

Youth Bureau Officers

Juvenile officers are detectives who have been assigned to cases which involve a juvenile either as a victim or as a suspect. Juvenile officers may handle cases that do not involve juveniles; however juvenile cases are their primary responsibility. The West Bloomfield Police Department's Youth Bureau is committed to assisting parents in the community with any concerns that may arise in the course of your children's school year. The Youth Bureau's primary focus is to address all sexual and physical abuse allegations, behavioral issues that constitute truancy and incorrigibility and any juvenile incidents that would lead to the juvenile court system.

A school liaison officer is assigned to the West Bloomfield School District. This detective has an office at the West Bloomfield High School and can be found in the school building on most days. The detective also has an office at the Police Department as well. This detective can be reached by calling 248-975-8926. The detective has many responsibilities throughout the various schools within the school district and may not be at this phone number when you call. Leave a voicemail message on the Police Department phone and the detective will follow up with you as promptly as possible.

A second detective in the Youth Bureau is there to assist children who are West Bloomfield Township residents but attend schools that are not part of the West Bloomfield School District. These children attend schools located in West Bloomfield, but the schools are part of the many other school districts located within the Township's boundaries. This detective can be reached at 248-975-8925. This detective has made strong partnerships with the Walled Lake High School liaison officers as well as the elementary and middle school staff of our Walled Lake Consolidated Schools. The Investigations Bureau sergeant also investigates matters that involve children and partners with the Greater West Bloomfield Community Coalition to maintain resources for children and families in need of help. Prevention and education are among the most important aspects of this union. The sergeant can be reached at 248-975-8922.

The Youth Bureau can assist parents with resource information when needing direction in matters involving children. The Coalition offers parent forums and free education seminars at the West Bloomfield Library on a monthly basis. For further information, click on www.gwbcoalition.org.

Other resources include Common Ground and Carehouse of Oakland County. Common Ground Sanctuary serves Oakland County adults, children, and families through a variety of programs including a 24 hour crisis and referral hotline and 24 hour psychiatric screening and assessment. The crisis hotline can be reached at 800-231-1127. They also have a short term residential psychiatric facility for adults. In addition, they provide victim assistance and advocacy, short term shelter care, transitional living, street outreach services and outpatient

counseling for runaway and homeless youth. Common ground also provides in-home youth and family counseling as well as support and education groups. For more information call 248-456-8150. For additional information click on www.commongroundsanctuary.org. Carehouse Child Abuse and Neglect Council of Oakland County serves the immediate needs of neglected and abused children in our community while also reaching out with advocacy and prevention programs aimed at breaking the cycle of abuse and neglect. For more information call 248-332-7173 or click on www.carehouse.org.

The West Bloomfield Police Department recognizes that today's youth are the future leaders of America. We are committed to helping our youth be the best they can be!

FAQ

What is a juvenile?

The State of Michigan considers a juvenile someone who is under 17 years of age.

Does West Bloomfield have a curfew for juveniles?

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any minor of twelve (12) years to loiter, idle or congregate in or on any public street, highway, alley, park, school or other public place or other place normally open to the general public including, but not limited, shopping centers, places of amusement, private recreation areas or similar places between the hours of 10:00 pm and 6:00 am unless the minor is accompanied by a parent or guardian, or some adult delegated by the parent or guardian to accompany the child.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any minor the age of sixteen (16) years to loiter, idle or congregate in or on any public street, highway, alley, park, school or other public place or other place normally open to the general public including but not limited to shopping centers, places of amusement, private recreation areas or similar places between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 am immediately following, except where the minor is accompanied by a parent or guardian, or some adult over the age of eighteen (18) years delegated by the parent or guardian to accompany the minor child, or where the minor is upon an errand or other legitimate business by his parent or guardian.

Is there a law about what age a child can be left home alone?

There is no specific law that addresses this issue. Parents are the best judge of their children's maturity level and ability to accept responsibility.

Is it okay to call the Youth Bureau to speak with a juvenile officer to get advice?

Absolutely! If your concern is needs immediate attention, please call the main police department number at 248-975-9200. All other juvenile concerns can be directed to the main Investigations line at 248-975-8920. The hours and operation of the Investigations Division, including the Youth Bureau, are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

What is T.E.A.M.?

The West Bloomfield Crime Prevention Unit teaches **T.E.A.M.** in the elementary schools located within the Walled Lake Consolidated School District, West Hills Middle School in the Bloomfield School District, and Our Lady of Refuge in the Village of Orchard Lake. **T.E.A.M.** stands for *Teaching, Educating, and Mentoring*. The program is a school based, 'law related' curriculum, taught to fifth and sixth graders. Topics include substance abuse, as well as bullying and harassment and school security issues.

How does a parent place their child in Children's Village?

Parents can't place their child in Children's Village. Children's Village is a juvenile detention facility for all of Oakland County. Juveniles are only placed at the Village when a judge or referee feels that it is in the public's safety and best interest that a juvenile be detained pending the issuance of serious charges. Detention is the last resort pursued in the Juvenile Justice System. There are alternative intervention resources available prior to any consideration of detention.