



# PENNSYLVANIA JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Newsletter of the Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges' Commission

Volume 30, Number 10

October 2019

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION REMAINS OPEN

Registration for the 2019 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice will remain open until midnight, November 4, 2019. Please visit [www.jcjc.pa.gov](http://www.jcjc.pa.gov) to register for this event. In addition to the engaging plenary sessions previously highlighted in the newsletter, **fourteen separate training workshops will be held on Thursday, November 7, 2019.**

The workshops this year will highlight programs, practices, and initiatives that address trauma and related issues, or that exemplify best-practices related to the various components of Pennsylvania's Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). Offerings will be repeated in both the morning and afternoon sessions for conference participants.

### THE WORKSHOPS INCLUDE:

- Identifying Effective Trauma-Informed Services for Delinquent Youth
- Improving Outcomes for Youth Returning to the Community from Residential Placement: Pennsylvania's Second Chance Act Project
- Creating a Space for Mindfulness and Self-Care for Juvenile Justice Professionals
- A Guide to Social Media Safety for Juvenile Justice Professionals
- The SPEP™ Informed Training Curriculum
- How Probation Officer Safety Fits into a JJSES World
- A Conversation on the Sexual Health Concerns of Justice Involved Youth
- The Dynamics of Empowering Youth to Overcome Addiction
- Building Cooperative Partnerships between Juvenile Prosecutors and Defenders
- Effective Media Relations for Juvenile Courts and Juvenile Probation Departments
- Becoming an Autism Behavioral Detective
- Implementing Evidence-Based Trauma Services for Victims of Child Sexual Exploitation
- Advancing Strategies to Combat Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System
- Advancing System Collaboration for Dually Involved Youth

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### Send us your Juvenile Justice Week Activities!

If you have held Juvenile Justice activities in your county recently, email us at [ra-oajcnews@pa.gov](mailto:ra-oajcnews@pa.gov) and we'll feature them in a future issue.

# JCJC WELCOMES NEW DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND GRANT PROGRAMS



The Juvenile Court Judges' Commission (JCJC) is pleased to announce Angel Stewart joined the staff on September 30, 2019 as Director of Administration and Grant Programs. In this role, she will be responsible for the administration of the annual JCJC Juvenile Probation Services Grant program and will provide advice to juvenile court judges and chief juvenile probation officers among many other activities.

Ms. Stewart has been employed as a juvenile probation officer over the past eleven years working in Dauphin County Juvenile Probation between 2008 and 2012 and, most recently, with the Cumberland County Juvenile Probation Department. She is a certified facilitator of the National Curriculum Training Institute (NCTI) Crossroads curriculum as well as an EPICS coach.

Ms. Stewart is a member of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Committee (JJDPC) with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) and fills the role of co-chair to the JJDPC Diversion Subcommittee. Additionally, Ms. Stewart is an Adjunct Instructor at Messiah College where she teaches various Criminal Justice courses including Juvenile Delinquency, Restorative Justice, and Corrections.

Ms. Stewart graduated from Messiah College in 2007 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice and Sociology. She participated in the JCJC Graduate Education Program at Shippensburg University where she earned her Master's Degree in Administration of Justice in 2015. She can be reached at 717-783-7835 and [angstewart@pa.gov](mailto:angstewart@pa.gov).

## TECHNOLOGY CORNER

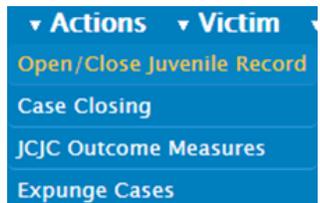
### Juvenile "Open for Maintenance"

In PaJCMS, once a juvenile is closed, new items cannot be added to that juvenile's record – they may only be edited. For example, you are unable to add a new case or disposition to a closed juvenile. If a situation arises where this is required (like to fix an error on your stat eval report), PaJCMS gives you the ability to open a juvenile temporarily to add what is needed without opening and closing a new juvenile history record.

To accomplish this, be sure you are viewing a juvenile whose record is already considered closed as indicated by the following red banner at the top of the Juvenile Face Sheet:

**Record is closed (or associated with a closed Juvenile or Case Record)**

From here, click the "Actions" dropdown on the top menu and select "Open/Close Juvenile Record."



On the Open/Close Juvenile Record screen, you will see one or more juvenile history records listed in the table at the top of the page. Each of the closed records have an "Open for Maintenance" link to the right. Clicking on this link will set that juvenile history record to a status of "Maintenance," which will then allow you to add what is necessary until you return and click the "Close Maintenance" link on the same screen.

