

**Stanislaus County  
Juvenile Justice Commission  
August 22, 2024 – Probation Department**

**Members Present:** Marian Martino, Chair; Stephen Ashman; Wanda Bonnell; Sandra Ainslie; Lieutenant Fidel Landeros; Sharma Uma; Kelli Bravo

**Members Excused:** Michael Baldwin Sr., Vice Chair; Dawn Cullum

**Probation Department Present:** Mark Ferriera, Chief Probation Officer; David Costa, Division Director; Tracie Martin, Facilities Superintendent

**Superior Court:** The Honorable Ruben Villalobos

**Guest:** Angelica Gomez; Karina Franco; Jennifer Pena; Paola Meza; Gisselle Madrigal

**Call to Order:** Chairperson Marian Martino called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

**Public Comment:** No public comment

**New Commission Swear-In:** Kelli Bravo was sworn in as a member of the Juvenile Justice Commission by Juvenile Judge Ruben Villalobos.

**Approval of Minutes:** **MOTION:** Stephen Ashman **SECOND:** Lieutenant Fidel Landeros. The meeting minutes from June 6, 2024, with corrections noted, were approved.

Everyone present at today's meeting introduced themselves.

**Youth Assessment Center (YAC) Presentation:**

Angelica Gomez and Gisselle Madrigal, Sierra Vista Center for Family Services Case Managers, presented about the Youth Assessment Center before the Juvenile Justice Commission (Youth Assessment Center Presentation is attached to the minutes). With the passage of Senate Bill (SB) 439, effective January 1, 2020, prohibiting anyone under 12 from being booked into Juvenile Hall or entering the Juvenile Justice system, but for certain offenses, the counties were required to develop a process to serve those youth. Sierra Vista partnered with Stanislaus County Probation and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services to create the YAC in 2019, focusing on prevention and early intervention by accountability and addressing the youth and family needs; the YAC is located at the Modesto High School Resource Center. Schools, Law Enforcement, and the Probation Department can refer youths to the YAC instead of processing them through the juvenile court. Youths with sex or violent offenses cannot be referred to the YAC.

Youths in foster care are eligible for YAC services, although it was noted that contacting the youth's social worker can be difficult. Steve Ashman suggested contacting the social worker's supervisor or manager if contact has not been made after 48 hours.

Law Enforcement can electronically refer youth to the YAC via the YAC Application, which can be downloaded onto the officer's phone. Lieutenant Landeros expressed interest in having Sierra Vista for Family Services present at a Sheriff's Department Meeting on the YAC.

CPO Ferriera noted that presentations have been given before the Board of Supervisors and Law Enforcement Executives. A video is available and will be forwarded to the JJC membership.

**Probation Department Report:**

Tracie Martin, Facilities Superintendent, reported the following:

Every Monday, the non-profit organization Without Permission facilitates visits between its service dog, Baxter, and the youths within the juvenile facilities. Baxter spends an hour and a half with youths and is very well-received.

Two youths from the Secure Youth Treatment Facility started step-down programming. Before their release from the Juvenile Facilities, several community-based organizations met to support the youths. One youth is at the Pine Grove Fire Camp, where he can obtain employment combating forest fires upon completing the program and becoming certified. The other youth is now placed at the Youth Navigation Center, where he will receive wraparound services and placement into the transitional home, where he will continue to receive case management services and move forward with his education and vocational training.

Five youths from the SYTF started the Northern California Construction Training (NCCT) today, and VOLT, a manufacturing vocational program, is scheduled to begin in October.

The Probation Department has gone into contract with the Psychology Assessment Resource Center (PARC) to provide Sex Offender treatment for youth in and out of custody.

Lastly, Ms. Martin discussed the recent uptick in youth bookings into Juvenile Hall.

Juvenile Supervision Division Director David Costa advised that the Juvenile Justice Local Action Plan will soon expire, and a new plan must be developed. He also mentioned that AB1051 went into effect on July 1, 2024. This Assembly Bill is aimed at ensuring that foster youth and probation-involved youth receive appropriate specialty mental health services, even when placed out of county.

Mr. Costa also advised that youth-involved auto thefts are on the rise.

#### **Juvenile Court Report:**

Judge Ruben Villalobos commented that the day was heavy due to the increased Juvenile Hall youth bookings. The Chief stated that Juvenile Hall has had several bad days with youth bookings involving Gun possession, battery, and auto theft.

