

## **Juvenile Justice Commission**

### **Mission Statement**

The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals is committed to a juvenile justice system that promotes effective interventions that will enhance the likelihood of rehabilitation and behavior reform for those children involved in the court system. It is the Court's desire that West Virginia serve these youths and their families within a sound framework of public safety while providing guidance, structure and appropriate, evidence-based services. Circuit judges need to be confident that those youths whom they sentence are given, as a result of pre-petition, status or delinquency court proceedings, through academic services and rehabilitative programs, every opportunity for success after their confinement.

Therefore, the facilities and programs operated or managed by the West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services or the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources must, from time to time, be examined by the Court not only to ensure that the sentencing judges are very familiar with the environment into which they are ordering youth into out-of-home placements but also in order to ensure that these programs are appropriate and as effective as they can possibly be. In that manner, the adjudication system itself can be improved by providing more effective intervention at an early stage of juvenile delinquency. Through collaboration and communication between the Court, the Legislature, and the Executive agencies, West Virginia's investment of energy and resources into children who are in trouble will result in the best possible future for the State.

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