

# Metropolitan Police Academy



## 4.2 Overview of DC Legal System

## Introduction

Keeping the District of Columbia safe from crime and disorder is the primary responsibility of the Metropolitan Police Department. The MPD, however, is just one of many components and governmental agencies that help ensure that the District of Columbia is a safe place for its citizens. Legislative officials created the US Code, the DC Code, and the DC Municipal Regulations as the sources of the MPD's authority in carrying out its mission. These statutes contain collections of criminal laws that are evolving on an almost yearly basis. The MPD, though, could not effectively provide safety and security for the residents of the District of Columbia without the prosecutorial agencies that pursue cases in courts of law. The US Attorney's Office (USAO) is the primary prosecutorial agency in the District of Columbia, although the local Office of the Attorney General (OAG) also plays a role. The primary court that reviews the arrests made by MPD and the resulting charges brought by prosecutors is the DC Superior Court. The US District Court for DC handles the many federal cases that are filed there. These components of the DC legal system have changed little since the inception of DC home rule authority in 1974. The procedural steps in criminal cases have largely remained the same as well.

From the initial pre-arrest investigation to sentencing, the DC legal system has strict guidelines. MPD is critically important in nearly every stage of a criminal case. However, MPD is not nearly as involved when it comes to housing offenders. MPD only initially holds defendants in its custody. The US Marshal's Service, DC Department of Corrections, Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons are the primary providers of housing for offenders in DC.

### 4.2.1 Distinguish the sources of criminal offenses in Washington, DC

Before there was a DC Code or DC Municipal Regulations, there was the US Code. The United States has been passing laws since its inception in 1776. At first, the laws were easy to track but as the country grew and passed more laws, it became difficult to show expertise in them. This is due to the fact that the Code expanded to contain thousands of laws, whose passage owes to politics and opportunity, and a lack of logic in its organization. Law enforcement relied on private publishers to organize compilations of laws in order to more easily reference needed US statutes. Senator Charles Sumner of Massachusetts and the US Congress attempted to sanction a codification of US laws. After eight years of writing and organizing, the *Revised Statutes of the United States of 1874* was finished. This was the precursor to the US Code we are familiar with today. Formally organizing the US Code was an even more ambitious project than the one that Senator Sumner had envisioned. As congressional legislation kept accumulating, it was apparent that a more all-encompassing codification of US laws was needed. Although it started in 1897, the project was not finished until 1926.

US Code titles 18, 21, and 26 are frequently used as sources of criminal offenses in Washington, DC. When MPD makes arrests for US Code offenses, the cases are prosecuted in federal court. The various federal law enforcement agencies, such as the US Park Police and investigatory agencies such as the ATF, primarily investigate and enforce violations of the US Code.

The DC Code is the main source for criminal offenses for MPD. The DC Code was started by the US Congress, and it is still located in Title 1 of the US Code. Since the advent of home rule authority, however, local DC government has dramatically changed the DC Code that it inherited from the federal government. The bulk of the criminal offenses in DC are found here. MPD charges of assault, disorderly conduct, theft, burglary, DWI, and offenses related to various prohibited weapons, threats, etc., can be found here. The

DC Code is thus the main reference for MPD in the carrying out of its law enforcement duties. Another source for criminal offenses in DC is the DC Municipal Regulations.

For most of the District's history under federal control, Congress delegated the day-to-day governance of the District to a board of three appointed commissioners. There were no statutory procedures for the adoption of administrative regulations or ordinances. Congress mainly dealt with the overall city budget and creating the DC Code through House and Senate committees. Regulations and ordinances adopted by commissioners were done so under the authority of Congress and were promulgated in the form of Commissioner's Orders. There were no provisions for public notice or comment, except in certain instances where a specific law required a public hearing or a bulletin was posted as an ad in the newspaper. In order to determine what the non-statutory law in the District was before 1954, it is most often necessary to engage in a difficult and tedious search of the minutes of the meetings of the commissioners (see the National Archives). Needless to say, these regulations tended to have relatively minor in impact on the lives of DC residents relative to the laws contained in the DC Code.

Many of the old Commissioners' Orders form the basis for regulations which are now a part of the DC Municipal Regulations (DCMR). The authority to amend the old Commissioner's Orders and enact new regulations has been divided between the Mayor and the Council. The DCMR still contains the bulk of city ordinances and minor miscellaneous laws. MPD's enforcement of traffic infractions, alcohol consumption, and noise ordinances largely stems from the DCMR.

