

What's Happening in Juvenile

Bill Prince, Chief JO
31st Judicial Circuit

Some Statistics – Abuse and Neglect

- ▶ As of Thursday, June 30, 2026:
 - ▶ We had 785 children in alternative care
 - ▶ We have 13 DJOs carrying those cases with an average caseload of 60 cases
 - ▶ 53% of those youth were under the age of nine years
 - ▶ 77.5% of those children are White
 - ▶ 51% of those children are male and 49% are female
 - ▶ Reasons for care are all over the map

.

Some Statistics –Abuse and Neglect

- ▶ Outcomes:

- ▶ 52.3 % reunification; 23.4% adoption; 17.1% guardianship; 4.5% independence; 2.7 other outcomes

Shout out to “Preservation Court” Program

Some Statistics – Law/Status

- ▶ Currently 17 youth in detention: variety of charges ranging from first degree murder to 4th degree assault.
- ▶ SPD is biggest referral source followed by School Police, the GCSO, the Children's Division and parental referrals.
- ▶ We generally receive over 2000 referrals each year for law/status matters.
- ▶ We are able to divert roughly 60% of those away from deep-end court involvement.
- ▶ Property crimes and assaultive behavior tend to make up a significant portion of the referrals we receive.

House Bill 2637 – Effective 8/28/2026

- ▶ Changes the process by which a youth can be certified to stand trial as an adult.
- ▶ Expands the number of offense for which a Motion to Dismiss to Allow Prosecution Under the General Law must be considered
- ▶ Changes the scoring calculations for the JDTA form – the tool used by juvenile offices to assess whether or not a youth should be detained pending their hearing.

What's Going on at GCYA

- ▶ Evolution of GCYA
- ▶ Moving away from a day treatment/school- based modality to a clinical services/intervention modality due to increased need and lack of services in the community for the youth and families we serve.
- ▶ New space, new programs.

Questions?

