

**Children's Services**  
**LWVIL Issues Briefing, February 5, 2011**  
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**Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Background**

Juveniles were the responsibility of the Illinois Youth Commission until 1970 when those services were organized as the Juvenile Division of the Department of Corrections. For some years this worked reasonably well. Eventually, the adult division with its escalating population and its emphasis on punishment overshadowed the smaller division. In 2006 the DJJ again became a separate agency. Without additional resources, however, certain vital services such as aftercare are still administered by the DOC.

**2010**

- **Governor's Proposal.** In March the Governor issued an executive order calling for a study of a merger between DJJ and the Department of Children and Family Services.
- **LWVIL Action.** The League testified before a House Subcommittee that we preferred that the DJJ remain a stand alone agency. Our testimony was based on our extensive study in the 1960s.
- **Go-See Tour.** Co-sponsored, with the LWV of Cook County, a visit to the Illinois Youth Center-Chicago.
- **Collaboration.** Participated in the Collaborative on Reentry.

**For more information**

- *Policies and Procedures of the Illinois Juvenile Justice System* [www.icjia.state.il.us](http://www.icjia.state.il.us)
- LWVIL. [www.lwvil.org/children.asp](http://www.lwvil.org/children.asp)

**How you and the LWVIL can work together**

- **Questions about Children's Services and program planning? E-mail Eileen Subak.**  
[issues@lwvil.org](mailto:issues@lwvil.org)
- **Sign the form in the packet if you would like to be a Children's Services Grass Roots Advocate.**