

NEW YORK CITY

Department of Juvenile Justice

Bridges Juvenile Center



RESIDENT GUIDE

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What Can I Expect Here?

- You will be asked questions by staff. They will answer questions you have.
- You will be given agency clothes to wear while you are with DJJ.
- During your stay you and your clothes will be searched for anything illegal or dangerous.
- Your clothes and property will be kept in a safe place. DJJ will hold your property for up to 90 days after you are released. You may pick up your property up to 90 days after your case is finished.
- You will be allowed to call your parent or guardian.
- You will receive a medical examination.
- You will be assigned to a dormitory where you will shower and get a room. Dormitories are staffed at all times by Juvenile Counselors.

Daily Schedule

- You are required to follow the "Daily Schedule," which includes: showering, cleaning your room, meals, attending school or court, and recreational activities.
- When moving through the building, you will walk in a single line with your hands behind your back, without making noise or talking.
- You and your room may be searched for contraband during your stay.

Daily Activity Schedule	
5:30 am – 6:45 am	Wake up, shower and dress
6:45 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast/Leave for Court
8:30 am – 11:30 am	School and activities
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm – 2:50 pm	School and activities
2:50 pm – 4:30 pm	Tutoring/study hour/ hall work/ DOE after-school sessions
4:30 pm – 6:30 pm	Dinner/Recreation
6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	Group activities/programs/ recreation
8:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Snacks and showers
9:30 pm	Clean-up and lights out

Visiting

Parents/Guardians/Grandparents:

- Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

Aunts/Uncles:

- First Tuesday and second Saturday of the month.

All Visitors:

- All visitors must have identification and prove that they are related to you.
- All visitors are encouraged to arrive by 4:00 pm.
- Registration for visiting ends at 4:45 pm.

Note: Crossroads, Horizon and S.E.E.D.S. facilities may have different visiting hours.

Mail

- You may write and send as many letters as you want while you are in detention. You are not allowed to send/receive mail or letters to/from another facility. In addition, your mail may be opened and searched.
- You can get paper and pencils from the staff.

Health and Mental Health Services

- There are medical staff in the building 24 hours a day to help you stay healthy. If you are on medication, you will continue to get it while you are at DJJ.
- There is a psychiatrist and mental health staff to talk with you, or make sure you get your medications.
- There is a sick call every day in case you are not feeling well.

Passages Academy

- Passages Academy is the school operated by the New York City Department of Education. You are required to attend school and participate in class activities.
- You will have an opportunity to learn, ask questions and improve your classroom performance.



Case Management

You will get a Case Manager who will help you with calls to your family and lawyer, and get consent from your family or guardians for medical treatment when you need it. If you are moved to a different facility, you will get a new Case Manager. Case Managers work in all dormitory areas.

Religious Services

You may attend voluntary Religious Services and Programs while at the facility. Services are held in the Chapel. If you would like to see the Chaplain or go to services, ask your Juvenile Counselor.

Ombudsperson Program

The Ombudsperson is an advocate for residents. He/she makes sure that each resident is treated fairly and humanely. The Ombudsperson can investigate complaints that you or your family make and get answers to questions.

Going to Court

On days that you have to go to court, you will wake up a half hour earlier than normal, and you will wear your own clothing. Your family may bring you a set of clothes to wear in Court.

- You will be escorted to Family Court and supervised by the Department of Juvenile Justice. While at Family Court, you may be interviewed by court personnel.
- You will be escorted to Criminal or Supreme Court by the Department of Juvenile Justice. At court, you will be supervised by Department of Correction staff members.

Do's	Don'ts
Dress neatly and appropriately.	Don't wear hats, jewelry, or inappropriate clothing.
Speak clearly.	Don't look away from the person speaking to you.
Use respectful language.	Don't swear, use curse words, or street language.
Ask your lawyer any questions you may have.	Don't slouch, laugh, or be disrespectful.



Other DJJ Facilities

DJJ operates other facilities in New York City. Crossroads Juvenile Center in Brooklyn and Horizon Juvenile Center in the Bronx are longer-term secure facilities. SEEDS (Sowing Encouragement and Educational Development Skills) are non-secure detention group homes, and are located throughout the Bronx, Manhattan, Brooklyn and Queens. You will be assigned to a facility until you are released from detention, and you may be moved while in detention. If you are transferred to Crossroads or Horizon, you will participate in the ASPIRE program (Action, Safety, Participation, Initiative, Responsibility, and Education). You will gain or lose privileges based on your ability to engage in positive behaviors, learn new skills and participate positively in activities. If you are moved to one of the other facilities, you will learn more about ASPIRE.

Discharge Planning

If you have a special need or want extra help when you are released, the Discharge Planning Unit can help you. If you have a medical or mental health issue, you will be assigned a Discharge Planner. If you have other needs, you can request one yourself. These staff will work with you and your family to connect you to programs in your neighborhood.

NYS Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS)

If you are placed by the Family Court as a Juvenile Delinquent or sentenced by the criminal court system as a result of a Juvenile Offender conviction or Youthful Offender adjudication, you will most likely be placed with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS). OCFS runs residential programs, located throughout New York State that are designed to help you return to the community. OCFS has many types of residential programs that include secure, limited-secure and non-secure detention facilities. If you are placed, it will take between 10-15 days for you to be transferred from Bridges Juvenile Center to an OCFS facility. OCFS also offers Aftercare and an Evening Reporting Center in New York City communities.

Bridges Juvenile Center

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