



Facts About Juvenile Delinquency

It's not uncommon for children to be difficult on occasion, but when bad behavior turns anti-social or even illegal, intervention is a must. Delinquent behavior usually begins in early adolescence or before, so parents should take these early warnings seriously and seek professional help. When children turn 18, they will be open to adult consequences as adult offenders. Early detection and intervention can save your child from later problems in every area of life and eventually with the legal system.

SIGNS OF DELINQUENCY

- Irresponsibility
- Extreme moodiness
- Lying
- Destructiveness
- Hanging out with the "wrong" friends at the "wrong" types of places
- Stealing
- Truancy
- Violent temper
- Drug/alcohol use
- Child coming home late
- Swearing
- Complaints from others

SOME PROBLEMS THAT CAN INFLUENCE DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR

- Abuse
- Divorce
- Death or loss of a family member
- Alcohol or drug problems in the family
- Overprotective parenting
- Lack of discipline
- Family financial problems
- Bad neighborhood/school
- The "wrong" kind of friends

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WAYS PARENTS CAN PREVENT DELINQUENT BEHAVIOR

- Be aware of your child's behavior
- Set a good example
- Develop family harmony and closeness
- Set limits and discipline fairly based on those limits
- Be consistent
- Encourage children to take part in family matters
- Openly express love and affection
- Get to know your child's friends and their parents
- Let your children know you are available
- Don't wait until things get worse! Get professional help before it's too late!

WHO CAN YOU TURN TO FOR HELP?

- School counselors, psychologists or the principal
- Social service organizations such as your local children's services or health department

For more online tip cards, visit www.KCSL.org under the "Resources" tab.



Parenting questions? Call the Parent Helpline:
1-800-CHILDREN or email/text 1800children@kcsl.org



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