While the juvenile is open for maintenance, you will see the following green banner displayed at the top of each page: **The Inactive Juvenile has been Opened for Maintenance**

Once the user is finished adding all necessary information, be sure to click "Close Maintenance." Please note, only one juvenile history record per juvenile can be open for maintenance at a time and opening any record for maintenance will automatically close any others that have not been closed for maintenance.

## SIX COUNTIES SEND JUVENILE PROBATION STAFF TO BE TRAINED TO INTERPRET THE SPEP™

JJSES Stage 3 SPEP™ activity continues to expand as additional probation staff are trained to understand how the SPEP™ can benefit their decision making. On October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019, sixteen juvenile probation staff from Adams, Lancaster, Pike, Schuylkill, Washington, and Westmoreland Counties participated in the first statewide SPEP™ Informed Training held on campus at Penn State University.

The half-day SPEP™ Informed Training was developed to enable probation staff to gain a better understanding of how SPEP™ is affecting the services they utilize. SPEP™ Informed Training enables probation staff to:

- *Interpret* SPEP™ research findings and implications to inform recommendations for dispositional hearings in terms of risk, need, and responsivity factors.
- *Explain* this information to judges, district attorneys, public defenders, placement liaisons, and community-based providers.
- *Make more specific recommendations* to the Court which match dosage and duration targets outlined in the research. This will assist communication with families in understanding length of stay or assigned weeks in community-based services.
- *Understand* service provider needs as the alignment between juvenile probation and the service provider becomes clear.
- *Decide* if they want to attend the SPEP™ Level 1 training to administer the SPEP™ in their area.

Currently, eighteen Counties have staff trained as Level 1 SPEP™ Specialists (to create SPEP™ Scores), five counties have staff trained as Level 2 SPEP™ Trainers, and eight counties have staff trained as SPEP™ Informed. **SPEP™ Informed Training workshops will be offered at the 2019 James E. Anderson Pennsylvania Conference on Juvenile Justice.** SPEP™ Informed Training can also be facilitated in individual probation departments or regionally upon request. For more information about the SPEP™ Informed Training or inviting this training to your area, please contact Shawn Peck at [smp31@psu.edu](mailto:smp31@psu.edu).



Pictured from left to right in front row: Lisa Freese, (EPISCenter – Level 3 Master Trainer), Chandelle Catrone (Lancaster), Ashley Woolweaver (EPISCenter), Second row: Christina Munshower (Washington), Addie Bertram (Washington), Kylie Garner (Washington), Monica Baronick (Washington), Nick Davidson (Washington), Susan Strenske (Westmoreland), Ashley Deyell (Washington), Patrick Bonner (Washington), Shannon O’Lone (EPISCenter), Christa Park (EPISCenter), Third row: Shawn Peck (EPISCenter – Level 3 Master Trainer), Dawn Hooton (EPISCenter), Kevin Perluke (EPISCenter), Tim Munley (Schuylkill), Michael McCartin (Lancaster), Daniel Wilson (Pike), Jeff Angradi (Pike), Dan Reck (Adams), Bill Shultz (Allegheny – Level 2 Trainer), Jason Kozar (Washington), Gale Kendall (Adams), and Sue Christner (Lebanon – Level 2 Trainer).

## COUNTY SPOTLIGHT

### WELCOME CHIEF ANDREW BENNER CUMBERLAND COUNTY



On September 4, 2019, Andrew “Andy” Benner was appointed as Cumberland County’s Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, after serving as transitional Chief since July 21, 2019. Andy replaces Samuel E. Miller Jr., who retired on September 3, 2019.

Andy received his bachelor’s degree in Criminal Justice/Sociology with a Psychology minor from Moravian College in 1997. He went on to obtain his master’s degree in Administration of Justice through the Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission’s Graduate Education program at Shippensburg University in 2002. Andy began his career in the juvenile justice field as a teacher/counselor at Bowling Brook Preparatory School in Keymar, MD in January 1998. In November 1998, he was hired by the Cumberland County Juvenile Probation Department where he served as a school-based/community-based juvenile probation officer in the Carlisle Area School District until he was promoted to a supervisor position in June 2014.

