

Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Program Description

The Howard Circuit Court, Office of Juvenile Services, in conjunction with the members of the SAFEPOLICY (School Administrators For Effective Public Operations Leading to Improved Children and Youth services)/SHOCAP (Serious Habitual Offender Comprehensive Action Plan) Executive Board and the Department of Corrections, developed the SHOCAP Tracker program to enhance the supervision of the “worst of the worst” juvenile offenders within Howard County. The specific goals of the program is consistent with I.C. 31-37-17-4, the program of SHOCAP Probation

(1) is:

(A) in the least restrictive (most family like) and most appropriate setting available; and

(B) close to the parent’s home, consistent with the best interest and special needs of the child;

(2) least interferes with family autonomy;

(3) is least disruptive of family life;

(4) imposes the least restraint on the freedom of the child and the child’s parent, guardian, or custodian; and

(5) provides a reasonable opportunity for participation by the child’s parent, guardian or custodian.

The SHOCAP Tracker program assists these troubled youths maintain themselves within the community, yet provides a structured day reporting program to enhance skills, provides community supervision, and accountability. Supervision of youths that have been identified by the SHOCAP Screening Team and Court ordered to this program shall include up to two contacts daily by the Tracker, frequent contacts with parents and collateral agencies (schools, therapists, etc.) and the wearing of an electronic anklet to verify whereabouts. A SHO may also be the subject of directed patrols by local law enforcement. The term of SHOCAP probation shall be affixed by the Court with periodic review hearings to be held to consider termination of the probation period. It is noted, once a youth is determined to be a SHOCAP by the SHOCAP screening team, this status is maintained until the youth reaches the age of eighteen (18). However, the term of probation may be terminated prior to the age of eighteen.