



Vigo County Juvenile Justice Center Orientation Letter

Welcome to the Vigo County Juvenile Justice Center (VCJJC). You have been brought here because you are accused of committing a Delinquent Act - something that would be considered a crime if committed by an adult. The VCJJC is a secure holding facility for youth ages 12 to 17 years of age while their case is reviewed by the court.

Vigo County JDAI Purpose of Detention Statement:

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Vigo County will use secure detention when the benefits to public safety outweigh the dangers of detention to youth. Vigo County will only use secure detention for the length of time necessary to ensure public safety, youth safety, and future court appearances.

Your First 48 Hours

Within 48 hours of intake (not counting weekends or holidays), the Intake Probation Officers will review your case. They can:

- Set a release date.
- Assign you to a probation officer.
- Hold you for a Detention Hearing before the court.

If you are detained longer than 48 hours, you will attend a Detention Hearing. At the hearing, your Probation Officer, parent or legal guardian, and/or attorney will be present. The Juvenile Magistrate (Judge) will decide whether there is reason to believe (called probable cause) that you committed the act you were charged with. The Judge will then decide if you will stay in detention or be released.

Your Intake Process

When you arrive, the staff will:

- Collect your personal property for safekeeping.
- Make a written inventory of all clothing, property, and valuables.
- Have you reviewed and signed the inventory list?
- Store your items securely until your release.

Staff will also collect personal and medical information during intake to understand your needs and ensure your safety while you are here.

Your Responsibilities

Your responsibilities are simple:

- Follow all rules and staff directions immediately.
- Treat everyone with respect - staff, teachers, and other residents.
- Attending school every day- it is required, not optional.
- Show respect to teachers, counselors, and volunteers, who are here to help you.
- Use good judgment and make choices that will help you move forward.

Our goal is to help you succeed - both while you are here and after you leave.

Rules and Consequences

If you commit a new crime while in detention, you may face additional charges under Indiana law. Acts such as Battery, Theft, or Intimidation against staff or other youth will not be tolerated and may result in additional criminal charges.

Your attitude and behavior will directly affect your privileges and daily rewards. Staff will keep a daily observation log to document both positive and negative behaviors. This information is shared with your Probation Officer, attorney, and the Juvenile Magistrate.

Your Rights and Handbook

You have the right to know the rules, procedures, and your legal rights while at VCJJC. The Resident Handbook explains everything in detail - including expectations, privileges, and disciplinary actions.

If you do not understand something in the handbook, ask a staff member for help. We are here to answer your questions and support you throughout your time at VCJJC.

We encourage you to make the most of your time here. Choose positive behavior, follow the rules, and use this opportunity to make better decisions for your future.

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