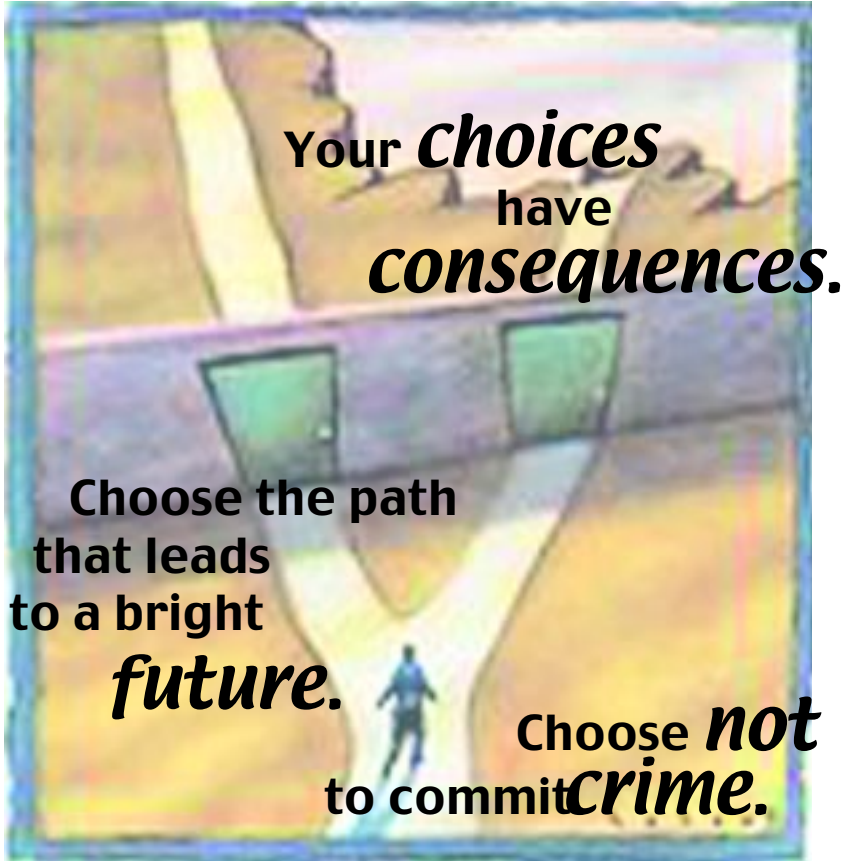


# Suffolk County \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ Sheriff's Department



Office of Communications  
and External Affairs  
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Boston, MA  
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# Keys to a bright future



## ***Be responsible***

Because you are in control of your own life, you are also responsible for your actions. Here are some ways to show responsibility:

- Take care of your own problems.
- Follow through on commitments.
- Answer for your own actions.
- Be trustworthy.
- Don't procrastinate.
- Always use your head and think clearly.



## ***Do the right thing***

Some decisions are easy to make, others are more complicated. You know the difference between what is right and wrong. Choosing to do the right thing is a sign of self-respect and responsible decision making. Ask yourself these questions when making choices:

- What do my heart and conscience tell me?
- Could it hurt anyone - including me?
- Is it fair?
- How would I feel if somebody did it to me?
- How will I feel about myself later if I do it?
- What would adults I respect say about it?



## ***Respect yourself***

Respecting yourself leads to making the right choices and making good choices leads to gaining more self-respect. Having self-respect improves personal and social lives and makes it easier to get through tough times. Here are some things to do to help you respect yourself:

- Take responsibility for yourself.
- Always do what you believe is right.
- Be true to yourself and your highest values.
- Treat others as you would like to be treated.
- Set goals and work to achieve them.
- Say "no" to negative pressures.
- Don't let others make your choices for you.

# *Criminal Offender Record Information (C.O.R.I.)*

In 1972 Massachusetts created the Criminal Offender Record Information Act. A C.O.R.I. report provides information relating to an individual's arrest, indictment, warrants, bail hearings, arraignments, pretrial proceedings, sentencing, incarceration, rehabilitation or release.

Agencies that can obtain your C.O.R.I. report include housing authorities, landlords, DSS, DYS, DOR-Child Support Enforcement, nursing homes, Offices of Child Care Services, institutions of higher learning and over 6,000 other organizations certified to receive C.O.R.I. information.

## *A criminal record negatively affects your future.*

- **Once an individual has been arraigned, that individual has a record which will never disappear without a court order.**
- **Many employers are required to look at your C.O.R.I. report before they can make you a job offer. If you have a record on file it will be more difficult to get a job.**
- **Individuals with a criminal record carry around a stigma which inhibits their ability to live as productive citizens.**
- **The existence of C.O.R.I. laws makes it difficult to transition back into the community upon release from incarceration.**
- **Many people often find that past misdeeds block their paths to a productive future.**



# Sheriff's Message



Dear Students,

Sheriff Andrea J. Cabral

We are pleased to visit schools throughout Suffolk County to speak with students about public safety and making the right decisions. This initiative is part of the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department's ongoing commitment to our neighborhoods. The choices you make now will affect your future. Please take a moment to read over this brochure and consider the consequences of your actions before it is too late.

Sincerely,

Sheriff Andrea J. Cabral

