

16th Judicial District Services and Programs



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Serving the parishes of Iberia, St. Mary & St. Martin

The **Civil Section** acts as general counsel on the daily affairs of public entities including legal advice; document review and preparation; mediation/arbitration proceedings; and formal representation involving litigation before courts of law, administrative panels or boards of review. There are over 100 such entities in the 16th Judicial District.



Criminal Prosecution of all felony and misdemeanor cases is in the charge and control of the District Attorney. As such, while working close with law enforcement, the office decides who, when and how prosecution shall proceed. Certain misdemeanors are handled by city prosecutors.

Drug Court is an alternative to traditional criminal prosecution for drug-related offenses. With the DA's office being responsible for initiating the process, it combines the close supervision of the judicial process with resources available through alcohol and drug treatment services to reduce recidivism of drug-related offenses for those who commit crimes to support their drug habit.

Juvenile Drug Court handles cases, initiated through the DA's office, through a supervision and treatment program similar to the Adult Drug Court Program. The main difference is that Juvenile Drug Court involves both adolescents and their families.

Misdemeanor Probation supervises and assists persons placed on probation. Probation, in lieu of incarceration, is an option of the court that encourages rehabilitation and, with the probationer paying a fee, is of minimal cost to the taxpayer. Restitution to victims is a priority of the Probation Department.

Pre-Trial Diversion is a program designed as an alternative to prosecution. By handling less serious cases of non-violent offenders, the burden on the court system is lessened and the offender is closely monitored and supervised, thus deterring future criminal behavior. The offender pays for the cost of the program plus any restitution to victims.



The **Victim/Witness Assistance Division** acts as a liaison between the victim/witness and the criminal justice system. To serve and assist the victim/witness of a crime, the victim/witness is given the information, knowledge, assistance and opportunity to participate actively and effectively within the criminal justice system.

The **Worthless Checks Division** assists businesses in the collection of bad checks and in the prosecution of any resulting charges. Through practices established by law, the bad check writer is required to pay restitution and to pay fees to offset collection costs.



The **Child Support Program** strives to improve the quality of life for children and reduce the cost of welfare. If a child needs financial and medical support from an absent parent, the Program may be able to help. It provides services to assist in establishing paternity, locating the parent, and establishing child support orders.

The **FINS Committee (Families In Need of Services)** is assigned the duties and responsibilities of dealing with truancy and ungovernable children. FINS goals are to reduce formal juvenile court involvement while generating appropriate community services to benefit the child and improve family relations.

Family Service Division is in partnership with the school system. Its programs strive to create a conduit between the home, the school, the social service system and the legal system in order to quickly identify and intervene with elementary and middle school aged children when behavioral, school performance, truancy, or parental involvement problems cannot be resolved through standard school channels.



Senior Citizen Services is an outreach program for the senior community on legal rights, safety, and crime related issues. It also serves as an avenue for seniors and their families to expose any abuse or neglect issues that they may be the victim of or have become aware of.

The **White-Collar Crime Division** enhances the gathering and analysis of case material involving white-collar crimes. It also provides education and creates awareness on issues of fraud, embezzlement and other such business oriented crimes.