#### **4.2.2 Associate the prosecuting agencies in Washington, DC with their jurisdictions**

As noted earlier, one prosecuting agency in the District of Columbia is the US Attorney's Office (USAO). Although a federal agency, the USAO in DC prosecutes a wide range of local crimes, from drug misdemeanors to murder. The US Attorney's office in DC is unique in that it is the only US Attorney's office in the country that prosecutes local as well as federal crimes. The USAO for DC is the largest in the country, and MPD mostly deals with its Criminal and Superior Court Divisions. The Criminal Division handles criminal cases that are heard in the US District Court for the District of Columbia. The MPD cases filed here are usually serious gang or drug trafficking offenses. Relatively few MPD cases are prosecuted by the approximately sixty (60) Assistants US Attorney (AUSAs) that work there.

##### **USAO Criminal Division**

The Criminal Division is divided into four sections:

- **Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering** – The US Code provides authority to seize and forfeit the proceeds of virtually all serious federal offenses, including terrorism, drug trafficking, organized crime, child exploitation, human trafficking, fraud, and money laundering. This section's primary focus is seizing the assets of criminals in order to compensate victims.
- **Fraud and Public Corruption** – The offenses investigated by this section include any committed by US or DC government employees, to include the Metropolitan Police Department. Some examples of public corruption prosecutions include the payment and receipt of bribes and gratuities, honest services fraud, theft of government property, and financial conflict of interest. Additionally, this section investigates fraud against both private citizens and the government. This includes mail and wire fraud, mortgage fraud, tax-related offenses, false claims, government contract fraud, receipt and payment of kickbacks on government contracts, bank fraud, and money laundering.

- **National Security** – This section is responsible for investigating and prosecuting international and domestic terrorism, export control violations, espionage, unlawful disclosure of classified information, threats against high-ranking public officials, non-terrorist extraterritorial violent crimes against American citizens, immigration violations, and other sensitive matters that implicate national security. MPD’s Homeland Security Bureau has contact with this particular section.
- **Violent Crime and Narcotics Trafficking** – This is the section that MPD works with most regularly. This section handles long-term investigations, initiatives directed at and prosecutions of gang-related violence, and complex narcotics conspiracies. For example, national gang activity and drug trafficking are prosecuted by this section of the Criminal Division. MPD’s NSID, CID, and PSSB divisions all have cases that routinely go through this section.

Most cases that the MPD presents for prosecution are handled by the US Attorney’s Office Superior Court Division. This is the division that makes the US Attorney’s Office for DC unique. Unlike the Criminal Division which predominately prosecutes offenses for violations of the US Code, the Superior Court Division prosecutes cases for violations of the DC Code, such as narcotics offenses, theft, robbery, murder, and assault.

#### **USAO Superior Court Division**

The Superior Court Division is divided into four sections:

- **Felony Major Crimes** – This section prosecutes major felony violations of the DC Code and is broken into units that mirror MPD’s districts. Included here are the community prosecutors that work closely with their respective stakeholders and MPD officers. They also get to know the community members through various types of initiatives and meetings. Community prosecutors implement the US Attorney’s version of community policing. This section prosecutes felonies such as assaults, AWIKs, ADWs, and burglaries.
- **General Crimes** - This section is divided into two units. (1) The Felony Trial Unit is responsible for the post-indictment prosecution of most felony cases brought in the DC Superior Court. This unit’s attorneys handle a variety of cases involving trafficking, weapons offenses, and stolen vehicles. (2) The Misdemeanor Trial Unit prosecutes offenses involving narcotics and weapons possession, theft, prostitution, animal cruelty, illegal dumping, destruction of property, threats, and simple assault.
- **Sex Offense and Domestic Violence** – This section is responsible for the prosecution of all misdemeanor and felony cases that involve domestic violence or sexual abuse. This section also prosecutes cases involving child physical abuse.
- **Homicide** – All homicides committed in Washington, DC are prosecuted through this section which has some of the most experienced US Attorneys in DC. They also investigate cold cases and special victim cases, and work closely with MPD homicide detectives.

