaking appropriately, avoiding use of slang or inappropriate language.
- Do not threaten the youth with detention or being taken into custody. This is likely to agitate the youth, and will model for the parents that threatening the youth with law enforcement involvement is acceptable. This will harm the relationship between the youth and law enforcement.
- When possible, allow the youth and family members to move into an area they feel is safe, such as a porch, picnic table, or family room, for questioning. If the youth or guardian wants to cool-off in a private area such as a bedroom, give your support but ask that they come out in a short-period of time to check-in.
- Use empathy and reflective listening skills when discussing the precipitating incident and current situation with youth and guardians. Allow each side to share their account privately, and allow them to appropriately vent, as they are in a heightened emotional state.
- If physical touch is necessary, give the individual notice that you are about to touch them and the reason for the physical contact. Guardians and youth may have experienced physical or sexual abuse, or other violence-related traumas. Avoid physically touching the individuals when possible, as this may elicit a trauma-related aggressive response.
- Be aware of your body language and take steps to adopt a posture which will be calming to others. For example, if they are seated, do not stand over them. Do not stand too close or in a posture that seems hostile.
- Use positive statements when speaking with the youth or guardian, and focus on keeping the family safe and getting them help. For example, say to a youth, "I know you are frustrated and angry, but since I was called out here, I need to investigate to make sure everyone is safe. What can we do to calm things down so you and your mother can stay safe?" Say to a guardian, "It seems like you are trying your best to get help. We may be able to identify some professionals who specialize in helping families that may be more appropriate to help your family get back on track."

**AVOID PHYSICAL TOUCH WHEN POSSIBLE**

**REMEMBER YOUR BODY LANGUAGE**

**USE POSITIVE STATEMENTS**

## **Incorrigibility**

### *Incorrigible vs. normal adolescent behavior*

Adolescence is a period of time that is often categorized by behaviors that may be labeled as incorrigible, such as challenging authority figures, increased experimentation and risk-taking, and asserting independence. Youth are also significantly influenced by their peers. When determining whether to charge a youth with incorrigibility, officers should remember that some behaviors parents or guardians see as incorrigible are within the normally expected developmentally-appropriate behaviors of youth, even if parents and guardians don't like them. Officers should also consider that family dynamics, poverty, and parental lack of knowledge or access to resources may have contributed to the youth's behavior.

South Carolina state law broadly defines incorrigible as "beyond control of parents." (63-19-20(9)). As a result, law enforcement has discretion when determining if a youth has engaged in unlawful behavior. An officer should consider documenting his or her contact and response in a form that does not refer the youth for prosecution when possible. Depending on the agency, this documentation may take different forms, such as a field interview card, an internal narrative, or a counsel, warn and release. In determining whether to refer the youth for prosecution, key points an officer should consider are listed below.

### *Determining if a Youth is Incorrigible*

- Is the problem solely due to the youth, or do other individuals or guardians contribute to this behavior?
- Does this behavior, although frustrating or annoying, fall within normal adolescent behavior?
- When did this behavior begin? Was there a precipitating event, or is this chronic incorrigible behavior?
- How often is law enforcement appropriately called for issues related to this youth? Does this appear to be an isolated event, or are calls regularly made?
- Has the family made attempts to address the behavioral issues without police involvement, such as formal or informal counseling, parenting support groups, or temporary care by another family member?
- Does the behavior appear to be the result of a mental health, developmental or substance abuse disorder? Is the behavior a result of a significant trauma history? If so, consider whether providing the family with information on treatment services would be a more appropriate course of action.

### *Responding to incorrigible calls*

When responding to a family in crisis due to incorrigible behavior, an officer should assess the safety of the situation before proceeding. If there is no physical safety risk to the officer or persons involved, the officer may be able to take steps to diffuse the situation and provide resources to the family without having to remove the youth from the home or charge the youth with an offense. If there is a concern of abuse towards the adolescent, the officer should take steps to place the youth in the emergency protective custody of the Department of Social

Services. An officer may use the following practices to improve outcomes when responding to families in crisis.

