

Juvenile and School Liaison 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 is made up of the following staff: Sgt. Tara Kane, Det. Dave Croskey and Det. Joe Brusseau. The Youth Bureau's primary focus is addressing the following issues: any and 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.

Det. Croskey is assigned to the West Bloomfield School District and has an office at the West Bloomfield High School. He can be found in the building on most school days, and also has an office at the police department. He can be reached at 248-975-8925. Due to Det. Croskey's responsibilities at the various schools, voicemail messages may be left on his department phone and he will follow-up with any concerns as promptly as possible.

Det. Brusseau's primary responsibilities are to assist children that are West Bloomfield residents who attend non-West Bloomfield schools. He can be reached at 248-975-8926. He has made strong partnerships with the Walled Lake High Schools liaison officers as well as the Walled Lake elementary and middle school staff. Sgt. Kane also investigates matters that involve children and partners with the Greater West Bloomfield Community Coalition for Youth to maintain resources for children/families in need of help. Prevention and Education are among the most important aspects of this union. She can be reached at 248-975-8922.

The Youth Bureau can assist parents with resource information when needing direction in matters involving their children. The Coalition offers parent forums and free education seminars at the West Bloomfield Library on a monthly basis. For further information, check out 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 24-hour crisis and referral hotline; 24-hour psychiatric screening and assessment; short-term residential psychiatric facility for adults; victim assistance/advocacy; short-term shelter care, transitional living, street outreach services and outpatient counseling for runaway and homeless youth; in-home youth and family counseling; support and education groups. For more information call 248-456-8150, crisis hotline (800) 231-1127.

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. 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 an individual someone who is under 17 years of age.

Does West Bloomfield have a curfew for juveniles?

(a) It shall be unlawful for any minor under the age 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 to, shopping centers, places of amusement, private recreation areas or similar places between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. 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 under 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 a.m. 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 directed 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 ok to call the Youth Bureau to speak with a Juvenile officer to get advice?

Absolutely. If your concern is of an emergency nature, 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 of operation for the Investigations Unit are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday-Friday. Please ask to speak with a Juvenile officer or School Liaison Officer.

Is D.A.R.E. taught in the schools?

No, West Bloomfield Schools teach Kids in Charge, an anti-drug/alcohol program in the elementary schools. West Bloomfield Police Department Juvenile Officers teach **T.E.A.M.** in the Walled Lake and Bloomfield Hills Elementary Schools that are located in West Bloomfield. **T.E.A.M.** stands for Teaching, Educating, and Mentoring. This program is a school based, "law related" curriculum, taught to fifth 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 children 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/referee feels that it is in public safety's best interest that a juvenile be detained pending 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.