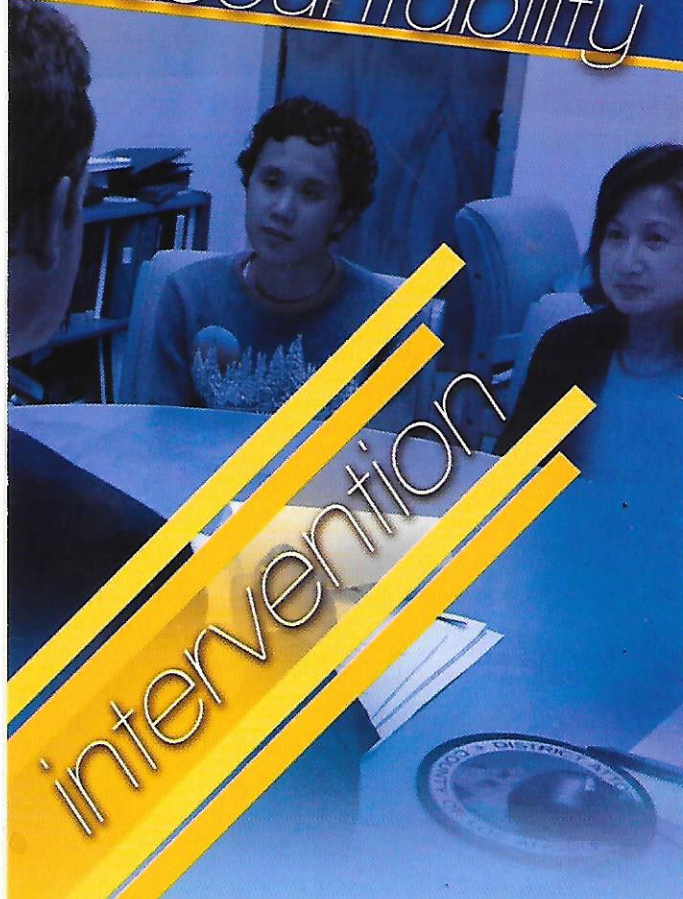


# J.O.I.N.

JUVENILE OFFENDER  
INTERVENTION  
NETWORK

*accountability*



*intervention*



Los Angeles County  
District Attorney's Office



Juveniles who break the law for the first time are at a critical juncture in their lives. With swift intervention, it is possible to steer juvenile offenders back onto a productive path. That is the goal of the District Attorney's Juvenile Offender Intervention Network (J.O.I.N.) program.

J.O.I.N. offers an alternative to juvenile court prosecution for first-time nonviolent juvenile offenders who qualify and agree to accept the program's supervision, conditions and consequences.

J.O.I.N. provides a powerful, effective alternative to juvenile prosecution that protects the community and offers eligible first-time offenders a chance to get back on the right track.

For more information about the District Attorney's Office, visit our website at <http://da.lacounty.gov>.

  
Jackie Lacey  
District Attorney  
Los Angeles County

responsibility

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR J.O.I.N.?

Juveniles between the ages of 10 and 17 who have committed a first-time, nonviolent delinquent act and are facing prosecution in juvenile court may be considered for J.O.I.N. The program does not, however, accept juveniles arrested for the sale of controlled substances, driving under the influence, possession or use of a firearm, residential burglary, sexual assault, felony arson, dissuading or intimidating a witness or any other serious or violent offense.

## HOW DOES J.O.I.N. WORK?

J.O.I.N. provides eligible first-time juvenile offenders with a one-time chance to avoid prosecution in juvenile court – provided they and their parents agree to make a yearlong commitment to comply with all terms and conditions set for them.

Referrals for J.O.I.N. come from deputy district attorneys who review juvenile cases prior to filing or supervise juvenile prosecutions.

The program is supervised and administered by hearing officers, most of whom have law enforcement experience.

Hearing officers closely review all referrals to ensure that the juvenile and the offense meet J.O.I.N. guidelines. If the juvenile is accepted into J.O.I.N., the hearing officer coordinates and monitors the juvenile's and his/her parents' compliance with the program's terms and conditions.

Participation in J.O.I.N. is voluntary. If the juvenile and his/her parents do not wish to take part, the District Attorney's Office will, instead, prosecute the young offender in juvenile court.



## J.O.I.N. REQUIREMENTS

First-time offenders must enter a written contract that requires the juvenile to:

- Acknowledge responsibility for his/her actions
- Make restitution (payment for damages to victims)
- Perform community service
- Attend school regularly
- Participate in counseling
- Remain arrest-free

Parents of J.O.I.N. participants must agree to participate in mandatory parenting-skills classes.

Hearing officers closely monitor the participants to ensure that they comply with all terms and conditions of the contract.

If any terms or conditions are violated or unfulfilled, the hearing officer will refer the juvenile's case for prosecution in juvenile court.

## J.O.I.N. FOR HATE CRIME OFFENDERS

California law defines a hate crime as a criminal act or credible threat of violence against a person or a group of people in which the victims are targeted because of their actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender or disability. A juvenile who commits a nonviolent, low-level hate crime as his/her first offense is eligible to participate in a modified version of the J.O.I.N. program.

In addition to the terms and conditions of the J.O.I.N. program, eligible juvenile hate-crime offenders also must participate in an educational program that teaches against hateful ideology and promotes acceptance of diversity.

## THE BENEFITS OF J.O.I.N.

J.O.I.N. addresses the root causes of delinquent behavior and strives to deter future delinquency and criminal behavior. Here's how the program helps juvenile offenders, their families, victims and the community:

- Juveniles are quickly held accountable for their actions. J.O.I.N. imposes consequences swiftly, often within weeks of the offense, maximizing the impact on the minor and emphasizing the seriousness of delinquent conduct.
- Victims receive restitution. Juveniles are required to apologize and reimburse victims for damages or losses.
- Juveniles receive counseling and their parents receive parenting-skills instruction. These services attempt to address the root causes of delinquent behavior.
- Juveniles who successfully complete J.O.I.N. will not have a conviction on their record for the offense(s) involved. These juveniles may accurately state that they have never been charged with or prosecuted for a crime. If they do not reoffend, the first-time delinquent act will not hinder their future educational or employment plans.

Through established and emerging partnerships with school districts, county agencies and community organizations, J.O.I.N. ensures that counseling and other program services are made available.

restitution