



Respond Effectively When Young Children Get in Trouble

By Activating the Right Response Outside of the Court System

Kids are kids, and sometimes they get in trouble. To create safer communities in Kentucky, we must respond to children who get in trouble as early as possible and in the most effective way possible. Young children who get in trouble need interventions, yet the court system is not the place to address issues for little kids. The formal court process can be traumatic, negatively impact a child's development, and trap children in an increasingly difficult maze of problems.

Common-sense shifts in how the state responds when young children get in trouble would lead to safer communities and brighter futures for kids:

Involve families in solutions to keep children on track to becoming successful adults

Connecting the child and family to community services, rather than putting the child through the trauma of the court process, will put them on track to success more quickly. This response is more effective than the court process that can expose kids to trauma and disrupt their development and education.

Create safer communities by preventing children from getting in trouble later in life

The best solution addresses root causes and helps prevent children from getting into trouble later in life. The early experiences and environments of young children are closely tied to their families. Community services, such as mental health treatment for the child or parenting programs, would more effectively address the child's behavior and promote public safety.

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Create safer communities and keep kids on track to success by activating the right response outside of the court system when young children get in trouble.



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