As a supervisor, Andy was integral to the implementation of evidenced-based practices and the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES) in Cumberland County. Throughout his career, Andy has been recognized as a leader within the Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice System. He began working with the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers in 2015 as Co-Chair of their Technology Committee and currently serves as a member of the Executive Committee. Andy expanded his involvement with the Chief’s Council as Co-Chair of their Graduated Responses Workgroup in 2018 and most recently as Co-Chair of their Provider Subcommittee. As a newly appointed Chief, Andy is excited to collaborate with other leaders in the juvenile justice field as they support the mission of Pennsylvania’s Juvenile Justice System in the years to come.

**Registration Still Open!!**

Click this banner or visit:

<https://www.jcjcjems.state.pa.us/CPS/ConferenceDefault.aspx> to register.

# JOIN US!

*Harrisburg Hilton  
and Towers*  
**NOVEMBER  
6-8, 2019**

*2019 James E. Anderson*  
**PENNSYLVANIA  
CONFERENCE  
ON JUVENILE JUSTICE**

# PENNSYLVANIA'S 2018 JUVENILE COURT ANNUAL REPORT

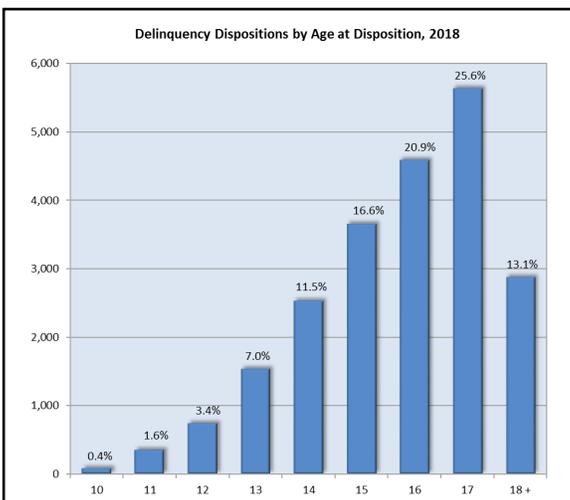
## Juvenile Demographics - Gender, Age, and Educational Status

As we continue with the series of newsletter highlights on the Pennsylvania 2018 Juvenile Court Annual Report, this issue examines the gender, age, and educational status of juveniles who were active with Pennsylvania Juvenile Justice in 2018.

Juvenile Court dispositions in Pennsylvania continue to primarily involve males. While the number of total dispositions decreased from 2017 to 2018, in both years the distribution of dispositions by gender was relatively consistent,

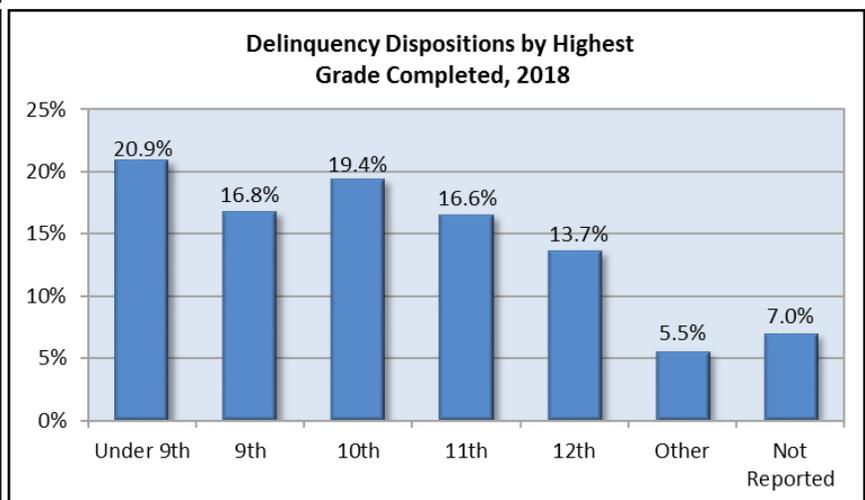
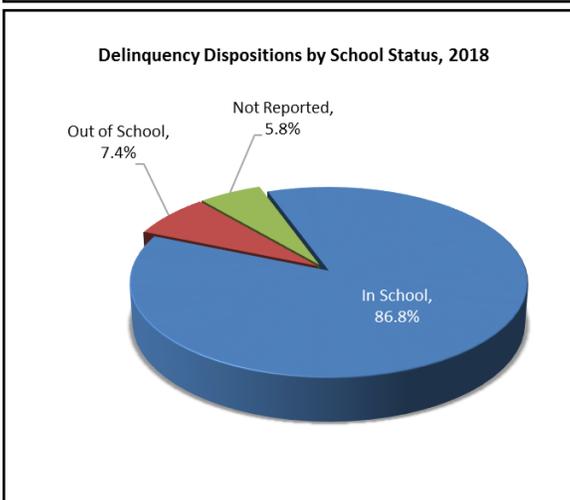
74.0% male and 26.0% female in 2017, compared to 74.6% male and 25.4% female in 2018. As reflected in the chart above, the proportion of males receiving delinquency dispositions related to new allegations of delinquency increases as the disposition type becomes more restrictive.