### **Practice Tips for Responding to Incurable Calls**

- Separate family members and allow them to vent. Listen and show empathy. When people are given time to tell their side of the story, and feel they are being listened to, they are more likely to accept an officer's decision.
- Ask if anyone in the family has a mental health, intellectual, or physical disability. Ask about medications or lack of medications that may have contributed to the situation.
- Set expectations for each member of the family, and the consequences for not complying. Explain what they need to do, why, and give them a time frame.
- Provide parents and guardians with parenting resources, and encourage the use of age-appropriate discipline, consistency, structure, and setting limits with adolescents.
- Provide guardians with community-based resources which may help their families, such as counseling referrals, mentor programs, and juvenile justice programs. Many families do not know where to turn for help and this step will put them in contact with professionals who can assist the families with addressing recurring problems.
- Recognize that youth deserve to be heard and may be as reliable a source as the guardian. Situations arise within families where guardians may react inappropriately or may want the youth removed from their home and as a result instigate situations. Officers should not appear to side with the guardian or the youth, but should remain an impartial professional when diffusing situations within families.
- Ask the guardian if they have sought assistance from the child's school for addressing the behavioral issues. If there is a school resource officer present in the child's school, consider sharing information about the incurable call with the SRO. Collaboration between SRO's and patrol officers can improve outcomes for youth and families.

**ASK ABOUT DISABILITIES**

**SET EXPECTATIONS FOR FAMILY MEMBERS**

**PROVIDE CONTACT INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

**REMAIN IMPARTIAL**

### *Identifying options*

If the officer is unable to diffuse the situation, it may be necessary to consider removing a person from the home to restore order. When possible, it is preferable for individuals to leave the home voluntarily and without the use of arrest or taking custody of a youth. If there is another responsible caregiving adult in the home, the adult involved in the conflict should be encouraged to temporarily leave the home and stay with a relative or friend. If the adult must remain in the home, the officer should assist the family in identifying a relative or friend where the youth can stay temporarily. If no options can be identified, the officer should contact the local Department of Juvenile Justice office to obtain a Short Term Alternative Placement (STAP) home for the youth, which may be a foster home or group home placement. This will avoid using a secure detention facility, while still diffusing the situation and ensuring everyone's safety.

### *Determining EPC vs. detention for incorrigible calls*

When responding to a family in crisis, the parent or guardian may urge officers to remove the youth from the home, or refuse to allow them to remain in the home, due to their behavior. A youth who is engaging in incorrigible behavior may still be the victim of abuse or neglect. An officer should not detain or take the youth into custody if there is underlying abuse or neglect in the home that is contributing to the youth's behaviors. In these situations, the officer may opt to take the youth into emergency protective custody or arrest the parent for abuse or neglect.

Emergency protective custody (EPC) refers to an officer's authority to place the youth in the custody of the Department of Social Services (DSS) for a temporary period of time to protect the youth from imminent danger under 63-7-620 and 63-7-630. An officer may take EPC of a youth without the permission of the youth's parent or guardian. An adult does not have to be charged with a criminal offense for the officer to take EPC of the youth or for DSS to become involved. If abuse is suspected, the officer should also refer the matter to the appropriate division of his or her agency for investigation. The officer should determine whether any other children in the house may also be in danger due to violence in the home.

### *Use of secure detention for an incorrigible youth*

With the use of detention, there is no assurance that the family will be assessed or receive any services. Detention is used for brief periods, which means the youth will return to the same environment with no changes made, thus rendering detention an ineffective solution to the problem. Detention is never an appropriate placement for a youth that an officer takes into EPC.

South Carolina law prohibits the detention of an incorrigible youth for longer than a 24-hour time period, or a 72-hour time period if a judge has issued a prior court order warning the youth of this possibility. 63-19-820(E). While the 72 hour time period excludes weekends and holidays, there is no such exception for the 24-hour time period. Unless a prior court order notifies the youth that further violation of the court's order may result in secure detention, the youth must be released from detention at the end of the 24-hour period, according to state law.

