**POLK COUNTY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CENTER**

Offers Polk County residents several programs if they qualify as an alternative to the criminal justice system.

*Restorative Justice views crime as an act of harm against victims and the community as well as a violation of the law. It provides opportunities for victims, communities, offenders and the justice system to work together to identify and repair the harm caused by crime.*

**PROGRAMS:**

**Truancy**

Truancy Court Program is a joint effort between the Polk County Attorney’s Office, the Des Moines Public Schools and the Polk County District Court to reach the parents of truant children between the ages of 6-16 years before the filing of formal charges. These sessions are aimed at helping parents and students work out any existing problems so the student’s attendance can improve.

**Drug Court**

Intensive Supervision Drug Court Program (Drug Court) is a 15-month minimum (5-phase) program comprised of a team of representatives from the Fifth Judicial District System, Community Corrections Polk County Attorney’s office and the Treatment Community. The goal is to address substance abuse problems, which lead to criminal behavior, using a holistic approach. It is our position that criminal behavior will be decreased or eliminated when substance abuse is reduced or stopped, thus decreasing the need of jail/prison space.

**Youthful Offender Program (YOP)**

Youthful Offender Program uses a community approach to the rehabilitation of youthful offenders and is designed as an alternative for targeted offenders to divert them from prison sentences or ineffective probation sentences by providing programming in the areas needed. Admission into YOP is limited to defendants between the ages of 16-21 years of age who have been charged with their first felony offense(s) in adult court. Typically, the defendant must successfully complete the program by the age of 22.

**Intra Family Sex Abuse Program (IFSAP)**

Intra Family Sex Abuse Program is a joint effort between the Polk County Attorney’s Office, Polk County Crisis and Advocacy, and the Iowa Department of Correctional Services’ Fifth Judicial District’s Sex Offender Treatment Program (SOTP). Defendants must volunteer to participate in IFSAP, be approved for participation by the Polk County Attorney’s Office, and be admitted into IFSAP by the Fifth Judicial District.

**Neighborhood Mediation**

Mediation is a confidential and “out-of-court” procedure, which gives parties involved in a dispute a chance to meet and, with the help of a mediator, reach a resolution or agreement.

**Civilian Intake**

This division works with citizens who believe a crime has been committed against them. Citizens can access this service only after they have notified the appropriate law enforcement agency who, for whatever reason, have not filed a criminal charge against the suspect.

**License Reinstatement Program (LRP)**

License reinstatement Program is to enable participants to pay monthly, past due court obligations and obtain and maintain a valid driver’s license. If the County Treasurer has a hold on their tag renewal because of the non-payment of fines, that hold can be lifted upon execution of a payment plan.

**Collections**

Voluntary payment plans and wage assignments are for those that do not qualify for LRP or who have court debt that is not traffic related. Staff will assist setting up a payment plan to get them off probation and their vehicle(s) registered.

Collections for Victim Restitution for Polk County victims who have been victimized by a crime, restitution has been ordered but payments are not being made.

**Juvenile and School Mediations**

Mediation is a voluntary, informal, and *confidential* meeting which allows School personnel, students and parents involved in a dispute a chance to discuss the issues and, with the help of a professional mediator, reach a resolution or agreement. Mediation can be used in almost any situation.

**Child Welfare Mediations**

Child Welfare Mediation, assists parents and other involved adults in developing cooperative solutions for children and families, without filing a CINA petition.

**Victim Offender Dialog (VOD) (formerly VORP)**

Victim Offender Dialog offers crime victims the opportunity to confront offenders in a controlled setting with the assistance of a trained facilitator. Participation in VOD is always voluntary for the victim. The meetings can take place with the actual victim of the crime or a surrogate community member.

**Juvenile shoplifting**

Juvenile shoplifting diversion program is for youth involved with the juvenile court system that meet with a facilitator, program staff and an individual from a volunteering business within the community to hear the impact Theft has on the community as a whole.

**Juvenile Fire Diversion**

Juvenile Fire diversion program is to enable youth to understand the costs and dangers that exist with fire starting behavior by choosing better options besides fire-starting, youth will meet with a fire Chief and complete some form of restitution that is mutually decided upon during a mediation with the chief.