

**Voice or Choice**

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CRJS 215S: Introduction to Criminology

Professor Paul Leccese

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Honor Pledge: Seth Sarauw

## **Introduction**

On October 14th, 2025, I had the chance to shadow Mrs Allison Ames at the Department of Juvenile Justice located in Virginia Beach. During my visit, I gained a new insight into daily operations and responsibilities of those who work for the juvenile justice system. I was also given the chance to go on a tour of the Virginia Beach Juvenile Detention Center. I learned about a wide variety of processes that take place on a daily basis, such as: intake, booking, education, living arrangements, and virtual court proceedings. In addition to being able to observe the procedures, I was able to participate in several hands-on learning experiences that gave me a better view and idea of what they do in the department rather than just explaining it in words.

## **Department of Juvenile Justice**

When I first arrived in the department, I was taken on a tour of the office and was able to meet all the employees at the office and was told about them and what their job consists of doing. After going around and meeting the employees, I went to Mrs. Ames's office and I was taught about reading and checking code properly, as well as, reading a couple of fake cases and seeing if the code that they were charged for was proper. They set up a couple of meetings for me with a few of their employees and they taught me about their Child in Need of Services/Supervision program (CHINS) and their School Threat Offense Program (STOP). CHINS is an order from the juvenile court for minors with serious issues that parents, schools, and social services can not fix voluntarily. STOP is a five week intervention program for youth being disciplined for offenses like disorderly conduct and threats online or in person. By taking on this program, they can have their charges dropped.

## **Virginia Beach Juvenile Detention Center**

While I was there I was taken on a tour of the nearby Juvenile Detention Center. While I was at the detention center I was shown around the center and taught about how they do the processing, schooling, and life within those walls. We first went and visited the processing area of the detention center. I was informed about the sally port at the center and shown around it. I was then taken to the shower/examination room. I was shown around the room and shown the cleaning supplies they use. I was next taken to the holding centers until they could be taken to a cell. Next I was taken to the actual cells of the detention center. The detention center had a very cozy looking free zone of the area of the cells. I was shown and told about the process the inmates must take every morning before they start their day. I was also shown the detention centers classrooms and shown the library of the detention center. I was taught about their Community Placement Program (CPP), the CPP according to the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice is “A goal of the CPPs is to place youth in smaller settings closer to their home communities to facilitate a smoother transition after release and to increase family engagement”.

CRJS 215  
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Field Observation Validation

I, Seth Sarawu participated in a observation/police ride-a-long  
(your name)

with the City/Agency of Virginia Beach in the Department of  
(City of observation)

Juvenile Justice on 10/14/25  
(City/Agency Department) (Date of Observation)

The Official/Police Officer's name and title I observed was

Allison Ames  
(Official/officer's name you observed)

Seth  
Student Signature

Alli Am - Juvenile Probation supervisor  
Official/Officer's Signature & Title