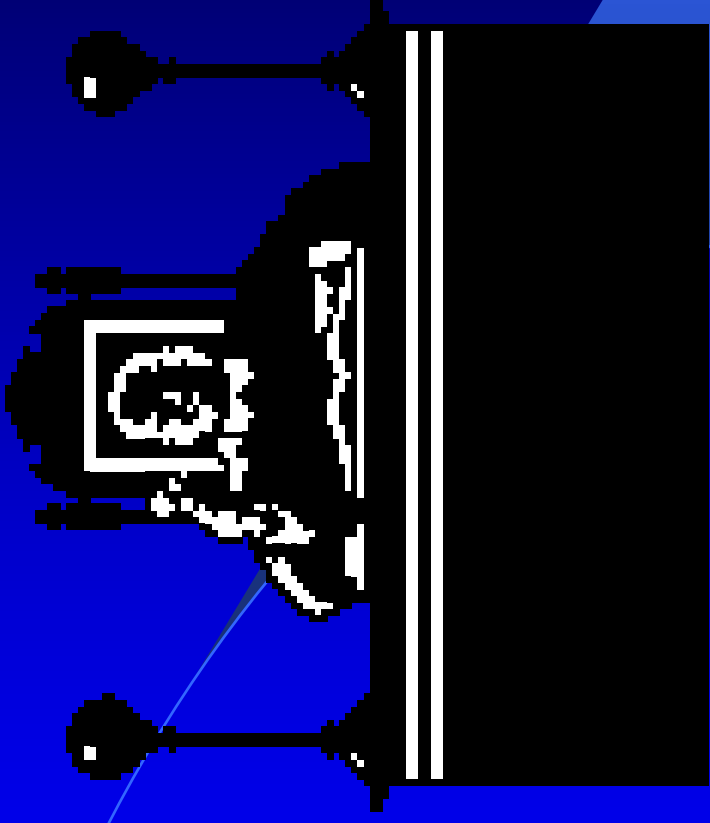


# THE YOUTHFUL OFFENDER PROGRAM



# YOUTHFUL OFFENDER PROGRAM



**Eighth Judicial District  
Department of Correctional Services**



# Mission Statement

- The Youthful Offender Program is designed to divert at-risk youth ages 16 to 21 from future criminal activity by addressing criminogenic patterns, increasing pro-social skills and ensuring offender accountability through proven, innovative and timely intervention.

- In partnership with all aspects of the community, YOP draws from a variety of community resources to provide a holistic approach to the rehabilitation for youthful offenders. The program is designed as an intervention/sentencing alternative for targeted offenders that hopefully directs them out of the criminal justice system by providing quality programming in the areas of education, substance abuse, attitudinal/behavioral change and job readiness training.

# Who is YOP Developed For?

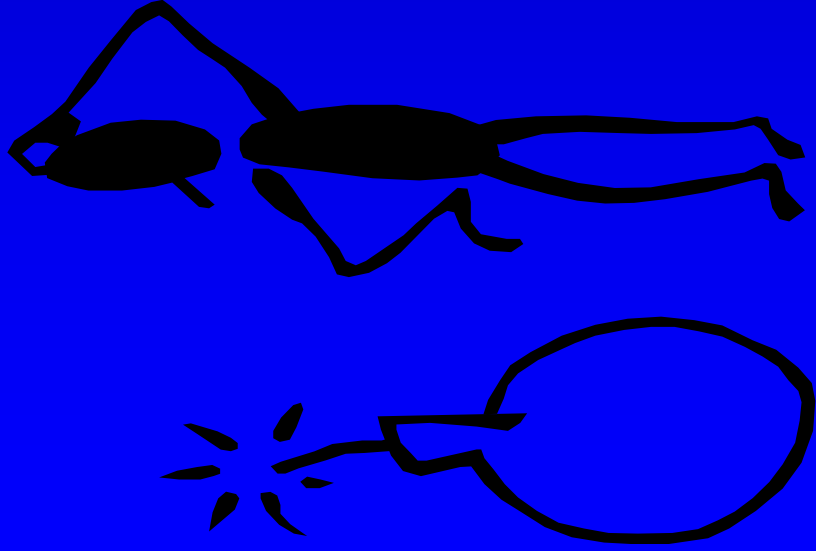
- YOP is a program developed for first time felony offenders entering into the adult court system. A prior minor criminal record in adult court does not disqualify an offender from admission if he/she is otherwise qualified.
- YOP is designed to hold offenders accountable for his/her behavior while providing programming which allows an opportunity for the offender to understand how his/her crime(s) impacted victims and communities while gaining new insight on how to change future behavior and actions.

YOP is designed to work with individuals who want to redirect their attitudes and behaviors in becoming responsible productive citizens.

# Who's not an appropriate candidate for YOP?

- HISTORY OF VIOLENCE
- OFFENDERS NOT WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMMING
- OFFENDERS LACKING RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION
- OFFENDERS WITHOUT A STABLE RESIDENCE
- OFFENDERS DENIAL OF OFFENSE
- OFFENDERS PRIOR CRIMINAL RECORD

THERE ARE OTHER MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAKE AN OFFENDER INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE PROGRAM, THESE CASES ARE DISCUSSED WITH THE TREATMENT SUPERVISOR BEFORE A DECISION IS REACHED.



