

# JDAI Strategies for Expediting Court Cases and Reducing Delays

## Cases that are processed slowly in Juvenile Court lead to:

- ◆ Long stays in detention or community for youth awaiting hearings
- ◆ Youth not receiving accountability and services in a timely manner
- ◆ Youth, with short memories, failing to seeing the connection between their behavior and the consequence

## JDAI sites use a number of strategies to reduce delays in court processing:

- ◆ Policy to establish time frames for filing/dismissal decisions, appointment of counsel, and timely hearings
- ◆ A dedicated Expediter position to identify stalled cases, review long stays in detention, schedule reviews when incarcerated youth can be “stepped down” to less restrictive forms of confinement.
- ◆ Reduce continuances
- ◆ Improved notification to minimize missed hearings and resultant warrants
  - Post card sent 7 days before hearing
  - Telephone call day before hearing, ensuring parent attendance and transportation

**State of Washington**  
\_\_\_\_\_ **County Juvenile Court**

Cause # \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

This notice is to remind you of a hearing scheduled in your court case on \_\_\_\_\_, 2005

Your hearing is scheduled at \_\_\_\_\_ am/pm., located at \_\_\_\_\_

Failure to appear for this hearing may result in a warrant being issued for your arrest.

If you have any questions, please call \_\_\_\_\_