#### **Announcements:**

Stephen Ashman advised the group that he has been in conversations with Judge Rees, Judge Villalobos, and Chief Ferriera about forming a partnership to incorporate a CASA program within the institutions.

Sharma Uma announced that this year's SARB Conference will be held on August 29 and 30, 2024. An email invitation will be forwarded to the JJC membership.

The next Juvenile Justice Commission meeting and annual inspection of the Juvenile Facilities is scheduled for October 17, 2024, at 10 a.m. The Commission will meet in the Juvenile Justice Court Lobby.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

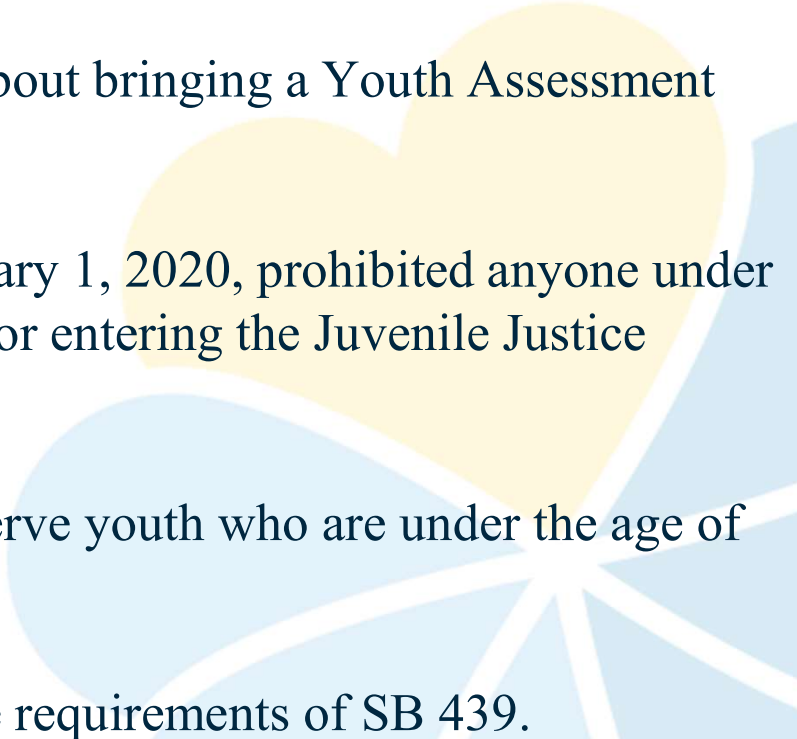


**Sierra  
Vista**  
Child & Family Services

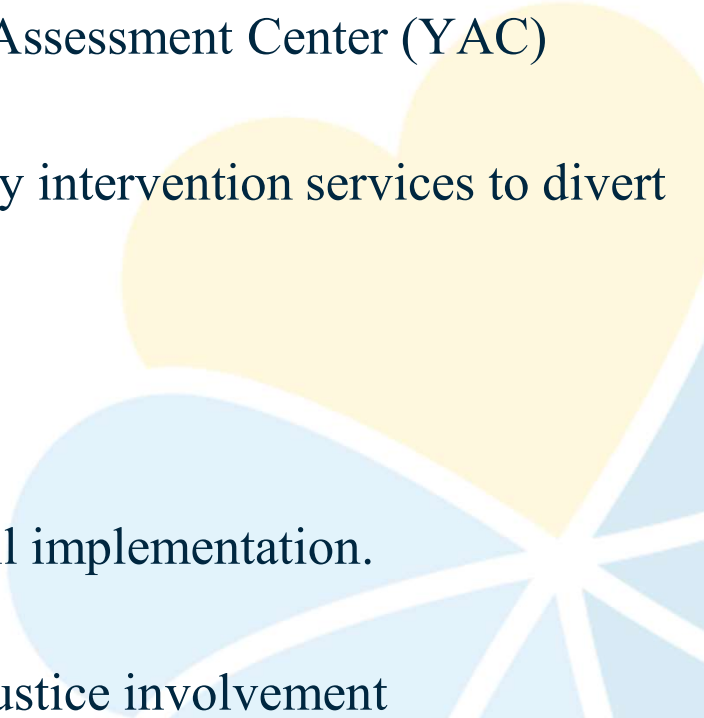
# Youth Assessment Center



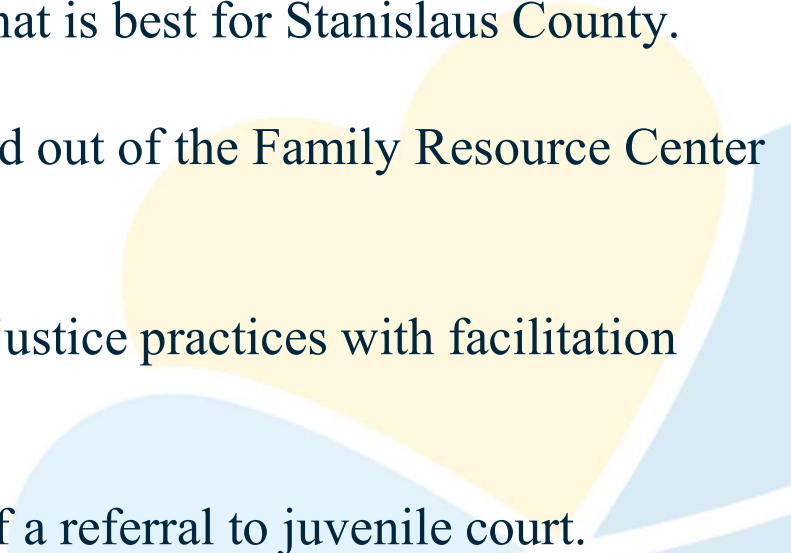
# Background

- Youth Assessment Center (YAC) concept discussions began as far back as 1996.
  - Probation staff began to have internal discussions about bringing a Youth Assessment Center to fruition in 2018.
