

**Services Offered by
The Whitfield County Juvenile Court**

PROBATION SERVICES

Probation is a legal status created by court order that permits a juvenile offender to remain in the community, subject to supervision by a probation officer, conditions and restrictions imposed by the court, treatment prescribed by the court, and revocation for any violation of the release conditions. The probation officer is the person responsible for the court-ordered investigation and community supervision of delinquent or status offenders.

TUTORIAL SERVICES

An after school tutorial program was established in October, 2006 in collaboration with Dalton Public Schools. The continuation of this after school tutorial program is expected to impact recidivism, school attendance and failure rates. This is the only after school tutorial available to Juvenile Court children in Whitfield County at the present time. Existing funding comes from a grant through the Children and Youth Coordinating Council. Academic failure is often associated with the beginning of delinquency and the escalation of serious offending, and interventions that improve a child's academic performance have been shown to reduce delinquency.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Anger Management:

The Whitfield County Juvenile Court offers juveniles the opportunity to attend anger management. At times it is required either by a probation officer or through a court order.

Therapy/Psychological Evaluations:

The court will obtain psychological evaluations on juveniles who exhibit a need for mental health services. These evaluations assist in the development of a supervision plan. Additionally, the psychologist provides consultation services to the Whitfield County Juvenile Court Staff on an as needed basis.

This intervention involves individual counseling services for six juveniles and one group counseling intervention for no more than ten juveniles. The counseling program is designed especially to target low-income juveniles that do not have insurance or Medicaid for which to receive counseling services in the community.

Those considered for the program are as follows:

1. Any female juvenile currently served by the Juvenile Court
2. Any female juvenile suffering from a diagnosed mental illness

Exclusions to the program include:

1. Any female juvenile diagnosed solely with a behavior disorder
2. Any female juvenile diagnosed with a psychotic disorder
3. Any female juvenile who does not openly consent for treatment

DIVERSION PROGRAMS

Shoplifting Prevention:¹

The Juvenile Court utilizes a unique program for juveniles who have been involved in shoplifting called the Youth Educational Shoplifting Program (**Y.E.S. Program**). The program, which is partly presented by juveniles themselves, includes everything a juvenile would ever want or need to know about shoplifting, so that he/she can make the best decisions for their life and their future. The Y.E.S. Program is currently used by over 10,000 juveniles each year nation wide.

Online Alcohol and Drug Education²

The Juvenile Court utilizes an online alcohol education course for teens 17 and younger. This course is offered by the court as an education tool and as a sanction for underage drinking violations (Underage Consumption), or a diversion from adjudication. The program can be completed at home reducing the unnecessary risk of teens socializing together in an alcohol education class.

Shorter alcohol interventions that provide feedback, emphasize personal responsibility, and offer several options for changing behavior can be much more effective than longer knowledge “only” classes.

Marijuana 101 is an online marijuana education course used by courts as a first intervention response to marijuana use or paraphernalia possession. The program includes the **e-TOKE** personalized marijuana self-assessment created by the **e-CHUG** team at San Diego State University.

All together the program consists of: 6 Interactive lessons taking about 3 hours to complete, Pre and Post Tests provide measurements of knowledge gains, sanction for misdemeanor marijuana violations, drug paraphernalia, 'In Your Opinion' exercises and a non-confrontational approach encourages self-reflection and change.

Marijuana 101 can be completed 24/7 from any Internet-connected computer. There's never an excuse for non-compliance. The student can review specific marijuana laws in the state of Georgia.

¹ Information obtained through the National Association for Shoplifting Prevention Website www.shopliftingprevention.org

² Information obtained through the 3rd Millennium Classrooms Website www.3rdmilclassrooms.com