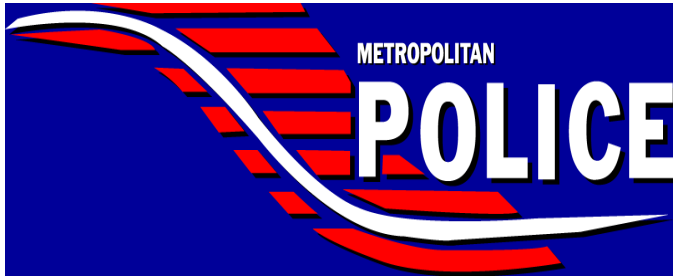


EXECUTIVE ORDER



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Subject:
Juvenile Diversion Pilot: Community Approaches to Rapid Engagement Services (CARES)
Number
EO-25-001
Effective Date
January 21, 2025
Related to:
GO-OPS-304.11 (Handling Intrafamily Offenses) GO-OPS-305.01 (Interacting with Juveniles)

I. PURPOSE

The Community Approaches to Rapid Engagement Services (CARES) program is a juvenile diversion program designed to provide crisis response, stabilization, emergency respite care, and family counseling for eligible juveniles and their families. The purpose of this order is to provide procedures for diverting eligible juveniles to CARES.

II. PROCEDURES

A. General

1. The District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Department of Human Services (DHS), and Sasha Bruce Youthwork (Sasha Bruce) facilitate the CARES diversion program pursuant to [DC Official Code §16-1031 \(Arrests\)](#).
2. The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Juvenile Processing Center (JPC) makes diversion determinations for eligible juvenile arrestees based upon the eligibility requirements of the program.
3. CARES operates between 1400 and 2200 hours, Tuesday through Saturday, including holidays.

B. CARES Eligibility

1. Juveniles who meet the following criteria may be eligible for CARES diversion:

CARES Eligibility Criteria
a. The juvenile must be between 12 and 17 years of age;
b. There must be probable cause to believe that the juvenile committed a misdemeanor intrafamily offense where the victim of that offense is not an intimate partner; and
c. The juvenile must meet the eligibility criteria for diversion outlined in GO-OPS-305.01 (Interacting with Juveniles) .

2. In unusual instances where the circumstances surrounding the case do not warrant court referral, JPC members may divert the case even if the juvenile does not meet the diversion criteria, if the Youth and Family Engagement Division (YFED) watch commander provides approval.
3. The OAG Juvenile Hotline may be contacted for additional guidance on eligibility.

C. CARES Referral Process

1. JPC members shall contact the juvenile’s parents or guardians to inform them of the potential CARES diversion. Parents or guardians must respond to JPC for their child to be eligible for CARES. If parents or guardians agree to participate, JPC members shall contact the CARES hotline.
2. A CARES crisis response specialist will respond to the JPC within one hour of notification to explain the program to the juvenile’s parents or guardians, document consent using the CARES Program Agreement form, and provide any necessary transportation.
3. Members shall manually prepare a juvenile arrest report outside of the records management system (RMS) to prevent the generation of arrest numbers. Members shall write “DIVERSION” on the heading of the report and document the results of inquiries into a juvenile’s background and actions taken to notify the juvenile’s parents or guardians. The arrest report shall be submitted to a JPC member and an official of the district in which the crime occurred for approval.
4. In the event the parents or guardians refuse to respond to JPC or do not consent to participate in CARES, JPC members shall process the juvenile in accordance with [GO-OPS-305.01 \(Interacting with Juveniles\)](#). A parent’s or guardian’s refusal to participate in the CARES program does not disqualify eligible juveniles from other diversion programs.

III. DEFINITIONS

When used in this directive, the following terms shall have the meanings designated.

	Term	Definition
1.	Family member	A person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To whom the offender is related by blood, adoption, legal custody, marriage, or domestic partnership; or • Who is the child of an intimate partner [DC Official Code § 16-001(5A)].
2.	Household member	A person with whom, in the past year, the offender: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shares or has shared a mutual residence; and • Has maintained a close relationship, beyond mere acquaintances, rendering application of the statute appropriate [DC Official Code § 16-001(5B)].
3.	Intimate partner	A person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To whom the offender is/was married;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• With whom the offender is/was in a domestic partnership;• With whom the offender has a child in common; or• With whom the offender is/was, or is seeking to be, in a romantic, dating, or sexual relationship [DC Official Code § 16-001(6A)].
4.	Intrafamily offense	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Act punishable as a criminal offense against an intimate partner, family member, or household member.• Offense punishable as cruelty to animals (under DC Official Code §22-1001 and DC Official Code - §22-1002) against an animal that an intimate partner, family member, or household member owns, possesses, or controls [DC Official Code § 16-001(8)].



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Chief of Police