

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS and SCENARIOS
14 DAY PLANS/COURT INVOLVED YOUTH

Communication between DCBHS and the Courts

Q: What if a Judge orders a 14 day plan in order to obtain a bio-psychosocial?

A: There is no need for a DCF agency's involvement. Social Worker at Detention can call VO for a needs assessment when juvenile scores high on the MAYSI-2 (process already in place), or when Judge orders a bio-psychosocial. Completed reports would go to attorney.

Q: What happens when a 14 day plan is ordered on a pre-adjudicated youth?

A: YCM to discuss plan with attorney (community services or placement?), assess and provide court report (including the plan), obtain evaluations as needed but release only to attorney at least two days prior to court hearing. Recommended: case manager to make two or three copies of 14 day plan, provide both to attorney so one can be forwarded to the Judge with attorney's and child's consent

****YCM is to follow prior protocol as it relates to obtaining assessments, interviewing child, family and collaterals, identify appropriate resources – plan is to be released to attorney, not Judge****

Q: What if a parent doesn't return phone calls or is otherwise noncompliant with case manager's efforts to conduct the assessment for the 14 day plan?

A: Notify the child's attorney within 72 hours if no contact is made with parent despite good faith efforts. Ensure updated contact information is correct (cell phones/work numbers). Youth should still be seen by the assessor and collaterals (school, probation, etc.) should be obtained.

Q: What happens if YCM or CMO actively providing services to family and the juvenile picks up new charge, is returned to Court/remanded to JDC and the Judge wants to know what services are in place?

A: The case/care manager provides a written update to the youth's Attorney at least two days prior to court date (or verbal report to attorney for emergent/prelim hearings). The case/care manager cannot provide information to Probation Intake/Judge directly.

Q: What happens when a juvenile is on probation but picks up a new charge. As when at time of sentencing DCF agency was involved and providing services. What if the Judge wants to know status of those services-cannot release info to probation or Court as considered pre adjudicated?

A: At time of termination of services and when the youth is still on probation, the case/care manager sends a closing letter to the Judge with list of services youth was referred to. This way the Judge will have information in Court file if youth is returned to Court.

Q: What happens when the youth is negatively discharged from a DCF program (which was ordered during a prior sentencing as a condition of probation) and the Probation Officer requests a copy of discharge summary to help determine whether a VOP (violation of probation) will be filed?

A: The case/care manager is allowed to provide report to probation officer as long as there are no other new charges filed (separate from the VOP) as youth is still considered adjudicated.

LOCAL COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES:

- Obtain contact information for public defenders (including fax numbers); coordinate receipt of reports and evaluations; share cell phone numbers
- Maintain the OPD provided master list of pool attorneys, including contact information, for each county
- Each vicinage should develop a local communication protocol including a point person to receive/distribute the reports
- How do I respond when the Judge states: I ordered it and expect to see it?
First, remember and acknowledge the Judge's goal of serving this youth – the intentions are right!
“I will be happy to release this information to you as soon as I receive consent from the youth's attorney.”