

How to contact us...

Juvenile Probation Office

If you have questions about intake interviews, court hearings, supervision, or need to contact a Probation Officer, please use the Juvenile Probation Office numbers listed below:

MAIN OFFICE

30 East Court Street
Doylestown, PA 18901

PHONE: 215-348-6514
FAX: 267-885-1339

JPO Fiscal Office

If you have questions about support or medical insurance, please contact the Fiscal Office during business hours at 215-348-6514 or email jpofiscal@buckscounty.org

Court of Common Pleas

**JUVENILE
COURT
DIVISION**

Bucks County, PA



Hon. Jeffrey L. Finley
Administrative Juvenile Court Judge

Ted J. Rice
Chief Juvenile Probation Officer

OVERVIEW

Juvenile Courts have existed in this country for more than 100 years. They were established to provide a separate court for youthful offenders, offering treatment, rehabilitation, and privacy as an alternative to the adult criminal justice system.

Over the years, the philosophical mandate of the Juvenile Court has changed. In 1996, Pennsylvania made sweeping changes to its Juvenile Act, shifting the primary focus from merely the treatment of juvenile offenders, to a **“Balanced Approach”** that added the victim and the community as equal partners.

While treatment and rehabilitation of the juvenile offender is important to **Competency Development, Community Protection** and **Accountability** for victim losses is equally emphasized.

Your son or daughter has been referred to the Bucks County Juvenile Court for alleged acts of delinquent behavior, which would be crimes in the adult system. Due process rights given to juvenile offenders allow for legal representation at all proceedings. After an initial assessment, the Juvenile Court will determine a course of action that best satisfies the “Balanced & Restorative Justice” goals.

JUVENILE PROBATION

The day-to-day operation of the Juvenile Court is conducted by Juvenile Probation Officers who perform various functions. Initially, you will meet with an Intake Officer who will make an initial assessment to determine the

next course of action – diversion from court or court. The Intake Officer will handle the diversion contract or court process before handing the case off to a community supervision probation officer. Institution probation officers handle juveniles committed to residential or out-of-home placements. Upon completion of the residential programming, the community supervision probation officer will resume the juvenile’s reintegration back into the community.

All juveniles that reside within the county have a Youth Level of Service Assessment (YLS) to identify areas of risk that need to be addressed. When a juvenile’s case is sent to court, the identified YLS risk domains are addressed in the juvenile’s case plan. The case plan’s goal is to identify and prioritize the YLS domains that will have the greatest impact on future delinquent behavior as well as to connect the appropriate services to those risk areas and to ensure the proper dosage and intensity.

Throughout this process, juveniles will be expected to follow rules of supervision that will carry out the Balanced Approach goals of *competency development, community protection, accountability*. Examples of such rules include: remaining arrest free, curfews, drug testing, payment of restitution, community service, and participation in community- or residential-based rehabilitative services. The case plan also assists the juvenile and their families with the monitoring of their terms and conditions of pro-

bation supervision and their progress towards the completion of their goals.

FISCAL OFFICE

In an attempt to develop competencies in juvenile offenders, the court may order participation in a variety of rehabilitative services. Payment for such services is obtained from federal, state, and local funds. During the intake process, you will meet a member of the fiscal office to obtain required information allowing Bucks County to secure state and federal payment for such services. Periodically during the course of probation supervision you will be contacted by the fiscal office to update information.

Questions about any of these services should be directed to the fiscal office and not to the Probation Officer.