  - The passage of Senate Bill (SB) 439, effective January 1, 2020, prohibited anyone under the age of 12 from being booked into Juvenile Hall or entering the Juvenile Justice system but for certain offenses.
  - SB 439 required Counties to develop a process to serve youth who are under the age of 12.
  - Youth Assessment Center identified as fulfilling the requirements of SB 439.
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# Introduction to the Youth Assessment Center

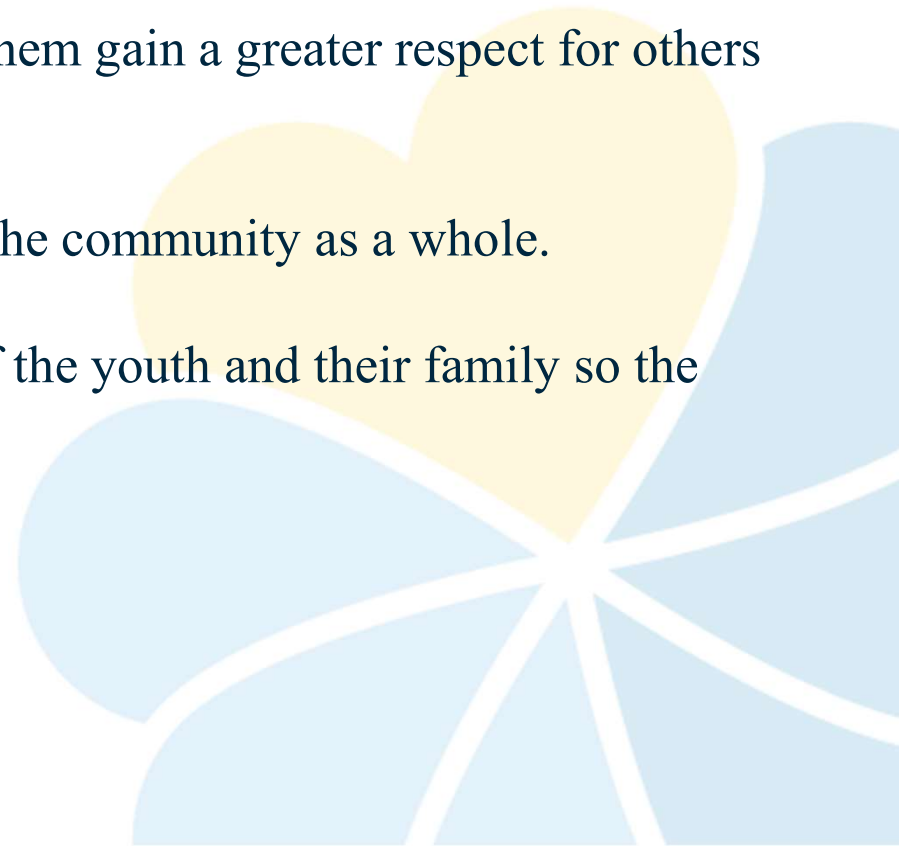
- Stanislaus County Probation and Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS) partnered with Sierra Vista to pilot the first Youth Assessment Center (YAC)
  - The YAC mission is to provide prevention and early intervention services to divert youth from the justice system.
  - November 2019 the “Pilot Phase” began.
  - On July 1, 2020, the YAC began its first year of full implementation.
  - Goal of the YAC is to break the cycle of criminal justice involvement
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# Youth Assessment Center

