

Community Engagement in Policy Creation - Chicago Police Department

INTERACTIONS WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) recognizes the need for a comprehensive community engagement process that offers the community a meaningful opportunity to provide input into CPD policies. Please use the following information to guide your feedback and discussions on the CPD policy related to Interactions with Children and Youth.

BACKGROUND

The City of Chicago Consent Decree requires that CPD review and revise the necessary policies “to ensure that CPD provides officers with guidance on developmentally appropriate responses to, and interactions with, youth and children” (¶132). Additionally, “When interacting with youth and children, CPD will, as appropriate and permitted by law, encourage officers to exercise discretion to use alternatives to arrest and alternatives to referral to juvenile court, including, but not limited to issuing warnings and providing guidance; referral to community services and resources such as mental health, drug treatment, mentoring, and counseling organizations, educational services, and other agencies; station adjustments; and civil citations” (¶133). In development of the policy on Interactions with Children and Youth, CPD has researched applicable laws, operational practices from other agencies, and other published research and analyses, including recommendations from the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention.

Current CPD Policy (available publicly at <http://directives.chicagopolice.org>)

- S06-04 “Processing of Juveniles and Minors Under Department Control” and associated addenda.
- S06-04-06 “Juvenile Intervention and Support Center”

It is the policy of the Chicago Police Department to:

- observe, uphold, and enforce the law impartially. Department members will at all times remain aware of and protect the rights of each juvenile who comes under Department control either as a victim or a perpetrator of a crime.
- closely examine each juvenile arrest and, in all cases where probable cause exists that the involved minor has committed an offense, determine, on an individual basis, the disposition approach that provides the greatest opportunities for delinquency intervention.

POLICY ENGAGEMENT TOPICS

- Encouraging positive field interactions with juveniles (under the age of 18) and youth/emerging adults (ages 18 – 24), including providing CPD officers with engagement opportunities and alternatives to arrest or referral to juvenile court.
- Pre-arrest versus post-arrest options and diversion programs and opportunities, including for juvenile and youth/emerging adult offenders.
- Multi-disciplinary approach to juvenile and youth interventions, including partnerships with juvenile justice agencies as well as organizations and agencies within the social service, health care, and education systems.
- Juvenile offender treatment, arrest processing procedures, and the rights and responsibilities of the victims, the arrestee, and parents/guardians.

CPD anticipates gathering and utilizing the feedback provided via the community engagement process to develop a comprehensive policy that is inclusive of and reflects the needs and expectations of both the community and CPD. CPD’s policy development process will also include the public posting of proposed policies for comments on CPD’s website prior to implementation.