Although the US Attorney’s Office for DC prosecutes the majority of DC Code offenses as well as all US Code violations, there exists another prosecuting agency in DC with which MPD interacts. This is the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) for DC, formerly known as the Corporation Counsel’s Office. The OAG deals with mostly civil litigation matters involving DC government and its employees, however its Public Safety Division has criminal prosecutorial power. This is manifested in prosecutions of offenders charged as adults for minor violations of the DC Code that the US Attorney does not prosecute, as well as all criminal violations of DCMR. All offenders charged as juveniles, whether with felonies or misdemeanors, are also prosecuted by the Attorney General. The OAG’s Public Safety Division is divided into two sections:

- **Criminal Section** – This section prosecutes adult offenders for criminal offenses that the USAO does not prosecute. Offenses include criminal traffic offenses like DWI and Reckless Driving. Certain weapons offenses like possession of an illegal self-defense spray and possession of a destructive device are also prosecuted by the OAG.
- **Juvenile Section** – The OAG prosecutes all juvenile crimes, including murder, sexual assault, armed robbery, and burglary. However, the USAO has authority to charge juveniles as adults in certain circumstances.

### 4.2.3 Differentiate the court systems in Washington, DC

The District's local criminal justice system is unlike that found in any other jurisdiction in the country. For example, judges in the District of Columbia Courts, who have authority equivalent to that possessed by other state-level judges, are nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. These are lifetime appointments. In addition, the District of Columbia is home to the U.S. Supreme Court, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, the US District Court for the District of Columbia, and other specialized federal courts. The court that handles MPD cases is the US District Court for the District of Columbia. This court handles Criminal Division AUSA cases resulting involving predominately US Code violations. This court is housed in the E. Barrett Prettyman Federal Courthouse directly behind MPD headquarters.

Until Congress passed the *District of Columbia Court Reform and Criminal Procedure Act of 1970*, the federal courts in DC exercised both federal and local jurisdiction. This legislation established the DC Superior Court to purely handle local DC cases. Judges of these courts are appointed to a fifteen (15) year term by the president, with Senate confirmation. The President appoints judges from lists submitted by a judicial nomination commission. Judges who seek reappointment to office upon the completion of their terms are evaluated by a commission. Judges who are rated "well qualified" by the commission are automatically reappointed. Judges found to be "qualified" may be appointed by the president for an additional term, subject to Senate confirmation. If the president chooses not to reappoint a "qualified" judge, or if the commission finds a judge "unqualified," the commission compiles a new list of candidates for those vacancies.

#### DC Superior Court

The DC Superior Court is comprised of three divisions:

- **Criminal** – This division handles misdemeanor, felony, and criminal traffic offenses. This is where community courts, which take a problem-solving approach to crime, are found. Most lower-level offenders are eligible for trials at community courts and subject to punishment that tends to focus on rehabilitation rather than incarceration. The Criminal Division now has eight (8) community courts: D.C. Community Court, Mental Health Community Court, 1D Community Court, 2D/4D Community Court, 3D Community Court, 5D Community Court, 6D Community Court, and 7D Community Court.
- **Domestic Violence** – This division handles cases in which parties request protective orders against persons related by blood, legal custody, marriage, having a child in common, sharing of the same residence (currently or in the past), or having a romantic dating relationship (currently or in the past); parties with a partner in common (currently or in the past); and parties who claim they have been stalked. Judges in this division also hear cases alleging violations of protective orders and all misdemeanor criminal cases involving an intra-family offense.

- **Family Court Operations** – This division handles child abuse and neglect, juvenile delinquency, adoption, divorce, custody, guardianship, visitation, paternity, child support, and termination of parental rights cases, as well as those involving mental health and rehabilitation. A large percentage of MPD cases end up in the Family Court Operations Division.

The DC Superior Court Board of Judges sets all collateral and bond amounts for misdemeanor offenses [GO-PCA-503.03 (List of Bonds and Collaterals)].

#### 4.2.4 Explain the procedural steps in a criminal case

The procedural steps in a criminal case begin with the **pre-arrest investigation**. This is where, at a minimum, an MPD officer builds the necessary probable cause in order to make an arrest. Investigative tools such as investigative stops, pat downs, and contacts may be utilized. This is frequently when the bulk of an officer's evidence against a defendant is compiled. This is also where the Fourth Amendment of the US Constitution is most influential. The aim of a pre-arrest investigation is to formulate probable cause for an arrest. An investigation that is not within the bounds of the Fourth Amendment does not further a criminal case against a defendant.