## **Running Away**

### *Determining offense of running away*

Adolescents who run away are often viewed as defiant and oppositional, and as asserting their independence. However, the reality is that youth who run away often have complex reasons for this behavior, which may include a history of sexual or physical abuse, neglect, mental health issues, and family dysfunction. LGBTQ youth are at higher risk to run away than heterosexual youth. Some families can't accept their child's sexual orientation and do not allow them to remain in the home, while other youth may be allowed to remain in the home but face difficulties due to lack of acceptance. The juvenile justice system may not be the appropriate means for addressing these underlying problems.

South Carolina law does not state what behavior amounts to running away, and does not give a length of time or distance requirement. Officers must enter any youth reported missing into the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). However, officers are not required to file a petition and charge the child as a runaway to do so. Before the determination to charge a youth with the offense of running away is made, the possibility that the youth may be running away to escape abuse, neglect or other harm should be considered.

It should be noted that if a youth has run away from another state, the officer should consult NCIC for the youth's status and additional information. Once the officer takes the youth into custody, either DSS or DJJ will handle the case, depending on the youth's situation.

### *Youth's history as given by others*

When responding to a report of a runaway, there is basic information that must be obtained, such as the last known location of the youth, the length of time they have been gone, and a physical description. However, other questions should be asked of persons making the report, such as:

- Does the runaway youth have a history of trauma, abuse, or neglect? This will guide the officer on how to approach the youth and consider trauma reactions to physical touch and authority figures.
- Does the runaway youth have a mental health diagnosis? Are they on medication? This will allow the officer to anticipate erratic behavior and use appropriate de-escalation techniques.
- Does the runaway youth have a substance abuse problem? If a youth appears to be under the influence of a substance, the officer should consider taking the youth to the emergency department of a hospital for an evaluation.
- Does the youth have a history of running away behavior?
- Is the youth at risk of sexual exploitation?

### *Running away from state custody*

Law enforcement may be asked to respond to situations where a youth in the custody of DSS or DJJ has run away from a foster home or group home placement. Law enforcement should first contact the appropriate state agency and speak with the case worker for the child, as they may be able to give background information and assist with de-escalation.

Foster parents or other providers working with DSS are instructed to contact law enforcement, then DSS, if a youth in their care runs away. DSS policy indicates that once a youth is located by law enforcement, law enforcement should contact DSS and the DSS case worker should pick up the youth. The DSS worker may ask for assistance from law enforcement officers if there are safety issues or concerns specific to the situation with the youth. If necessary, the DSS worker may initiate obtaining a pick-up order for the youth.

If a youth in DJJ custody runs away, law enforcement is to be notified immediately. Once the youth has been located, law enforcement should contact the DJJ office in the county where the youth resides to determine the appropriate place for law enforcement to transport the youth.

### *Youth's explanation of reason for leaving*

If the location of a runaway is reported and the youth is picked up, more information is needed to determine the most appropriate place to transport the youth. The officer should consider the need to take the youth to a children's advocacy center for a forensic interview. If the youth is not taken to an advocacy center, the officer should try to respectfully and patiently talk to the youth about circumstances that contributed to the runaway behavior, and what could be done to make them feel safer. If the youth is not willing to speak to the officer, the officer should find out if there is someone else the youth is willing to speak to about it. After gathering more information, an officer may determine that it may not be in the youth's best interest to return to their home. The officer should consider the following before transporting a youth home:

- Is there suspected abuse or neglect in the home?
- Does the youth appear fearful of returning home?
- Does the youth appear to be running to something or running away from something?
- Are there any signs that the youth may be engaging in prostitution/ sex-trafficking?
- Has the youth been victimized while on runaway status?
- Is the youth running away from a bad home life or from what he or she thinks is a bad home life?
- Is information given that warrants a report to the Department of Social Services?
- If there is conflict within the home, is there a relative or family friend that the youth can stay with temporarily?

