Maryland Youth Pre-DJS Process Flowchart

This Pre-DJS decision tree typically occurs in a 24-hour process from charging to report
***see accompanying brief for clarity on terminology, procedural distinctions, and explanatory notes**

Key:

- Youth Behavior Requiring Police Involvement
- Case assessment
- Enforcement Decision
- DJS process begins
- Exit juvenile system

1.
Youth comes to police attention (call, school request, officer observation, or complaint)

2.
Officer responds and conducts preliminary fact-finding (brief on-scene inquiry)

Officer determines youth meets adult jurisdiction requirements; case transferred to State's Attorney's Office. Youth detained in adult jail.

3.
Delinquency determination: Do facts support delinquent act?

No

3A.
Officer discretion for no delinquency determination; Case ends or referral for CINS (Child in Need of Supervision)

Yes

School handles administratively (no police enforcement action taken)

Citizen's referral

Parents may request formal charges from DJS

4A
No charges / Warn and release (may include referral to parent, school, or community support)

Case ends (no DJS)

4B.
Law enforcement diversion (pre- or post-arrest, varies by jurisdiction; Baltimore PD has no diversion options and all cases are automatically directed to DJS)

Diversion completion

Diversion non-Completion

4C.
Paper referral to DJS (youth remains in community pending intake review)

DJS intake officer conducts review (initial inquiry required within 15 days of complaint receipt)

Detention not authorized

4D.
Youth taken into physical custody and officer makes Immediate detention screening request

Detention authorized

DJS holds youth in detention

START DJS PROCESS
Results may also include referral to the State's Attorney's Office for formal charging, handling in-house at DJS with services, referral to outside human services.