SELECTED DISPOSITIONS	TOTAL	MALE	FEMALE
Transferred to Criminal Proceedings	62	95.2%	4.8%
Placement	1,373	88.3%	11.7%
Probation	3,692	81.3%	18.7%
Consent Decree	4,865	73.9%	26.1%
Informal Adjustment	3,623	67.0%	33.0%
All Dispositions	22,023	74.6%	25.4%



Seventeen-year-olds accounted for 5,639 (25.6%) of all juvenile delinquency dispositions in 2018, representing the most dispositions for any age group. Juveniles aged 16 accounted for 4,593 (20.9%), while 15-year-olds accounted for 3,656 (16.6%) of the dispositions.

The vast majority (86.8%) of delinquency dispositions in 2018 reflected youth who were reported as “In School” at the time of disposition. Seventy-two percent of youth were reported as having completed grades 9, 10, 11, or 12, or as being in an “Other” educational program.



County-specific data on juvenile demographics can be found in the appendices of the [Pennsylvania 2018 Juvenile Court Annual Report](#).

# 2019 JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK EVENTS

## Chester County

### Chester County Juvenile Justice Honors Change, Constants

Reprinted with permission by Daily Local News  
Michael P. Rellahan



President Judge Jacqueline Carroll Cody, center, administers oaths of office to four new Juvenile Probation Officers at ceremonies in the Chester County Justice Center last week.

**10/14/19, WEST CHESTER** — Change can be good, but some consistency can't hurt.

That was a message delivered at the Chester County Juvenile Justice Recognition Ceremony held Thursday in stately Courtroom One of the Justice Center. Honors and recognition were bestowed on both county Juvenile Probation officers and their charges as a full courtroom watched.

The personification of the change/consistency standard appeared in the form of Mary Lynn Bolla, the 32-year-veteran of the department who was initially supervised by the man in whose honor the Juvenile Probation Award — which she was given — was named: the late George M. Bratcher III.

Bolla, of Kennett Square, has been a constant presence in the office to whom young offenders can turn for supervision and guidance, but is also someone who has embraced the changes that the juvenile justice system in Pennsylvania has seen in the past decade.

"It feels everything has come full circle accepting this award," said Bolla in her remarks after being introduced as the award winner by Juvenile Probation Supervisor Brandy Wolfe. The daughter of a former state police trooper, the late Gabriel Bolla, she recalled Bratcher as being a generous and patient supervisor.

"I walked into Juvenile Probation as a shy 23-year-old who was very nervous," she said. "People always ask me how I have stayed here as long as I have. Part of it is the success stories, but also the connections.

"The kid who is the first in his family to graduate and wants to get his picture taken with his (probation officer) after graduation. The ones who stop you on the street years later and say 'Hi.' And honestly, even the ones that are incarcerated and who call collect to talk to you."

Chief Probation Officer Don Corry opened the ceremony by praising all those in the office, from supervisors to probation officers to staff, and then by reciting the litany of new procedures and programs that the office has put in place over the years.

He indicated that the task of juvenile probation has grown from being simple monitors who checked in with offenders on a semi-regular basis but who were unlikely to engage them on a deep level, to supervisory confidants who now help the offenders navigate the tricky waters of modern society.

There are new review procedures he said, motivational discussions, and frequent interactions not only with those youths who have committed violent offenses, but also those who have simply made youthful mistakes that need adjustments.

"It's a heck of a lot of a different job than when I started," Corry said in his remarks.

Noting the constancy was President Judge Jacqueline Cody Carroll, who said that her thoughts of what Juvenile Probation officers brought to their job was the sense of tact — the art of sensitivity in dealing with others in difficult situations.

# 2019 JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK EVENTS

“In a world that is so busy and where people just want to talk louder than the next person,” the juvenile probation officers approached their jobs over the years treating offenders with grace, skill and strength.

“That is one of the reasons for your success,” Cody said, as fellow Common Pleas Judge Allison Bell Royer looked on. “You are not trying to blame them into submission, or excuse their behavior. You are showing sensitivity that comes from the heart.”