If the officer suspects there may be abuse or neglect occurring, the officer should EPC the youth instead of returning them home. Although the youth may have committed an unlawful behavior by running away, detention should not be utilized as a runaway shelter and should not be used as a placement for youth who are victims of abuse or neglect.

If there are no concerns of abuse or neglect, and the youth does not want to remain in the home of their guardian, the officer should assist the family in identifying a relative or friend where the youth can stay temporarily until services can be put in place to assist the family. If no options can be identified, the officer should contact the local Department of Juvenile Justice office to obtain a Short Term Alternative Placement (STAP) home for the youth, which may be a foster home or group home placement. This will avoid using a secure detention facility, while still diffusing the situation and ensuring the safety of all parties.

### *Use of temporary secure detention for running away*

If the running away behavior is determined to be unlawful and is not the result of abuse or neglect, the officer may use temporary secure detention for the runaway youth as a last resort. South Carolina law prohibits the detention of a youth for the offense of running away for longer than a 24-hour time period, or a 72-hour time period if a judge has issued a prior court order warning the youth of this possibility. 63-19-820(E). While the 72-hour time period excludes weekends and holidays, there is no such exception for the 24-hour time period. Unless a prior court order notifies the youth that further violation of the court's order may result in secure detention, the youth must be released from detention at the end of the 24-hour period.

### **Trauma-Informed Response to Youth and Families**

Many youth who run away or engage in incorrigible behavior have experienced traumas during their lives. Trauma results from physical and emotional harm and impacts a person's functioning and well-being. Unaddressed trauma can result in mental health issues and unpredictable behaviors. Officers should consider responses that are trauma-informed in order to obtain cooperation from youth and family members and result in better outcomes.

#### **Signs of trauma include:**

- **Symptoms such as flashbacks, trembling, memory gaps, fear and anger.** While this may appear adversarial, uncooperative, or aggressive, it may be a result of triggering a memory of a previous trauma, which leads to a similar response to the new situation.
- **Acting hyper vigilant or in a state of arousal.** Trauma victims may show this response when they feel threatened.
- **Withdrawing or avoiding others.** People who have experienced trauma may "retreat" in order to feel safe, or have learned to be numb to scary situations. This may be misinterpreted as a sign that the person is not affected by the situation. A youth's use of drugs should also be considered in this context.
- **Distrust of authority figures, especially in youth.** Victims of trauma often have difficulty trusting others, and law enforcement officers will need to effectively relate to them and be able to ensure their safety before youth will begin to trust them.

## **Utilizing Community Resources**

### *Serving a youth's needs in a non-secure setting*

Removing the youth from the home for a short period of time only to place him or her back in the same home environment with the same stressors is unlikely to solve the underlying problems. While a youth in DJJ custody receives services, the family does not, and the home is the same when the youth goes back home. These youth and their families have counseling and services needs that should be addressed in order to stop the delinquent behavior. Introduction to the juvenile justice system and secure confinement may increase the chance that the youth will engage in more serious unlawful behavior. An officer should attempt to connect youth and families to services in the community instead of referring for prosecution when possible. Law enforcement agencies should be aware of community partners and familiar with how to access services so they can provide families with this information. In South Carolina, at a minimum, each county has the following:

- A local community mental health center operated by the Department of Mental Health. These centers provide individual and family counseling to youth, and may provide intensive in-home counseling services.
- A local drug and alcohol counseling center affiliated with the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, which can provide assessment, testing, and treatment services.
- A local Department of Juvenile Justice which can assist with making referrals and diverting youth who are at-risk of becoming involved with the juvenile justice system.
- A local Department of Social Services which can assist families struggling with abuse and neglect situations, and economic hardships.

Officers should also be familiar with other services, such as runaway shelters, mentor programs, and LGBT support services. See **Appendix A** for a list of community resources in your area, and **Appendix B** for a list of local and national resources.

