

# Juvenile Detention Center Intake & Release Process

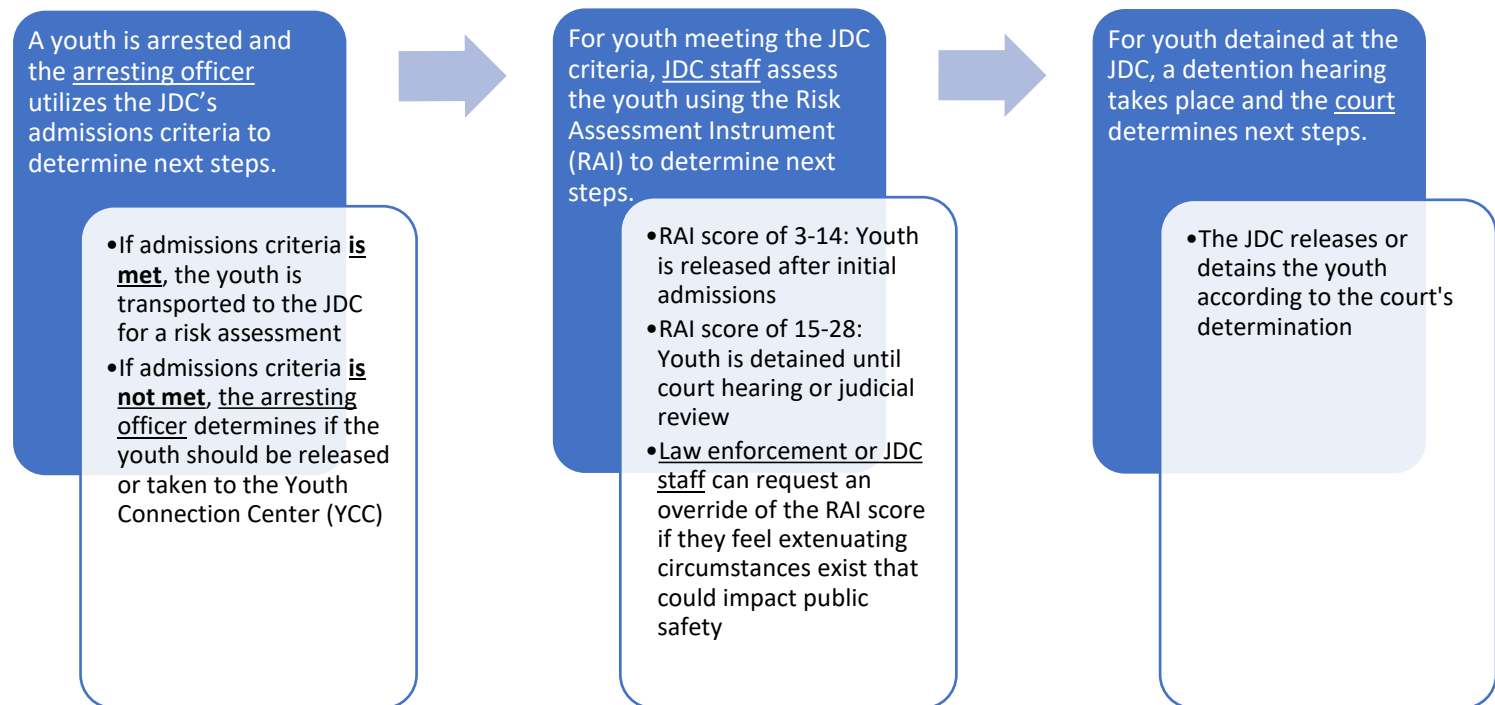
## Background

The Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) is part of the Hennepin County Department of Community Corrections and Rehabilitation (DOCCR). As a pre-adjudication facility, the JDC houses 10- to 17-year-old youth while their cases are assessed by the court. In some cases, youth 18 years and older may also be held at this facility. Decisions on when a youth is held at the JDC are based on many factors. This document outlines the major decision points and process by which youth are initially detained, released, or held at the JDC.

The decision to bring a youth to the JDC following an arrest is not made arbitrarily. Which youth should be detained at the JDC is given serious consideration for several reasons:

- Research shows that secure correctional settings can have a detrimental impact on young people.
- Detaining youth who are unlikely to reoffend prior to the disposition of their case or fail to appear for court is not in the best interest of the youth.
- Keeping youth in their home environment, while increasing community-based resources for rehabilitation, can better serve youth in finding a positive path forward.
- Removal from the home and community can disrupt family, school, employment, and community ties.
- Conversely, secure detention may be appropriate for youth who pose a threat to the community or themselves.

## The High-Level Process



# Youth Connection Center (YCC)

The YCC provides immediate intervention, preventing youth from becoming the victims of violent crimes, offering them a positive alternative to detention, and allowing police to be more present in the community by offering a place for youth to be dropped off.

## JDC Youth Assessment

JDC staff use a [Risk Assessment Instrument \(RAI\)](#) to determine if the youth will be released or held while awaiting their first court appearance in front of a judge. **A youth can receive a RAI score from 3 to 28 points.**

The RAI was initially developed by the Research Division of the Fourth Judicial District Court. Its current use is governed by stakeholders across Hennepin County's justice system. The purpose of the RAI is to determine which youth need to be detained based on the seriousness of the offense or the likelihood of pre-trial failure, which is the likelihood of the youth committing a new crime before the court date or the likelihood of the youth not showing up for the court date. The RAI tool is based on many factors, including the youth's current alleged offense and their prior history. Some offenses automatically qualify a youth to be held at the JDC pending a detention hearing.

## Releasing Youth from the JDC

If the youth receives a **RAI score of 3-14**, the youth is released to a parent, guardian, or shelter after the initial admissions process.

## Detaining Youth at the JDC

If the youth receives a **RAI score of 15-28**, they are held at the JDC until their first court appearance in front of a judge. A detention hearing is scheduled, and the youth is advised of the court date and time. While at the JDC, youth are provided structured programming to include educational services, mental health and medical needs, and life-skills.

The average daily population at the JDC is 35 youth. The average length of stay is 15 days. Most youth appear before a judge within three days. During the detention hearing, the judge will determine whether to continue to detain or release the youth pending the next court hearing.

If a youth is released at this point, a judge can require the youth be released to one of the following:

- Parent or guardian
- Parent or guardian with electronic home monitoring (EHM)
- Youth shelter

If a judge decides a youth will continue to be held at the JDC, the court will continue to assess the need for continued detention. The court uses a different version of the RAI (the Court RAI) that is very similar to the JDC RAI. The most significant difference is that the Court RAI is based on the charge rather than the arresting offense. The court conducts additional detention reviews for youth who remain detained while awaiting disposition.