Once there is probable cause, MPD can make an arrest. The **arrest** is the focal point of MPD's role in a criminal case. The most common initiation of a criminal legal proceeding begins with the arrest of a suspect. At this point, the suspect becomes an arrestee.

**Booking** is an administrative procedure that usually immediately follows an arrest. After being arrested, a criminal suspect (the arrestee) is "booked" or "processed." During booking, a police officer typically obtains the defendant's personal information (i.e., name, date of birth, physical characteristics); records information about the suspect's alleged crime; performs a record search of the defendant's criminal background; fingerprints, photographs, and searches the defendant; confiscates and lists any personal property carried by the defendant that the arresting and/or transporting officers did not seize before the defendant's arrival at the police station; and places the suspect in a police station holding cell. The primary purpose of booking is to create a formal record of a suspect's arrest and to ensure the suspect's arrival at court for legal proceedings should charges be filed in court.

The **post-arrest investigation** occurs before, during and after booking. Whether the charge involves a DWI or murder, the post-arrest investigation is critical. While probable cause is sufficient for an MPD arrest, in order for there to be a conviction there must be proof beyond a reasonable doubt, a higher standard of proof to meet. Post-arrest investigations can take on a variety of forms, involving:

- Interviews of additional witnesses
- Analysis of evidence (e.g., chemical analysis of drugs, function testing of firearms, etc.)
- Examination of financial records

Prosecutors make the decision on whether to charge the arrestees that MPD presents to the courts. As stated previously, MPD officers make an arrest based on whether they have probable cause to believe a crime has been, was being, or was about to be committed and the defendant was the one responsible. Prosecutors in DC are the ones that decide whether to file formal charges, but only if they believe that they can prove an arrestee guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Prosecutors use a broader perspective than is typically allowed to an MPD officer. They have what is known as prosecutorial discretion. Prosecutors

can look at all of the circumstances of the case and arrestee, including the arrestee's past criminal record, and decide whether and what to charge. This is where the quality of an MPD officer's paperwork becomes essential. A strong case needs strong arrest and incident reports. Prosecutors can file charges on all crimes for which the police arrested a suspect, can file charges that are more or less severe than the charges leveled by the police, or can decide not to file any charges at all. USAO and OAG attorneys look at the strength of the pre- and post-arrest investigations before deciding to file a complaint.

Once a criminal complaint is filed in court, the arrestee is known as a defendant.

When a prosecutor decides to start a criminal case against a defendant charged by MPD, he or she does so with what is called a **criminal complaint**. This is a sworn document that formally defines all charges faced by the defendant. The complaint can include both misdemeanor and felony charges.

The **first appearance** is a hearing before a magistrate judge in which the defendant is advised of his or her rights. If the defendant does not have an attorney at that time, he or she is given an opportunity to obtain one if so desired. If the defendant cannot afford to hire an attorney, the court will consider whether or not to appoint an attorney to represent the defendant based on the financial situation of the defendant. The magistrate judge next informs the defendant of the charges in the criminal complaint and the statutory maximum sentence that could be imposed. After that, the issue of bail is addressed.

Within a set number of days, the defendant must appear in court for a **preliminary hearing** or, if a grand jury indictment has been returned, arraignment.

Charges filed without the assistance of a grand jury are done so utilizing what is called a **criminal information** accompanied by an affidavit that summarizes the evidence against the defendant. Cases involving a criminal information must proceed to preliminary hearing within a short period of time, which involves the presentation of testimony after which the magistrate judge determines whether there is enough evidence for the case to be held over to district court for trial. The burden of proof that has to be met is probable cause. Preliminary hearings can be useful to the defendant in that the prosecutor may present much of the case although the investigation may not be finished.

A **grand jury** is used in Washington, DC to charge certain offenses. All adult felony charges both federal and local, require indictment by a grand jury. Here, the AUSA presents the case to approximately twenty (20) grand jurors who are DC residents. In DC, a grand jury requires a minimum of sixteen (16) grand jurors, but there may be as many as twenty-three (23). A minimum vote of twelve (12) grand jurors is required to return an indictment. The proceedings are kept secret, meaning they are not open to the public, with an AUSA conducting them. If the grand jury returns an indictment, it is filed by the AUSA.

