

## Expectations of the Adolescent

- ❖ Accept responsibility for all actions inside and outside the home
- ❖ Actively participate in all counseling with family and agency staff to reach a mutually agreeable solution
- ❖ Participate fully in all recommended services

## Expectations of the Family

- ❖ Accountability for their children's behavior
- ❖ Through consultation, determine and accept responsibility for how each family member may be contributing to the perpetuation of family problems
- ❖ Accept responsibility for identifying and participating in all appropriate services
- ❖ Actively participate in all counseling with adolescent and agency staff to reach a mutually agreeable solution
- ❖ Participate in and fully support the youth's and family's use of the services

## Expectations of the Community

- ❖ To support the adolescent and family in reaching a solution

## Tips for Raising Teens

1. Spend fun time with your adolescent. Play a board game, teach them a hobby or skill, play cards. Use the time together to allow your adolescent "unpressured" time to talk to you.
2. Clearly define rules, chores and expectations. Have a written list posted on the refrigerator of what is expected of each household member. Check off when accomplished and reward, reward, reward.
3. Follow-through with consequences and do NOT over-punish (consequences must fit the crime). Focus on reward-system and/or loss of privileges and don't waffle. Kids do better with consistent, clear expectations and consequences.
4. Be a positive role model. "Do what I say, not what I do" does NOT fly with teenagers. The adults in the household must model good, moral behavior for their teens.
5. Lastly, don't forget to catch your adolescent being good! Compliment them for kindness, reward them for being responsible, hug them for helping. Positive reinforcement for good behavior gives teens a reason to be good.



## Adolescent & Family Services Unit

### Montgomery County Department of Health & Human Services Office of Children & Youth

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## Defining the Ungovernable Child

An adolescent between the ages of 10 and 18 who has committed a specific act or acts of habitual disobedience of the reasonable and lawful commands of his/her parent, guardian or custodian.

Behavioral examples of ungovernability include but are not limited to:

- ❖ Curfew Violations
- ❖ Drug/Alcohol Involvement
- ❖ Running Away
- ❖ Gang Involvement
- ❖ Verbally Abusive
- ❖ Sexual Promiscuity

## Where to Turn

- ❖ The Adolescent and Family Services Unit is responsible for handling parent or guardian-referred youth who are beyond the control of his or her parent.
- ❖ The Truancy Unit is responsible for handling school-referred behavioral issues.
- ❖ Child Abuse Investigative Units are responsible for investigating reports of child abuse and neglect.

## For This Support, Contact ChildLine

[www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis](http://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis)

or call ChildLine 1-800-932-0313

or call Montgomery County Children & Youth (610) 278-5800

- ❖ Delinquency matters are handled by the Montgomery County Juvenile Probation Office. Call (610) 630-2252.

## If Your Child is Ungovernable

### Step 1

Family to seek supportive community services if available in an attempt to resolve issues of parent/child conflict.

### Step 2

Call the Office of Children and Youth for Adolescent Services. Referral of the adolescent and/or family may be made for behavioral health services such as individual counseling or family therapy, drug and alcohol treatment, or other community resources such as specialized parent education classes which can support the parents in managing the child's behavior. (These services can be accessed directly by parents through community and counseling agencies.) When appropriate, diversionary services may be implemented to support families in lieu of opening a formal child welfare case.

### Step 3

Family Assessment and Service Provision. The Adolescent and Family Services Unit has trained professional staff available to assess family dynamics to determine which services, if any, are appropriate to benefit the family. Direct casework services are used to motivate adolescents to accept responsibility for their own behavior and to help make positive behavioral changes; and, to assist parents to be accountable for the behavior of the children and to learn how they may be contributing to family problems and reach resolution.

## Adolescent Services

The following services are implemented when determined appropriate by the Office of Children and Youth.

Diversion Services: Services designed to provide information, supervision and support to the family without having a formal child welfare case with the Office of Children & Youth.

In-Home Services: Services designed to provide regular and ongoing support to all family members within the home environment. Services will focus on accountability or therapeutic intervention depending on the needs of the family.

Placement Services: Placement outside of the adolescent's home is a last resort and will be considered when the child is in physical danger and after all relative and community resources for temporary housing have been explored.

