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Maryland Office of the Public Defender Releases Resource Guide of Services for Justice-Involved Children in the Baltimore Region.

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The Maryland Office of the Public Defender (MOPD) is pleased to share “Navigating the Juvenile Justice System in Baltimore,” a comprehensive guide of organizations in the Baltimore region that provide services to justice-involved children. The guide is intended to streamline and improve collaboration among social service providers so that children and their families can receive more holistic care.

“This unique resource guide was birthed out of a desire to give our kids access to services that they often do not know about,” said Denise Smith, LCSW-C, Clinical Supervisor for the Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (OAYI) team. “We have seen the impact of blocked access and we hope that this guide will reduce the harm and increase pathways for our most vulnerable community.”

“[Navigating the Juvenile Justice System in Baltimore](#),” was created as part of the Opioid Affected Youth Initiative (OAYI), a project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. MOPD social workers and care coordinators provide assessments, planning, referrals, and support to court-involved youth in Baltimore City and Baltimore County who are impacted by personal or familial use of opioids.

“At MOPD, we are committed to both helping our young clients and serving as a resource for the greater community,” said Maryland Public Defender Natasha Dartigue. “This guide recognizes the richness in services available for children in the Baltimore region and makes them more accessible to those with heightened needs.”

To learn more about OAYI and to access [Navigating the Juvenile Justice System in Baltimore](http://www.opd.state.md.us/OAYI), visit www.opd.state.md.us/OAYI.

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