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# **USING GRADUATED RESPONSES TO IMPROVE JUVENILE REENTRY**

Second Chances and Safer Communities  
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# Graduated Responses

- Refers to both graduated sanctions/consequences and graduated incentives/positive reinforcement

# Key Principles

- Immediate and certain response
- Proportional, graduated and fair
- Consistency across the phases of reentry/reintegration
- Take into account adolescent development stage and diagnostic determinations

# Language of Contingency Management

- Positive Reinforcement: Praise, privileges, status and material rewards as prompted by **desirable** behavior/conduct
- Negative Reinforcement: Ease up on restrictions as prompted by **desirable** behavior/conduct
- Positive Punishment: Sanction as prompted by **undesirable** behavior/conduct
- Negative Punishment: Loss or removal of an earned privilege as prompted by **undesirable** behavior/conduct

## Judicious Use of Release “Conditions” and Restrictions

- Link to risk of reoffending
- Build in positive and negative reinforcement
- Avoid the laundry list
- Go with fewer conditions that are realistic and enforceable
- Avoid long-duration consequences and restrictions
- Reserve more serious consequences and more desirable rewards for later stages