

# Youth Firesetting Prevention & Intervention Program Expectation Statement

## What you can expect of YFPI program:

- **Honesty** - Sometimes it may be hard to hear "brutal truth" about a youth's behavior, but open, honest communication is necessary.
- **Sincerity** - We want to help you with your situation.
- **Confidentiality** - Except when required by law, all communications and information gathered through the program is held in strict confidence.

## What the YFPI program will not do for you:

- **Instantly "cure" your child's fire setting behavior** - We will attempt to identify the root cause or causes of the youth's behavior. Many times, the cause has existed for a long period of time and cannot be changed quickly.
- **Scare your child into ceasing his or her behavior** - Fire misuse may be a symptom of a much deeper problem or simple curiosity/experimentation. Scare tactics are ineffective in eliminating the cause and serve to mask the symptoms, only to have the behavior resurface later. Education and/or other intervention services can set the child on the right path.
- **Counsel your child to deal with mental health issues** - The YFPI program does not serve as mental health counselors (although they may be helpful in connecting you to such a resource when necessary). Sometimes youth and families need professional assistance to help resolve underlying problems. In these circumstances the youth may be referred to a local mental health professional for further aid.

## What this program expects of participants:

- **Honesty** - We need to know intimate details to accurately understand the root cause of your child's firesetting behavior.
- **Participation** - Participation is necessary to help a youth overcome his or her dangerous behavior. A youth needs support and guidance in this time of self-examination and change.
- **Commitment** - We will work with the family to identify the cause of a youth's behavior and educate him or her regarding fire safety and other related issues in a developmentally appropriate way. We need a commitment to work with the YFPI program to achieve a successful outcome.

*Provided courtesy of Grand Junction (Colorado) Fire Department*