One of the success stories on hand Friday was Sarah Weir of Parkesburg, whose case was overseen by the department in her late teen years but who was given the Juvenile Court’s “Good Choices” award. A victim

of substance abuse, Weir had landed in residential placement but worked hard to show that the “youthful mistakes” she had made would not define her, her probation officer, Jamayra Vega, said in introducing her.

She graduated high school, is now working at Brandywine Hospital, and is on her way to entering college to work on a degree in criminal justice. “She is a true example of resiliency,” Vega said.

Weir expressed gratitude for the award, but also for the help she had received from the office. “I never thought I would make it this far,” she said. “If it were not for Juvenile Probation and Jamayra, I probably would not be here right now.”



Pictured from left: Mary Lynn Bolla, recipient of the George M. Bratcher, III Probation Officer of the Year award; Don Cory, Chief Probation Officer.



New POs - standing, from left: Avery Barnes, Lina Torres, Tyeisha Watson, and Jeff Nash. Seated behind, from left, are Judge Allison Bell Royer and President Judge Jacqueline Cody.



Chester County Juvenile Probation staff with the results of one of their wellness activities; a pumpkin making craft.



POs being honored for Years of Service - from left: James Wiggins, 20 years; Joe Hartzell, 10 years; Joe Frankenstein, 10 years; and Shane McLaughlin, 5 years.

# 2019 JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK EVENTS

## Montgomery County

### Montgomery County Celebrates Juvenile Probation Appreciation Day

Montgomery County celebrated Juvenile Justice Week on October 8<sup>th</sup> with a Juvenile Probation Officer Appreciation Day. The day began with a continental breakfast served by the Management Team. After the probation officers enjoyed their breakfast, a staff meeting was held to “kick-off” the scheduled activities for the day.

Administrative Juvenile Court Judge Demchick-Alloy began the day’s events by providing a few comments and thanking everyone for their professionalism, thoughtfulness and caring attitude towards their clients, families, and the community. Following the Judge’s opening comments, she proceeded to present the Probation Officer of the Year Award to Chris Rhoad. Chris supervises one of the most difficult populations, sex offenders, on a daily basis. He consistently approaches his caseload with the attitude of improving the lives of the juveniles and families we serve in Montgomery County.

Following the award presentation, there were numerous team-building activities and a lunch provided to the probation team. The events for the day ended with a scavenger hunt and scarecrow building contest.

A fun day was had by all!



Pictured above, from the left: Catherine Zalenski, Deputy Chief; Michael Yoder, Chief; Christopher Rhoad, PO of the Year Winner; Robert Smith, Sex Offender Supervisor.

Pictured to the left: Angel Cobbold posing as a scarecrow.

# 2019 JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK EVENTS

## Philadelphia County

### Family Court Celebrates Juvenile Justice Week

October 6-12, 2019 marked Juvenile Justice Week in the State of Pennsylvania. As part of the week's activities to celebrate juvenile justice, a ceremony at Family Court was held to acknowledge staff contributions that have produced successful outcomes for youth and families in the City of Philadelphia.



Administrative Judge Margaret Murphy, Supervising Judge Walter Olszewski, and Chief of Probation Services Faustino Castro-Jimenez addressed the dedicated staff of the Juvenile Probation Department at the State of Probation and Award Ceremonies. The ceremony highlighted the 2019 successes, upcoming initiatives, staff awards, and the swearing in of nine Probation Officers. The ceremony was followed by an appreciation lunch for staff in recognition of Juvenile Justice Week.

On October 9th, 2019, a friendly Basketball Event was held at a local community center. The event featured youth players from the community provider leagues against Philadelphia Juvenile Probation Officers. Resource tables were available to the com-

munity such as: health education, Autism Research Project, and job placement. It was a great opportunity to engage our youth and the community.



### 2019 Award Winners

Left to right: Faustino Castro-Jimenez, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer; Probation Officer of the Year - JPO Brandy Ellerbee; Merit Award - Sup. Gerald Kelly; Supervisor of the Year - Sup. Tamyra Tutt.

# STAFF DEVELOPMENT HIGHLIGHTS

## CHIEFS COUNCIL AND JCJC HOLD CASE PLAN FORUM

The Case Plan Committee of the Pennsylvania Council of Chief Juvenile Probation Officers in partnership with the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission facilitated the second Case Plan Forum on October 2, 2019 in State College, PA. A robust audience of 128 juvenile justice professionals representing 50 different Pennsylvania counties (75% of counties) attended the event. The workshop, primarily for county-based case plan coordinators and management, aimed to share new information and resources, as well as exchange ideas related to the practice of case planning.

