

Police Intervention Worksheet for Parents of Defiant Youth

I'm seeking your assistance because my child, _____, who is ___ years old, is engaging in the following behavior(s):

I'm not looking for you to parent my child, but I am asking you to help me hold my child accountable when he breaks the law. I'm open to any suggestions you may have and I believe we have the same goal: to produce an upstanding, law-abiding citizen. I've given consequences for these behaviors within my home but at this time my child doesn't seem to care about parental consequences. It's reached a point where I need your help to hold him legally accountable for his behavior. I know that when my child reaches adulthood, these behaviors will definitely result in legal consequences that are even more severe. I'm hoping my child can learn now – early on – that you cannot violate the rights of others in our society (including the rights of family members) without legal consequences. I'm hoping that if my child knows there may be charges or written reports about each legal or safety issue that occurs, it may make a difference and change the behavior.

I'm open to any ideas you may have and I understand you may not necessarily be able to arrest my child if you're called to my home. I promise only to contact law enforcement if there is a legal or safety issue.

Could you tell me, if things escalate in my home, and I needed to call the police, what could I expect?

If my child destroys my property, such as punching holes in the wall or engages in other acts that would be considered vandalism if they were done outside the home (such as at a school or park) is there anything that can be done, even if it's taking a written report that will start a paper trail of the behaviors that are going on, in case we do end up in court someday?

If charges were filed due to assault or property destruction, what might happen? Is there a juvenile detention center that my child might be taken to if the violation was serious?

If I do need to call you in the future due to a legal or safety incident (and I promise to call only under those circumstances) is there anyone I could specifically request who I've met with today or who is frequently on duty in my neighborhood?

If officers would not be able to take a complaint against my child when legal violations occur, is there a process I can complete through the Family Court, such as filing incorrigibility charges?

Thank you so much for taking the time to talk with me. I love my child and have my child's best interests at heart.

Reviewed with _____ on _____(date).