

Notice to Parents and Guardians

As a part of the Department of Juvenile Justice's (DJJ) mission to serve the youth and families of Georgia, we request that each child charged with a delinquent or unruly offense complete a questionnaire. This questionnaire acts as a guide to determine if the child is in need of mental health or other counseling services. The questionnaire that is used is called the Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument (MAYSI-2). It is a brief self-report screening tool for use with youth to identify signs of mental/emotional disturbance. If you would like to receive a copy of the questionnaire, please ask a DJJ employee and they will be happy to provide you with one.

After your child completes the questionnaire, it is scored by a DJJ employee. This person will review the responses provided. If the responses indicate that your child may benefit from services or exhibits a crisis, the DJJ employee will make a referral to a local mental health provider or Crisis hotline. You are not required to accept services offered or referred. It is your right to refuse services offered unless you are under a court order to do so.

National studies show that many children have charges filed in juvenile court because they either have not been identified as having mental health needs or have not been able to access the services they need. This process is designed to make it easier for you to connect with services.