- Reviews of other YAC programs to build a YAC that is best for Stanislaus County.
  - Currently serving youth in Stanislaus County, based out of the Family Resource Center in West Modesto.
  - Community-based: YAC encompasses restorative justice practices with facilitation from staff and community members.
  - Goal is to have the referral to the YAC be in lieu of a referral to juvenile court.
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# What Works?: Restorative Justice

- Goal is to **change the mindset** of the youth. Help them gain a greater respect for others and themselves through accountability.
- **Accountability:** Repairing harm to the victim and the community as a whole.
- **Addressing needs:** Support for underlying needs of the youth and their family so the youth are less likely to re-offend.

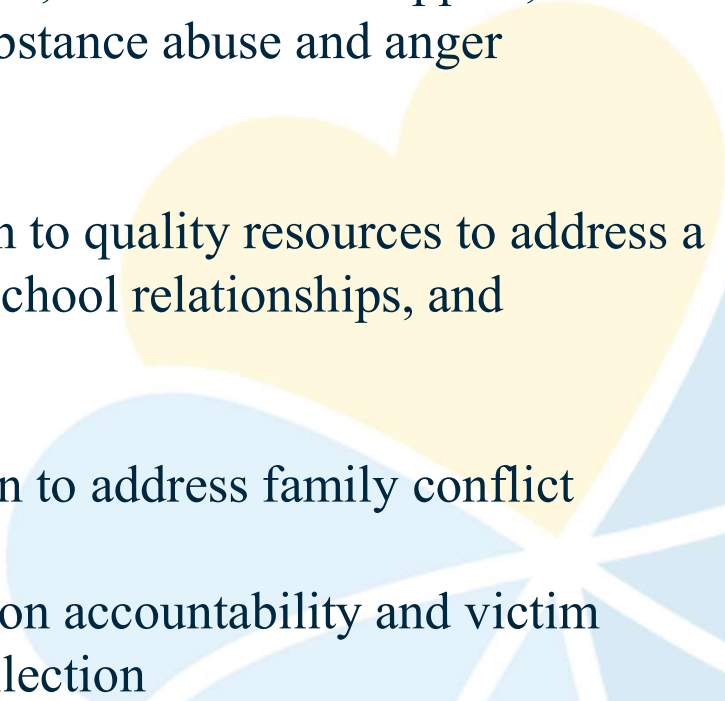


## The Restorative Justice Difference

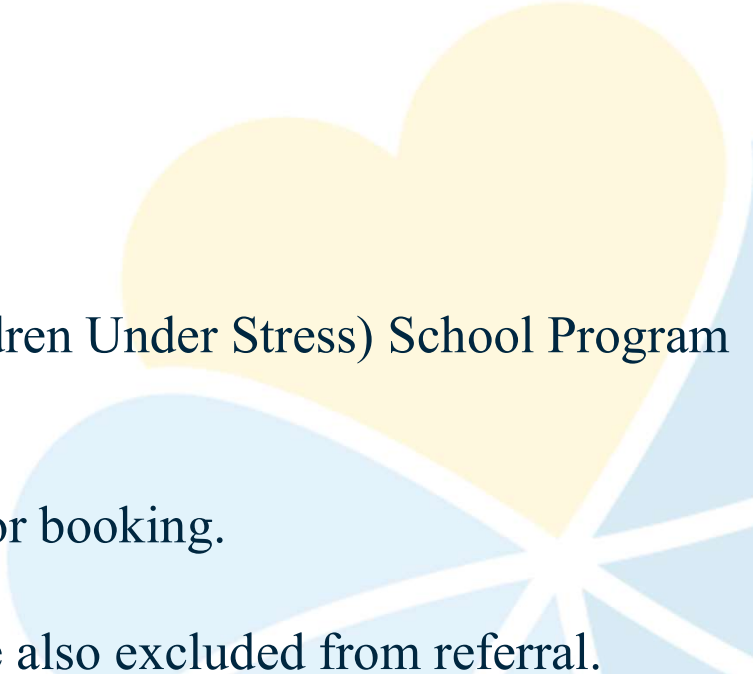




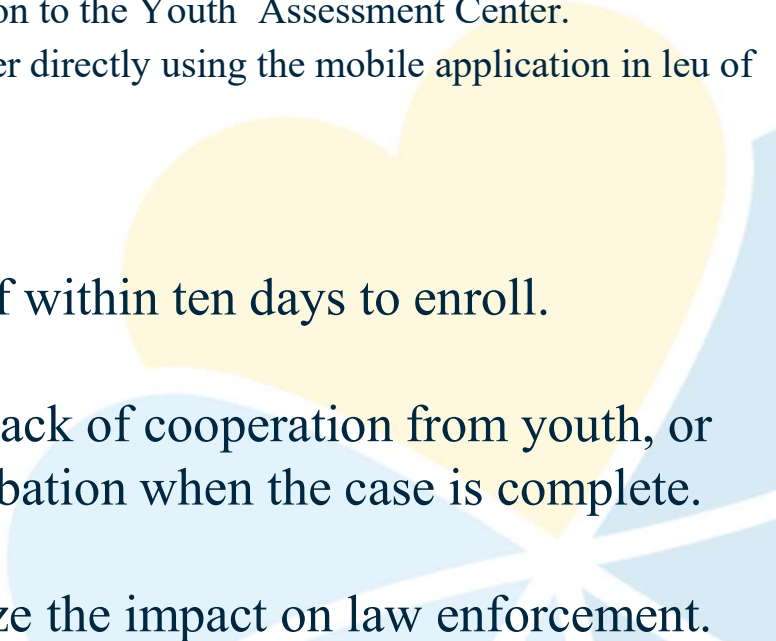
# Primary Services

- **Case Management:** Wrap-around case management, mental health support, and multi-layered interventions for youth, including substance abuse and anger management.
  - **Counseling and Referral Services:** Connect youth to quality resources to address a variety of needs, including peer support, bridging school relationships, and connecting to positive extra curricular activities.
  - **Family Conflict Resolution:** Parent/teen mediation to address family conflict
  - **Victim-Offender Restitution Services:** Focusing on accountability and victim restoration resulting in higher victim restitution collection
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# Referral Criteria

- Prevention and Early Intervention candidates. Youth is under 18 years old.
  - Voluntary: The youth and parent must agree to participate. Sierra Vista will handle those conversations.