## **Use of Temporary Secure Detention**

### *Secure detention for 24 hours*

As previously noted, South Carolina law prohibits the detention of runaway and incorrigible youth for longer than a 24-hour time period, or a 72-hour time period if a judge has issued a prior court order warning the youth of this possibility. 63-19-820(E). Before taking a status offender into detention, the responding officer should consider:

- Is there a risk of imminent harm to the youth, family member, or community?
- Is there a crisis counseling service available who can meet with the family?
- Is there a relative or friend who will allow the youth to stay in their home temporarily?
- If there is another adult in the home to care for the youth and other minors, will the guardian agree to leave the home temporarily?
- Can a Short-Term Alternative Placement (STAP) home be utilized through the Department of Juvenile Justice?

### *Use of detention risk assessment form by department*

Law enforcement agencies should consider using a screening tool to determine if it is appropriate to take a youth into detention. A screening tool allows for an objective decision, ensures consistency within departments, and helps protect the officer making the determination from complaints. **See Appendix C** for a sample detention risk assessment.

## **Utilizing Community Policing**

Community policing is an effective tactic for improving relationships with youth and families in a non-confrontational, non-emergency setting. When done properly, these interactions with youth will increase trust in and cooperation with law enforcement. When youth and families have positive relationships with law enforcement, incorrigible or run away situations may be resolved quicker due to improved information sharing and the family's willingness to comply with referrals and directives given by officers.

Law enforcement may engage in positive community policing by:

- Visiting parks to play sports or games with youth
- Attending neighborhood association meetings
- Eating meals or shopping in the community when not on duty
- Volunteering with schools or civic organizations in the community
- Attending community events, such as cookouts, festivals, and sporting events
- Following the 4 pillars of procedural justice in encounters with youth: voice, neutrality, respect and trust

## **Cultural Competency**

### *Culturally competent mindset*

Law enforcement officers should receive cultural competency training to assist them in understanding the cultural norms for roles within families, and understanding how families from differing cultures may view the role of children, the use of discipline, and parenting styles. It is also helpful for responders to keep in mind that a youth may develop survival skills in response to poverty, helplessness, and abuse to cope in one environment that may not translate well into another. Areas for specific training in cultural competency include:

- Effects of poverty on behavior
- Engaging with minority families
- Using community policing to build relationships with youth and minorities
- Cultural norms within specific populations
- Understanding the needs of LGBT youth

See **Appendix D** for a list of cultural competency resources, including free online trainings and webinars for law enforcement officers.

## **Partnering with Other Agencies**

Many youth who engage in behaviors related to status offense have treatment needs which will require the involvement of multiple agencies. Law enforcement can improve the outcomes for these youth by collaborating with other agencies, when appropriate. While the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act guidelines may limit information sharing, officers should make efforts to be familiar with the different child and family serving agencies in their community.

### *Meeting with solicitor and DJJ to determine criteria for case referral*

State law requires that final charging decisions in juvenile delinquency cases be made by the solicitor, aided by information from DJJ. 63-19-1010. Law enforcement agencies should meet with their circuit solicitor and local DJJ director so that they are on the same page regarding under what circumstances runaway and incorrigible cases are likely to be appropriate for prosecution.

### *Partnering with schools*

Schools often have school resource officers on site, who can complement the role of the patrol officers in the communities. Collaborating can result in locating runaway youth more quickly and an increased understanding of the needs of the youth and families. Schools often have student support services and resources which may assist law enforcement, such as school social workers, economic assistance programs, and a long-term relationship with youth and families.

### *Coordination with other agencies*

Law enforcement agencies may consider partnering with local child-serving agencies to address how each provider is handling families in crisis and understand how to make referrals for services. A coordinated response will provide a better outcome for families, as services can be accessed quicker and there is no duplication of services. Law enforcement agencies should consider having a meeting with individual agencies to discuss each provider's role, or a community roundtable can be used for everyone to meet and educate other agencies simultaneously.

