

Court Expectations

Juvenile court is like no other. Its procedures and timetables for making decisions are prescribed by statute. The things a court must decide in a juvenile proceeding vary as the case progresses from one review to the next. A judge cannot be expected to remember each case's particulars, and will need some assistance in "getting up to speed." The court views the Care Manager as essential in providing information necessary to fully inform the court as to what is in a child's best interest and why. The court expects a Care Manager to be able to offer an opinion and the factual basis for that opinion.

Court reports should be task oriented and advocate for the most clinically appropriate, least restrictive, community based option to meet the youth's emotional and behavioral health needs.

(Reminder: *Prior to adjudication*, all clinical information should be presented to the defense attorney.) Specifically, the court expects the Case Manager to:

- Provide a copy of the 14 Day Plan two business days prior to the court date to the defense attorney and/or judge.
- Be familiar with the youth's behavior which requires court intervention, including all current and prior treatment efforts that were made or offered and how the youth / family responded.
- Be familiar with the aspects of the family dynamics and prepared to give an update to the courts.
- Be prepared to suggest appropriate and available treatment.
- Be prepared to give an assessment of family strengths.

When to expedite services for a youth:

1. When a youth is in a detention facility.
2. When a youth is court involved.
3. When a youth is discharge ready from a hospital or CCIS Unit.