# DISTRICT REFERRAL PROCESS TO YOP

Most referrals to YOP come through the County Attorney's office and/or defense attorneys. However, if this has not occurred and a probation officer wants to make a referral to the program, the following procedures should be followed.

- Write 'Referral' across the Pre-Trial Release form and send to YOP staff. If a pre-trial interview was not conducted, a referral form will need to be sent. In addition, the officer may want to call the YOP officer and discuss the offender.
- **If the referral is appropriate**, YOP will send a letter to the Defendant with a copy to the referral source. The letter will indicate the date and time for the offender to meet with YOP staff.
- **If the referral is not appropriate**, the referring officer will be notified in writing. Reasons which make the offender inappropriate will be noted on the letter.
- Appropriate candidates for YOP must keep the meeting with YOP staff. Once this meeting has occurred, YOP staff will contact the County Attorney on the case, Defense Attorney, Parents or Partner, etc.. Gathering background information determines the appropriateness of an offender for YOP.
- The process of determining if an offender is appropriate and if the County Attorney, Defense Attorney, etc. are in agreement takes 2 to 3 weeks. So a PSI writer should make the referral upon getting notification that a PSI should be completed.
- YOP staff will be responsible for notifying the referring officer within three weeks of the referral or sooner.

# PROGRAM COMPONENTS

- Substance Abuse
    - Education
    - Outpatient Treatment
    - Inpatient Treatment
    - Aftercare
    - Random UA's
  - Reasoning Skills
  - Street Law
  - Pre Employment
  - Non- Violent Alternatives
  - Weekend Experience
  - Project Reality
  - Conflict Resolution
- 100 hours of Community Service Work
  - Victim Offender Mediation Process (VOMP)

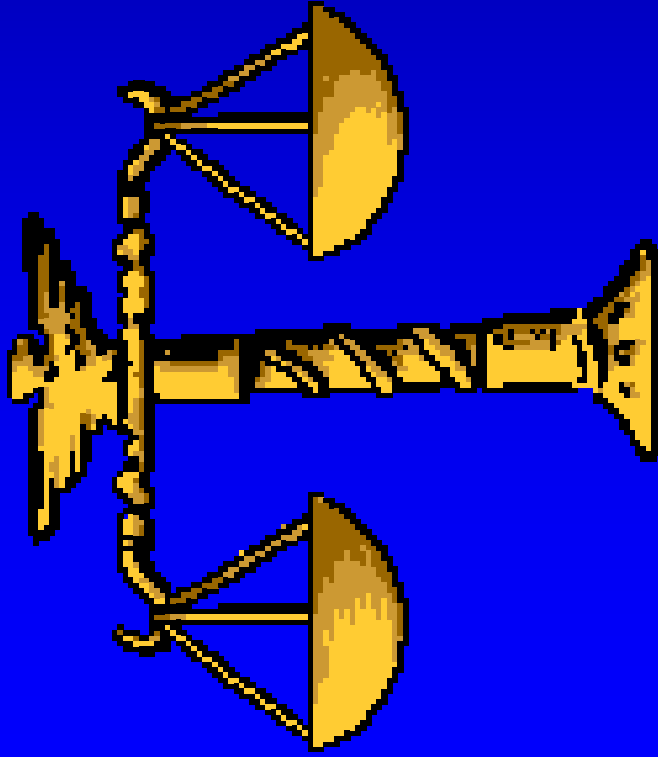
YOP participants will complete all groups as assigned by program staff.

# YOP ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

- The Accountability Board is composed of private citizens and community professionals: clergy, lawyers, etc.. All the members are volunteers. These people are committed to serving the whole community. In a direct, face-to-face manner, they seek to help the community's troubled youth by holding offenders accountable and providing victim assistance.
- All program participants are required to meet with the Accountability Board at the beginning, middle and end of the program.

The Accountability Board is a Restorative Justice Program serving the Eighth District.

# What Tools does YOP use to Monitor Behavior and Enforce Rules?



- Intensive Supervision
- Random Drug/Alcohol Testing
- Curfew
- Unannounced Home Visits Day/Night
- House Arrest
- Jail Time
- Community Service Work
- Peer Sanctioning

**TO MAKE A REFERRAL OR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:**

- Andrew Ferguson  
Probation/Parole Officer III  
214 N. 4th, Suite 2A  
Burlington, Iowa  
(319)753-5478 ext.127
- Pat Lacy  
Probation/Parole Officer III  
214 N. 4th, Suite 2A  
Burlington, Iowa  
(319)753-5478 ext.128
- Les Gruwell  
Probation/Parole Officer III  
333 North Court  
Ottumwa, Iowa  
(614) 682-8383 ext.16

# YOP Acknowledgements

- Thanks to the Office of Drug Control Policy (Edward Byrne Memorial Grant) for helping make YOP in the 8<sup>th</sup> District possible.

## INTEGRITY

“Integrity is one of several paths. It distinguishes itself from the others because it is the right path, one upon which you will never get lost.” -M.H. McKee\_