Following opening remarks made by Case Plan Committee Co-Chairs, Beth Fritz, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer in Lehigh County, and Leo Lutz, JCJC's Director of Policy and Program Development, the forum's facilitators set the tone for the day with a discussion on the interconnectivity of activities contained in the framework of the Juvenile Justice System Enhancement Strategy (JJSES). A definition for the term interconnectivity was offered (see text box) followed by discussion of

### INTERCONNECTIVITY IN EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES

EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICES OPERATE AS AN INTEGRATED NETWORK, WHERE ALL ELEMENTS INTERACT AND RELY ON EACH OTHER TO ENHANCE THE ABILITY OF OUR JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM TO ACHIEVE ITS BALANCED AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MISSION.

how activities such as case planning, motivational interviewing, graduated responses, family involvement, YLS Assessments, and EPICS must be tied together in order to realize improved outcomes related to risk-reduction.

The forum's agenda focused on providing attendees information related to:

- Clarifying the role of the Case Plan Coordinator
- Case plan policy reminders
- Effective case plan development
- Differentiating the case plan document vs. the process of case planning
- Incorporating case planning into supervision
- Developing protocols for continuous quality improvement in case planning

In order to facilitate brainstorming and discussion related to effective booster trainings, the forum included a breakout session, which gave participants the opportunity to consider the fundamental components of a well-developed case plan. Frequently asked questions were also discussed and fleshed out as the openness of the forum invoked discussion. Perhaps the most important take away from the forum was that case planning is not a checklist of items on a piece of paper or in an internet database. Rather, quality case planning is a sophisticated skill that must be learned and intentionally practiced by juvenile justice professionals.

## November

20-21 Probation Officer Well-Being: Strategies for Safe Working Environments  
State College

Registration available at  
[www.jcjcems.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjcems.state.pa.us)





# NATIONAL JUVENILE JUSTICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements are reprinted from JUVJUST, an OJJDP news service:

## OJJDP LAUNCHES REDESIGNED WEBSITE

Today, OJJDP launched its redesigned website at a new web address: [ojjdp.ojp.gov](http://ojjdp.ojp.gov). The redesigned website offers a modern look and feel, enhanced technology, and a more user-friendly experience on mobile devices.

The OJJDP website now features state-of-the-art search capabilities, updated site navigation, and a simplified layout. New content includes a [state support page](#), expanded [funding information](#), and a [multimedia page](#) that includes video messages from the OJJDP Administrator, recorded webinars, training, and more.



### RESOURCES:

- Email feedback about the new OJJDP website to OJJDP's [Web Content Manager](#).
- Access the site at the new web address: [ojjdp.ojp.gov](http://ojjdp.ojp.gov)

## NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR 2020 NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' SERVICE AWARDS

The [Office for Victims of Crime](#) is now accepting nominations for the 2020 [National Crime Victims' Service Awards](#) to recognize individuals, teams, programs, and organizations who demonstrate outstanding achievements in supporting victims and victim services. Award recipients will be honored at the National Crime Victims' Service Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C. Nominations are due by October 9, 2019.



### RESOURCES:

- [Submit a nomination online.](#)

## OJJDP ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN'S DAY AWARDS

Each year, the U.S. Department of Justice, through OJJDP, recognizes individuals, organizations, and agencies that have made a difference in recovering missing and abducted children and protecting children from exploitation. The Department recognizes the awardees each May at the annual [National Missing Children's Day](#) ceremony in Washington, DC. Access the nomination forms for the 2020 Annual National Missing Children's Day awards online:



- [Missing Children's Law Enforcement Award](#)
- [Missing Children's Citizen Award](#)
- [Missing Children's Child Protection Award](#)
- [Attorney General's Special Commendation](#)

The exemplary actions of the individual or organization nominated for an award must have taken place between January 1 and November 14, 2019. The deadline for nominations is November 14, 2019.

### RESOURCES:

- [View the 2020 National Missing Children's Day Award packet](#) for nomination guidelines.
- [Email](#) questions to the National Criminal Justice Training Center or call (877) 798-7682.
- [Learn](#) more about National Missing Children's Day.
- [Access](#) resources related to missing and exploited children on the OJJDP website.

This publication is produced monthly by the Juvenile Court Judges' Commission. Guest articles are welcome; please submit by e-mail to [ra-oajcnews@pa.gov](mailto:ra-oajcnews@pa.gov).

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