

# Tennessee's Juvenile Justice History

A timeline of recent state level juvenile justice administration

## Department of Correction

DOC

Prior to 1989, juvenile justice was administered through the Department of Correction.

## Department of Youth Development

DYD

1989

Public Chapter 278 created the Department of Youth Development (DYD) to administer all juvenile correctional programs and youth centers. All juvenile programs administered by the Department of Correction were transferred to DYD as of July 1, 1989.

## Children's Plan formalized

Children's Plan

1994

Governor McWherter's Executive Order 58 created the Office of Children's Services Administration within the Department of Finance & Administration to administer the Children's Plan. The plan combined resources into a single budget account, established service provider contracts that all departments could access, and established outside organizations to help plan the care of all children in custody.

1988

TCCY

## Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth

Public Chapter 979 combined the Tennessee Juvenile Justice Commission with the Children's Services Commission, creating the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY). The new commission was authorized to implement provisions of the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 and to distribute grant funds received through the act. TCCY serves as the state advisory group responsible for the administration of funds received through the act.

1991

Children's Plan

## Children's Plan initiated

A plan to coordinate funding and services of all state child custody programs was presented by the Department of Finance & Administration to the legislature's Select Committee on Children and Youth. The state subsequently embarked on this realignment of children's services provided by the Departments of Human Services, Youth Development, Mental Health & Mental Retardation, and Education.

**Department of  
Children's  
Services**



**1996**  
(Apr.)

Public Chapter 1079 created the Department of Children's Services, placing both child welfare services and juvenile justice programs under the umbrella of one state agency. All juvenile justice programs formerly administered by the DYD were transferred to DCS. The operation of the Tennessee Preparatory School was transferred from the State Board of Education to DCS.

**Department of  
Children's  
Services**



**2006**

Division of  
Juvenile Justice

Public Chapter 818 created the Division of Juvenile Justice within DCS to serve children who are adjudicated delinquent. A Deputy Commissioner of Juvenile Justice position to lead the division was created, and a separate budget exclusively for the division was established.

**1995**



**Transfer to  
Department of  
Health**

Governor Sundquist's Executive Order 4 transferred the functions of the Office of Children's Services Administration from the Department of Finance & Administration to the Department of Health, effective August 1, 1995.

**1996**  
(Jan.)



**Transfer to  
Department of  
Health**

Governor Sundquist's Executive Order 6 transferred the Division of Juvenile Probation from the Department of Youth Development to the Department of Health.