At a minimum, the following stakeholders should be considered for such meetings:

- Family Court professionals, such as judges, solicitors, and public defenders: Law enforcement can receive input from judges and solicitors on guidelines for referring incorrigible and runaway youth to family court.
- Department of Juvenile Justice: Law enforcement and DJJ can work together to clarify the use of detention for status offenders, and gain an understanding of prevention and diversion services that DJJ has available for incorrigible youth and families in crisis.
- Department of Mental Health and Alcohol and Drug Treatment Providers: Consideration may be given to working with DMH community counseling centers to establish a protocol for law enforcement officers to give appointment times to families when responding to calls.
- Department of Social Services: Law enforcement offices can clarify roles and responsibilities in the use of EPC with children, and protocol for referring families in need of services to DSS.

## **Appendix A: Community Resources (Fill these in for your county)**

Community Mental Health Center (Department of Mental Health):

- Location:
- Phone number:

County Department of Juvenile Justice:

- Location:
- Phone number:

Department of Disabilities and Special Needs:

- Location:
- Phone number:

Department of Social Services:

- Location:
- Phone number:

Parent Support Organizations:

Mentor Programs:

Other Community Resources:

## **Appendix B: National and Local Resources**

### **Bullying- Resources for Youth**

- Bullying.gov: <https://www.stopbullying.gov/>
- National Center for Victims of Crime: <http://victimsofcrime.org/help-for-crime-victims/get-help-bulletins-for-crime-victims/bulletins-for-teens/bullying-and-harassment>

### **Domestic Violence- Resources for Victims**

- National Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-799-SAFE (1-800-799-7223) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY for deaf and disabled persons). <http://www.thehotline.org/>
- SC Domestic Violence Organizations by county: [http://www.scag.gov/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Domestic-Violence-Organizations-2011\\_1.pdf](http://www.scag.gov/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Domestic-Violence-Organizations-2011_1.pdf)

### **Human Trafficking- Resources for Law Enforcement Officers**

- National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline
  - o <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/>
  - o Call (1-888-373-7888), or text "BeFree" (233733) and immediately connect
- Polaris Project
  - o Potential human trafficking indicators: <http://www.stophumantraffickingmo.com/wp-content/uploads/potential-trafficking-indicators.pdf>
- Department of Homeland Security, Blue Campaign
  - o Potential human trafficking indicators: <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/indicators-human-trafficking>
  - o Additional resources: <https://www.dhs.gov/blue-campaign/share-resources>
- SC Attorney General
  - o <http://www.scag.gov/human-trafficking>

### **LGBT- Resources for Youth**

- Harriet Hancock LGBT Center of South Carolina: (803) 771-7713, <http://harriethancockcenter.org/>
- Staying Safe- Tips for LGBT Youth: <http://polarisproject.org/sites/default/files/Staying%20Safe.pdf>
- The Trevor Project: 866-488-7386, <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

### **Runaway and Homeless- Resources for Youth**

- The National Runaway Safeline: 1-800-RUNAWAY (786-2929), <http://www.1800runaway.org/>
- National Safe Place: Text the word SAFE and your location (address/city/state) to 69866 for help. <http://nationalsafeplace.org/safe-place-teens/>



## **Appendix D: Cultural Competency**

### Free Training Resources for Law Enforcement Officers

#### **The US Department of Justice**

- Online video trainings and webinars, available at: <https://it.ojp.gov/PrivacyLiberty/toolkit>, include:
  - o "The First Three to Five Seconds: Arab and Muslim Cultural Awareness for Law Enforcement"
  - o "Diversity Series: Religions, Cultures and Communities"
  - o "Asylum Seekers Overview"

#### **The Vera Institute of Justice**

- Police Perspectives Guidebooks, available at: <https://www.vera.org/publications/police-perspectives-guidebook-series-building-trust-in-a-diverse-nation>, include:
  - o "How to Increase Cultural Understanding"
  - o "How to Serve Diverse Communities"
  - o "How to Support Trust Building in Your Agencies"
- Police Perspectives: "Building Community Trust Blog Series" is available at: <https://www.vera.org/blog/police-perspectives>
- Video: "Trauma-Informed Policing" is available at: <https://www.vera.org/research/trauma-informed-policing>