  - Misdemeanor or felony offenses are accepted.
    - Experiencing family conflict
    - Frequent law enforcement contacts
    - Candidates for the F.O.C.U.S. (Focusing on Children Under Stress) School Program
    - Youth under 12 years old under SB 439
  - Services can be provided to youth without a citation or booking.
  - Most sex offenses and domestic violence offenses are also excluded from referral.
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# Referral Process & Follow Up

- Youth are referred by one of the three methods;
    - ❑ Citations from law enforcement agency are diverted by Probation to the Youth Assessment Center.
    - ❑ Law enforcement agencies refer to the Youth Assessment Center directly using the mobile application in lieu of issuing a citation.
    - ❑ School Districts refer youth to the Youth Assessment Center.
  - Family contacted by Youth Assessment Center staff within ten days to enroll.
  - Updates are sent to a Probation liaison if there is a lack of cooperation from youth, or for other issues. Written confirmation is sent to Probation when the case is complete.
  - Goal is to streamline the referral process to minimize the impact on law enforcement.
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# Mobile Application

The screenshot shows the mobile application interface for the Youth Assessment Center Referral. At the top, there is a header with the YAC logo and the text "Youth Assessment Center Referral". Below the header, there is a form with four sections:

- 1. Accident Date:** A text input field with "12/31/2021" entered.
- 2. Referring Agency:** A dropdown menu with "Seaside County Sheriff" selected.
- 3. Referrer's Name:** A text input field with "Enter your name" as a placeholder.
- 4. Referrer's Email Address:** A text input field with "Enter your email" as a placeholder.