After a preliminary hearing is conducted or a grand jury indictment is filed on a felony case, an **arraignment** is held before the district court judge assigned to hear the case. The arraignment requires that the defendant enter a plea of guilty or not guilty as to each of the charges in the indictment or information. A defendant charged with a felony may not enter a plea at the first appearance or preliminary hearing, but must do so at the arraignment. In misdemeanor cases, the first appearance and arraignment are combined so that the magistrate judge proceeds to take the defendant's plea and set the case for trial, if necessary.

If the plea is not guilty, there usually is a **plea offer** made by the attorney prosecuting the case. Each criminal case is unique and requires the use of much time and resources on the part of the government. The expenditure of much prosecutorial and police personnel on a case does not guarantee conviction. Due to these and other factors, an AUSA or Assistant Attorney General (AAG) will analyze a case's strength, the record of the defendant, and the nature of the offense when determining whether to offer a plea deal to the defendant. Plea offers are common. Most MPD cases that are prosecuted by the AUSA or OAG do not go to trial and, instead, end with a plea of guilty after a plea offer. Most plea offers reduce the severity of the charge or lessen the number of charges against the defendant. Other plea offers make stipulations as to what sentence is asked for by the prosecution. Without plea offers, the justice system would be clogged with trials and the drain on MPD, prosecutorial, and court resources would become onerous.

If the plea offer is rejected, **pretrial motions** begin. These usually determine the course and boundaries of the trial. Rulings on the prosecution and defense attorneys' motions will decide what evidence and lines of questioning can be presented at the trial. MPD officers are often asked to testify at pretrial evidence suppression hearings, hearings that may result in the exclusion of evidence due to legal reasons why the evidence should not be admitted at trial.

The **trial** is where the prosecution and the defense present evidence, witness testimony, and make arguments as to the guilt or innocence of the defendant. The quality of the investigation, arrest paperwork, collected evidence, notes, and other work that MPD puts into a case is tested in a trial. MPD officers are frequently called to testify during a trial. The credibility of an officer testifying at trial must be impeccable. Any questions about the integrity of the officer can have serious criminal and administrative repercussions for him or her. An MPD officer who lacks credibility or competence is of little law enforcement value to the citizens of Washington, DC.

A defendant can **demand a jury** for all felony trials and misdemeanor trials where the maximum jail sentence is punishable by more than 180 days according to DC Code. Most misdemeanor cases, however, are not jury-demandable as they do not meet this definition. The trial will end with either a guilty or not-guilty verdict on each of the charges, known as counts, although there are sometimes hung juries in which no verdict is reached. In trials where the defendant is either not entitled to a jury or has not demanded one, the trial will be decided solely by the judge assigned to hear the case. These are known as **bench trials**.

If there is a finding of guilty, the case against the defendant is scheduled for a **sentencing hearing**. In certain minor bench trials, the sentencing hearing can be held immediately after trial, however this is not the case for other types of charges. At sentencing, the prosecution and defense present evidence and arguments for either a more or less severe punishment. Prosecutors frequently utilize **victim impact statements** to support their arguments for a severe sentence. Sentences can include jail time, drug or alcohol treatment, a fine, and/or community service. The judge makes his or her decision based on the totality of the factors presented at the trial and sentencing hearing. After the sentence has been handed down, most convictions can be appealed by the defendant.

**Appeals** are written by defense attorneys to try to overturn convictions on behalf of defendants. They look for mistakes made by the trial judge or trial attorneys that may have affected the trial's outcome. The petition is usually heard by a panel of judges. In the case of a DC Superior Court conviction, the DC Court of Appeals decides the appeal. The appeals panel of judges decides by a majority vote on the issues raised in the appellate briefs. The decision on the appeal is rendered in the form of a written opinion. An adverse decision by the appeals court may be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court. In the federal court



system in DC, an appeal of a conviction in U.S. District Court may be appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. An appeal of an adverse decision of that court may be taken to the U.S. Supreme Court.

#### **4.2.5 Identify the detention facilities serving Washington, DC**

There are a number of detention facilities serving Washington, DC. For the most part, MPD processes arrests at each patrol district. **District facilities** are designed only as temporary holding facilities. Arrestees who must see a magistrate judge in the morning are taken to what is called **the Central Cellblock**, a facility where all prisoners arrested by MPD personnel go before they are turned over to DC Superior Court. Although historically administered by MPD, the DC Department of Corrections now runs the Central Cellblock. There, prisoners await transfer to the custody of the US Marshal's Service.