#### **International Association of Chiefs of Police**

- Improving Law Enforcement Responses to Adolescent Girls, available at: <http://www.theiacp.org/Portals/0/pdfs/GenderBrief.pdf>

#### **TED Talks**

- How Childhood Trauma Affects Health Across a Lifetime, Nadine Burke Harris at TEDMED, available at: [https://www.ted.com/talks/nadine\\_burke\\_harris\\_how\\_childhood\\_trauma\\_affects\\_health\\_across\\_a\\_lifetime](https://www.ted.com/talks/nadine_burke_harris_how_childhood_trauma_affects_health_across_a_lifetime)
- The Mysterious Workings of the Adolescent Brain: Sarah-Jayne Blakemore at TEDGlobal, available at: [https://www.ted.com/talks/sarah\\_jayne\\_blakemore\\_the\\_mysterious\\_workings\\_of\\_the\\_adolescent\\_brain](https://www.ted.com/talks/sarah_jayne_blakemore_the_mysterious_workings_of_the_adolescent_brain)

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## **LAW ENFORCEMENT FOCUS GROUP**

**Amahl Bennett**, *DJJ Regional Administrator for the Midland Region*

**Captain Maryann Burgess**, *Aiken Department of Public Safety*

**Corporal Matthew Bramlett**, *Aiken Department of Public Safety*

**Lieutenant Gerald Cameron**, *SRO Unit Commander, Florence Police Department*

**Christian Covington**, *Charleston County Sheriff's Office*

**Celita Hastie**, *Richland One Social Work Services*

**Zina Harper**, *President, SC Association of School Resource Officers*

**Tacauma Lettson**, *Columbia Police Department*

**Matthew McGalliard**, *Charleston County Sheriff's Office*

**Lieutenant Rita Yarborough**, *SC Criminal Justice Academy*

## **TASK FORCE MEMBERS**

**Lori Chappelle**, *Conway Clinic Director, Waccamaw Center for Mental Health; SC Department of Mental Health*

**Aveene Coleman**, *Education Associate, Office of Student Intervention Services; SC Department of Education*

**Nicole Deems**, *Director, Lexington County Treatment Services; Lexington & Richland Alcohol & Drug Abuse Council*

**Max Dorsey**, *Treatment and Intervention Services; SC Department of Juvenile Justice*

**Gwynne Goodlett**, *Project Director, Palmetto Coordinated Systems of Care; SC Department of Health and Human Services*

**The Honorable David Guyton**, *Family Court Judge, Sixteenth Judicial Circuit*

**Terry Halupa**, *Intake Supervisor; Aiken County Department of Juvenile Justice*

**Zina Harper**, *President; SC Association of School Resource Officers*

**Zeta Hastings**, *Social Worker; Richland County School District One*

**Christina Hayes-Bradham**, *Regional Clinical Specialist; SC Department of Social Services*

**Elizabeth Hill**, *General Counsel; SC Department of Juvenile Justice*

**Sarah Hood**, *Mental Health Counselor, Juvenile Justice Program; Lexington County Community Mental Health Center*

**The Honorable Michelle Hurley**, *Family Court Judge, Fifth Judicial Circuit*

**Toni Kelly-Campbell**, *Coordinator, School Social Work and Attendance; Richland County School District One*

**Carole Krieger**, *Region Four Intensive Foster Care and Clinical Services Director; SC Department of Social Services*

**Janice Mosley-Boyd**, *Regional Clinical Specialist; SC Department of Social Services*

**Carmen Mulkey**, *Regional Clinical Specialist, Intensive Foster Care and Clinical Services; SC Department of Social Services*

**Joseph Oppermann**, *Attorney; Greenville County Department of Social Services*

**Whitney Payne**, *Assistant Solicitor, Family Court; York County Solicitor's Office*

**Craig Wheatley**, *Director of Research and Statistics; SC Department of Juvenile Justice*

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