

PRESS RELEASE



Independence Youth Court

Serving the youth of Independence since 1985

111 East Maple

Independence, Missouri 64050

816-325-7750 or 816-325-7107

Email: youthct@indepmo.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Graduation of Volunteer Youth Attorneys

November 25th, 2019, the new class of Youth Attorneys will be completing their last step before taking on cases. At 7 o'clock in the evening at the Fort Osage Performing Arts Center, Independence and Grain Valley Municipal Court Judge, and Youth Court Executive Director, Susan Watkins will be swearing in the newest set of attorneys and providing them with graduation certificates. Every fall the Independence Youth Court recruits students from the Independence and Fort Osage School Districts, with the assistance of counselors, Principals, teachers and School Resource Officers

About Independence Youth Court

Youth Court is a peer tried court serving the youth of Independence since 1985. Youth Court is a youth diversion program operating under the jurisdiction of the City of Independence and the Jackson County Family Court. Youth Court accepts at risk juveniles ages 6 through 17. Every defendant is assigned a youth attorney for their defense. Defendants may choose to plead either guilty or not guilty. If a guilty plea is entered, the defendant will be ordered by the teen judge, to complete a specific number of community service hours and complete an educational program. If a "not guilty" plea is entered, the defendant will continue to a trial. The courtroom process is monitored by adults at all times. Independence Youth Court's primary funding is received from the Jackson County COMBAT (Community Backed Anti-Drug Tax) program, as well as the City of Independence. Without this funding, and the support of the Jackson County Legislature, the program could not operate.

Jackson County
COMBAT
Save A Life. Save A Neighborhood.