The US Marshal's Service is responsible for the housing of all prisoners at DC Superior Court. This is done at **the US Marshal's Cellblock** located in the basement of the DC Superior Court building. All prisoners that have court on the next day following a court session are housed in the US Marshal's Cellblock. Moreover, prisoners awaiting extradition to outside jurisdictions are also housed there.

When court is finished, prisoners are taken to **the Central Detention Facility** known as the "DC Jail." Male inmates are housed in the Central Detention Facility and the majority are awaiting adjudication of cases or are serving a sentence for a misdemeanor offense. This facility is staffed by the DC Department of Corrections. MPD officers frequently visit the Central Detention Facility for parole hearings. The capacity is 2,164 prisoners. Throughout the history of the DC Jail, there have been bouts of overcrowding which spurred the building of **the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF)**.

The CTF is a minimum to medium security annex to the DC Jail. All female inmates are housed at the CTF. DC has contracted with the Corrections Corporation of America, a private company, to manage this facility. This facility has a capacity of 1,500 prisoners. Like the DC Jail, MPD officers visit this facility for parole hearings. Prisoners in Washington, DC can also be detained in community corrections facilities, or halfway houses.

**Halfway houses** are an alternative to incarceration and allow offenders to remain a part of the community albeit with restrictions. Such restrictions include a curfew and programming services. Frequently, GED classes, anger management counseling, substance abuse treatment, and other programs are a required part of residing in a halfway house. Although such restrictions can be onerous, they are usually a welcome alternative to prisoners who would otherwise be incarcerated in a prison. Halfway houses are run by private organizations and are found throughout the District of Columbia. Both the US District Court for DC and DC Superior Court place pretrial offenders and those convicted of misdemeanors in halfway houses. Juvenile violators, however, are housed separately from adult violators.

MPD juvenile arrestees are taken to the **Youth Services Center** located at 1000 Mt. Olivet Rd. NE. The Youth Services Center is a secure residential facility for detained male and female youth awaiting adjudication and/or disposition by the courts. The facility has its own school run by DC Public Schools and recreational facilities. This facility is run by the Department of Youth and Rehabilitation Services (DYRS). DYRS also runs a youth treatment center in Maryland called New Beginnings.

**New Beginnings** is a secure residential treatment facility for male juvenile offenders. This facility usually takes on the more violent juvenile offenders convicted in DC Superior Court. Although it houses many violent juvenile offenders, the facility prides itself on being more akin to a boarding school than a jail. It offers mental health care, educational services, vocational training, substance use treatment, and other programs. This facility is also managed by DYRS.

#### **4.2.6 Outline the roles of the agencies housing offenders in Washington, DC**

There are several agencies that house offenders in Washington, DC. An offender in DC is likely to first be housed by **MPD**. MPD houses offenders who have just been arrested or who need to be transported to the Central Cellblock. Nonetheless, the duration of MPD's custody of adult or juvenile offenders is relatively short. A local law enforcement agency like MPD has an even less influential role in housing offenders in Washington, DC than the **US Marshal's Service (USMS)**. Deputy US Marshals house all adult and juvenile offenders awaiting appearance before a judge at DC Superior Court. Moreover, US Marshals handle extraditions of offenders into and outside of Washington, DC. Agencies other than MPD or the USMS house offenders on a long-term basis.

The **DC Department of Corrections** houses prisoners on a long-term basis at its Central Detention Facility. This facility houses those awaiting disposition of their criminal case(s) or those completing misdemeanor prison sentences. This agency also operates the Central Cellblock, which is where most MPD arrests are taken after processing.

The **Federal Bureau of Prisons** has taken a more influential role in the housing of DC's offenders. The federal correctional system is controlled by the Federal Bureau of Prisons and is where inmates serve their prison sentences. Although an effort is made to keep DC offenders relatively local, some DC prisoners serving can be housed as far away as California. This does not apply to those convicted as juvenile offenders.

Juvenile offenders, when not housed by the USMS awaiting court, are housed by **DYRS**. The forms of housing include the Youth Services Center, halfway houses, and the New Beginnings Youth Development Center. Unlike agencies that house adult offenders, DYRS has a more educational approach to those serving a period of incarceration.