

Juvenile Referral Report 2014

Total Juvenile referrals Received	92	
Referred to the County Attorney	62	67.39%
Assigned Diversion	30	32.61%
Placed or reinstated on Probation	8	
Days Served in Juvenile Detention Center	345	
Committed to Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections	1	
Completed Diversion	20	
Diversion In Process	10	
First time offenders	50	54.35%
Diversion:		
Youth referred for Alcohol and/or Drug Counseling		2
Families referred for family counseling		8
Youth referred to life skills classes in the community		8
Youth that wrote victim letters of apology as part of Diversion		2
Community Service Hours Performed		114
Probation:		
Total Probation Cases in 2014		23
Cases with formal Violations of Probation		6
Probation Violation Rate (including technicals)		26.00%
Community Service Hours Performed		90
Probation Cases at Start of the year		15
Cases placed on probation		8
Cases terminated from probation		14
Probation Cases at End of the year		9

Diversion is the resolution of a referral informally by the probation department. In La Paz County the County Attorney has authorized probation to offer Diversion for up to 3 referrals for each juvenile for incorrigible, misdemeanor, and Class 6 Felony offenses if appropriate. Cases referred to the County Attorney have been determined by the probation department to be inappropriate for Diversion, failed to complete a Diversion program or are otherwise ineligible for Diversion. The County Attorney then determines if a petition is to be filed.

That of 62 referrals to the County Attorney's office only 8 resulted in probation, that 54% of referrals were for first time offenses, and that only 20 cases were resolved by use of the Diversion system suggests that Diversion is being under utilized in La Paz County. In mid-2014 La Paz County began using a formal risk assessment tool to determine risk of reoffending as part of the process to determine if Diversion is appropriate.

In juvenile court the County Attorney has 45 days to file a petition once a referral is sent to them from the probation department. Once a petition is filed the court has up to 45 days to hold an Advisory Hearing. If the minor denies responsibility for the allegation, an Adjudication Hearing or trial, must be held within 60 days. If the minor is found delinquent then a Disposition Hearing or sentencing should occur within 45 days. All told the process for a juvenile in court from Advisory to Disposition should be no more than 105 days.

For cases in court in 2014 the average was 119 days. There were a total of 14 cases that were concluded in under 80 days and five that took 126 days or more. When working with children a longer process generally means a less effective process. The probation department is working with stake holders to improve process timeliness.

La Paz County does not have a juvenile detention facility and contracts with the Yuma County Juvenile Detention Center to house in custody juveniles at a daily rate. In January 2015 the probation department entered into a contract to utilize Electronic Monitoring of offenders in the community as an alternative to detention. In the first quarter of 2015 the use of EM to monitor juveniles was used for 60 days allowing the minors to attend school, remain with their families, and saving the county \$4,920 in detention fees.