At the bottom of the form, there is a "Send" button and a small text link: "Have you had your password? Report abuse".



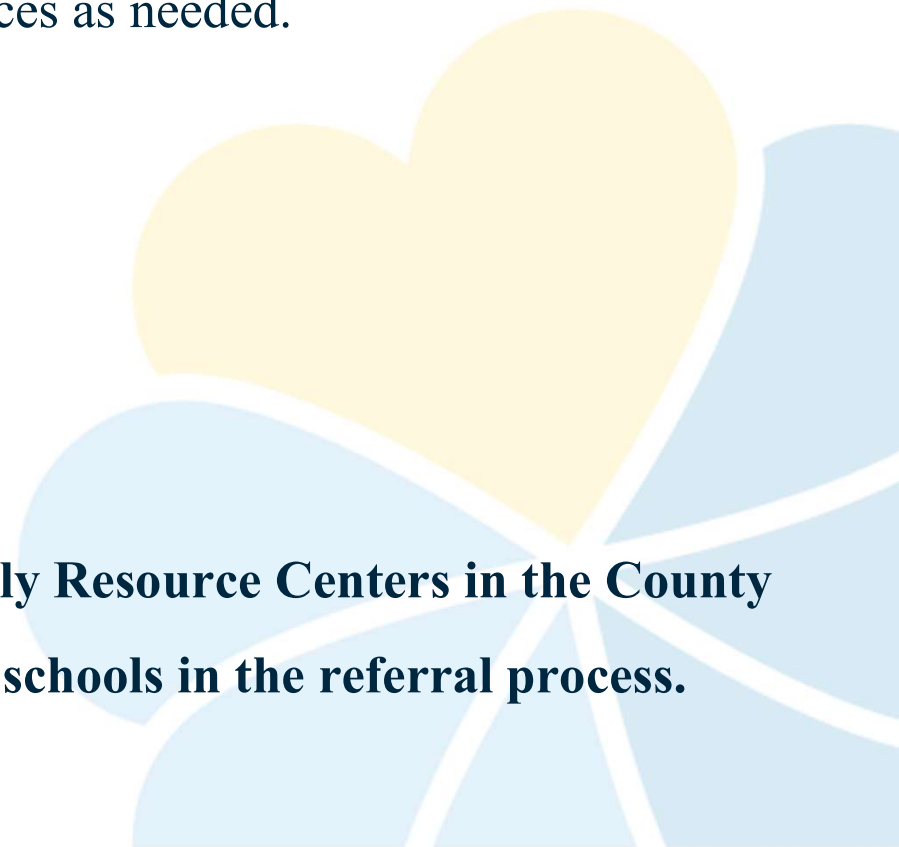


## Accessibility

- Services held near families:  
Community Center/  
School.
- No cost to family.
- No language barriers.
- Flexible hours.

# Summary

- Victim/Offender Restitution and Parent-Teen mediation services.
- Connection to mental health services and other services as needed.
- Intensive Case Management
- No cost to families.
- Reduced calls for service.
- Decrease in recidivism.
- Victim restoration resulting in higher restitution.
- **Long-term goal: Embed YAC concept in all Family Resource Centers in the County and include ALL Law Enforcement agencies and schools in the referral process.**





# Success Story

Changes in my character.  
Clearly, according to not just me but to close family that I do not have any aggressive tendencies what-so-ever. Even in the situation that I do run into a "trigger" that could make me upset or angry, I have learned so many ways to avoid becoming verbally or even physically aggressive. Example that I found to help most was definitely the "grounding" technique. I found it most helpful because placing yourself in a sort of mental pause to take in your surroundings.

I can say with my full honesty that I have reformed from who I was, and who I could have been. I do fully accept what has happened this past year. If anything, I'm glad everything that has happened, did happen. I couldn't have possibly become the changed person of who I am now, if not for what happened on my birthday last year. I'm 100% certain this year will be better.

Thank you for reading and understanding the new possibility for my whole future.

for what I decided to aggressively strike back against my sister for shoving me, but, I will not, it was and is my fault entirely for the incident. But to say that only bad things came of this would be a lie. I have personally seen major improvements since starting the program. During the start, I saw little reason to even be in the program, other than staying out of jail. But learning even little things like the emotion iceberg did make some impacts in my day to day life in how I respond to situations.



**Thank you for your  
time today!**

