



# What is the Justice-Involved Youth Advocacy Program?

## ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

### The issue:

- Almost two million youth are arrested in the U.S. every year. Of these youth, 70 percent have a mental health condition.
- Very few of the youth involved in the juvenile justice system are arrested for serious offenses like aggravated assault, robbery, rape, or murder (under 3,000 out of almost 50,000 arrests in 2016).
- Texas's juvenile justice system includes the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) and local juvenile probation departments throughout the state. These agencies work together to provide services designed to rehabilitate youth between 10 and 17 years old who engage in delinquent conduct.
- Re-arrest rates of youth are as high as 75 percent within three years after confinement within a juvenile justice facility.

### How an Advocate can help:

- An Advocate is a highly-trained volunteer from the community who is appointed to cases for justice-involved youth (Juvenile Court) in Montgomery County.
- Volunteers will serve as guardians ad litem for justice-involved youth, advocating for their best interests during formal probation.
- The Advocate will get to know the youth; gather information; connect families to community resources; improve education access, participation, and outcomes; and expand the network of positive connections so the youth and family can succeed and thrive.

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ADVOCATE NAME

PHONE

**For more information about the program, please contact Mike Quinn, Lead Justice-Involved Youth Specialist, at [Mike@ChildAdvocatesTexas.org](mailto:Mike@ChildAdvocatesTexas.org) or 571.232.4221.**

**CHILD ADVOCATES OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY** WHERE HOPE PREVAILS

505 N. MAIN STREET

CONROE, TEXAS 77301

TEL 936.441.5437

CHILDADVOCATESTEXAS.ORG