

CHAPTER 16

16.1 Self Check page 578

What possible changes may occur to the juvenile justice system in the future?

The separate system of juvenile justice in the United States may be abolished. Another option is that new theories and philosophies will supplant the current ones for the juvenile justice system. Finally, the debate over the form and function of the current juvenile justice system continues. In any event, today's juvenile justice system will definitely change.

16.2 Self Check page 581

What are some of the suggested methods for “getting tough” on juvenile crime?

Some common methods, which reflect the punitive model of juvenile justice that has been popular for the last 20 years, are:

- The switch from indeterminate sentencing, which is the hallmark of the traditional juvenile justice system, to determinate sentencing.
- The creation of new laws and alteration of existing ones to hold juveniles more accountable and punish them for their crimes.
- New laws that criminalize gang membership.
- More severe penalties for chronic and violent offenders.
- Holding parents responsible for the crimes their children commit. This is also called parental liability.

16.3 Self Check page 591

1. Describe three types of specialty courts. What are their advantages over traditional juvenile justice processes?

The three types are teen courts, drug courts, and gun courts.

Their key advantage is that they target specific groups of offenders, each of which has unique needs that can best be addressed by the agencies and organizations that have staff and treatment programs to serve those specific needs.

2. What is an intervention strategy? Can you describe one in detail?

Intervention strategies are delinquency prevention strategies that target at-risk youth, and then provide them with a variety of programs and services. The most promising prevention strategies are collaborative efforts that include the juvenile's family, school, and community.

The following are examples of these programs:

Collaborative Intensive Community Treatment Program (CICTP) is an alternative to residential incarceration that attempts to offer a “managed care” approach to allocating resources for youthful offenders. Offenders are carefully and individually selected for the program based upon criteria for success (age, past record, school performance, nature of the offense, etc.). The program supports the principles of the BARJ model that was previously described in this chapter.

Project CRAFT is one of the most successful vocational training programs. Utilizing a holistic and comprehensive approach that incorporates career training, community service activities, and support services like social skills training and case management, this program demonstrates how private business (the construction industry) can collaborate with the juvenile justice system to assist youth. An independent evaluation of Project CRAFT reports that:

- It had a very high placement for its graduates in the home building industry.
- The recidivism rate for youth in the program was only 26 percent, which is significantly lower than the national average for treatment programs.
- The program was very successful in continuing to work with youthful offenders long after they had been placed in jobs, particularly with youth who were in residential facilities.

Juvenile Offenders Learning Tolerance (J.O.L.T.) was created in August 1999 by the Hate Crimes Suppression Unit of the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. The program targets first-time offenders of low-level hate crimes and hate incidents. The program stresses diversity and tolerance education for both the juvenile offender and his or her parents or guardians.

3. Describe the concept of parental liability.

Although past parental liability laws were found to be unconstitutional by appellate courts, new laws seek to attach criminal responsibility to parents for "failing to supervise" or "intervene" in the lives of their children. Several cities have received national attention for passing so-called "parental responsibility" statutes, including Silverton, OR; Arlington Heights, IL; Roanoke, VA; and St. Clares Shores, MI.

(Refer to the Focus on Policy box on pages 592–93, which offers an in-depth look at how the St. Clares Shores, MI, statutes applied in the case of a family that failed to take responsibility for their son Alex.)

16.4 Self Check page 591

What are some of the common trends that will characterize juvenile justice in the future?

Trends that will influence the future can include any of the following:

- The separation of juveniles who are deemed appropriate from those deemed inappropriate for juvenile court processing, as legislatures and juvenile justice personnel actively try to exclude repeat and violent juvenile offenders.
- The increased use of waiver to criminal court; other mechanisms include the increased use of determinate sentencing
- The increased use and development of programs designed for early intervention.

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SELF CHECK ANSWER KEY

- The use of programs and practices that are much more innovative and successful when compared to the adult system; this fact alone serves as a powerful reason to keep a separate system of juvenile justice in place.
- A range of programs and options available in juvenile justice that far exceeds any available in the adult system.
- Future efforts that are likely to attempt to involve more than just criminal justice personnel in the lives of juveniles.
- A community approach to juvenile justice that is receiving greater attention and support, as you can see by the myriad of programs discussed in this chapter.