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## GETTING BUSTED

More than 10 percent of America's youth are taken into the custody of the juvenile justice system before their 18th birthday, according to data generated by Syndistar Inc. in its 10 minute video presentation, "**GETTING BUSTED.**" Although some are arrested for serious crimes such as theft, robbery, burglary, and crimes of violence, the majority have committed "status offenses" such as disobeying parents, running away, truancy, or attempting to obtain alcoholic beverages.

The Community Resource Development (CRD) program staff of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service observes that although there is no single reason why young people commit crimes, there is, however, general agreement among psychologists, sociologists, and law enforcers that poverty, boredom, low self-esteem, and peer pressure are frequently factors.

Being familiar with the juvenile justice system is not going to deter serious offenders, but such information is useful in educating potential first time or status offenders about the possible consequences of being taken into custody. Youth need to understand that the juvenile justice system is in some ways more restrictive than the adult system and to be aware of the stigma of being arrested, even though the system is designed to protect their privacy.

### Suggested Uses:

To provide select audiences with accurate, current knowledge of consequences of being taken into custody. To provide an educational program to serve as an introduction piece for audience discussion.

### Recommended For:

Community and corporate prevention and rehabilitation programs, schools, colleges and universities, and 4-H youth programs. In addition, Chamber of Commerce, merchant associations, and other youth support organizations.

### Producers

Syndistar, Inc.  
648 Hickory Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70123  
1-800-841-9532

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no. 306-048  
VPI  
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## CONCLUSION

**GETTING BUSTED** is directed primarily at young people who may be tempted to commit crimes such as shoplifting, auto theft, or status offenses because they believe that getting arrested could "never happen to me." The Community Resource Development staff realizes that each community and state may differ in the way juvenile offenders are treated when arrested, but feel that **GETTING BUSTED** is an effective overview of typical situations faced by young people who are brought into custody. The presentation is an educational awareness tool and most effectively used when combined with group discussion.

Detailed questions concerning the juvenile justice system or any form of crime prevention should be directed to your local police or sheriff's department. Please consult your local Extension office for additional crime prevention resources made available by the CRD program.



### Community Resource Development

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