

## **Sample Parent Project Law Enforcement Policy**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this policy is to help reduce juvenile crime, reduce juvenile related calls for service and bring parents into the problem solving process.

### **Introduction**

It is no secret that 60 to 80% of every law enforcement agency's calls for service are juvenile related. To help combat juvenile crime, this agency has adopted the Parent Project®. The Parent Project® is a parent-training program designed specifically for parents of high-risk youth. Unlike most programs, the Parent Project® is an **intervention** model, designed by law enforcement to address the specific root causes of juvenile crime; truancy, family conflict, violence, runaways, drug use, youth gangs and other out-of-control behaviors are addressed by this program in concrete fashion. The Parent Project® has a 28-year track record of success and is the largest court mandated juvenile diversion program in the country.

In Roseville California, 15 families generated 87 calls for service to local law enforcement for their out-of-control children in just 6 months time. Six months after taking the Parent Project classes, the same 15 families generated only 4 calls for service. In Shasta County California, the probation department reduced juvenile recidivism by 76%, using the Parent Project model.

In adopting this program, we will be working directly with the cornerstone of our community, in a positive and proactive fashion. This model is proven to be effective in reducing crime, building (rebuilding) police/community relations and reducing juvenile related calls for service.

### **The Program Model**

Participating parents meet one night per week for a total of 10 weekly sessions using the Parent Project workbook, "Changing Destructive Adolescent Behavior." At the conclusion of the ten weeks, parents will be encouraged to continue meeting in on-going parent-led support groups organized throughout the community. The following officers attended the Parent Project 40-hour training and are prepared to teach the class. (Officer names) Employees of this department are encouraged to contact our trained officers to learn more about the model.

### **Who Should Attend?**

Parents of children who fall under the 601 or 602 sections of the WIC should be encouraged to attend by the responding or arresting officer/s. This includes

police responses for family conflict, incorrigibles, runaways, truancy, drug or alcohol use, and other criminal activity. Parents of children arrested for violent crimes should also be encouraged to attend. This is especially true for those parents who have younger children still in the home. In short, anytime an employee of this department has contact with a parent of a difficult or out-of-control child, that parent/s should be made aware of the Parent Project and **strongly** encouraged to attend. This program will only work if parents are aware of and take advantage of this valuable resource.

### **Officer Responsibilities**

Responding, citing or arresting officers in juvenile cases shall make parents aware of the program, strongly encourage parents to attend and provide the parent/s with the (phone number, name, business card, program flyer, etc.)

Investigating officers who contact the parents of juveniles who have been arrested or cited shall again ensure parents are aware of the program and how to access (instructing officers, class registration information, etc.)

School Resource Officers will play a significant role by inviting parents of children who have exhibited behavior problems in school, are truant, cited to a School Attendance Review Board or involved in any criminal activity on campus. Principals, teachers, school counselors and school district level pupil support services shall be educated about the program by officers trained in the model.