WHY JUVENILE DEFENSE MATTERS

Effective juvenile defenders **SAVE** money by keeping youth in the community

![Bar chart showing the cost of incarcerating youth compared to the cost of intensive, individualized services](chart)

- **$112,555** Per Year for One Youth
- **$23,725** Per Year for One Youth

This is nearly 5 times the cost of tuition & fees at a public university, out of state.

Well-Designed Community-Based Programs Can Lead to Better Outcomes, Such As:
- Healthy Development
- Increased Family Participation
- Reduced Recidivism, Keeping Public Safer
- Education & Employment Opportunities

**Youth Incarceration Leads to Higher Risk of Poor Outcomes, Such As:**
- Sexual Abuse
- Trauma
- Recidivism
- Disconnect from School and Work

**Effective juvenile defense systems increase public SAFETY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placement Type</th>
<th>One-Year Rearrest Rates for Low-Risk Offenders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Community Diversion</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probation</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-Risk Residential Confinement</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Low risk youth in community-based programs are much less likely to be rearrested than similar youth in confinement, according to a study in Florida.

**Effective juvenile defense systems lead to youth SUCCESS**

- As many as 2 out of 3 youth do not return to school after returning from confinement
- Community-based programming keeps youth in school, thus leading to lower & better rates of re-offending, outcomes into adulthood

**Attorneys**

Specialized in juvenile defense can advocate for programs that lead to youth success, which saves money and increases public safety.
References


3. Id.

4. Youth Advocate Program, a nationally recognized nonprofit that provides community-based programming, costs $65 per day, per youth for intensive, individualized services. See YOUTH ADVOCATE PROGRAMS POLICY & ADVOCACY CTR., PREVIEW: ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY-BASED ALTERNATIVES (2014).

