



# CASA Guide to Juvenile Justice

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Learning about the Juvenile Justice System and How to Advocate for Youth Involved

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Children’s Law Center

Loyola Law School, Center for Juvenile Law & Policy

Los Angeles County, Alternate Public Defender’s Office



Yellow Alert! Signals an important or helpful tip.



Orange Alert! Signals caution—an area of advocacy that should be approached with support.

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## BEFORE WE START: THIS AND NOT THAT!

CASA of Los Angeles strongly recommends monitoring our language and how we talk about the young people we serve and their families. Consult with your Advocate Supervisor to learn more.

THIS!	NOT THAT!
YOUTH	MINOR
<p><b>WHY?</b> “Minor” dehumanizes the youth. “Youth” or use of their name should be exercised whenever possible and appropriate.</p>	
JUVENILE JUSTICE	DELINQUENCY
<p><b>WHY?</b> This shift in language is due to the negative connotation often associated with the word “delinquency”. Using “Juvenile Justice” instead destigmatizes the youth involved and brings attention to the “justice” part of the process that is often forgotten.</p>	
LEFT THEIR HOME WITHOUT PERMISSION	WENT AWOL
<p><b>WHY?</b> AWOL (absent without leave) is a military term and we are not working with soldiers. Using the word AWOL further allows others to criminalize youth and does not adequately describe what happened. Youth often run away from their home or placement in an effort to cope with their circumstances or to protect themselves.</p>	
THEY ARE INVOLVED IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM	THEY ARE A JUVENILE OFFENDER/ THEY ARE A CRIMINAL/DELINQUENT
<p><b>WHY?</b> A major part of a CASA’s role is to reframe the narrative and encourage others to view the youth as a person, someone who has positive characteristics, and someone who deserves an opportunity. Often, youth are remembered as their worst charge/allegation and that label prevents them from thriving.</p>	
IT IS ALLEGED THAT THEY ARE GANG-INVOLVED	THEY ARE GANG INVOLVED/ THEY ARE IN A GANG
<p><b>WHY?</b> Documentation of gang-involvement has been found by many professionals to often be inaccurate. Youth may often claim gang membership in an effort to fit in or protect themselves, even if they are not gang-involved. Their alleged involvement goes into court documents and that label often follows them the rest of their lives, preventing them from getting placed, given the opportunity to thrive, or be placed in certain schools. Regardless of what is found in a file, CASAs are encouraged to exercise caution and not further propagate negative and positively false views of the youth they serve.</p>	
ENGAGING IN SUBSTANCE USE	ALCOHOLIC/DRUG ADDICT/CRACKHEAD
<p><b>WHY?</b> Describing anybody as the latter perpetuates the negative stigma associated with people who struggle with substance use. It also strips them of their identity as a person and reduces them to be identified only as a person who is struggling with their addiction.</p>	

# CASA OF LOS ANGELES JUVENILE JUSTICE INITIATIVES

## OVERVIEW

This manual contains information to guide advocacy efforts and improve outcomes for youth that are involved in diversion, have dual-status, or are on probation.

### DIVERSION

Los Angeles County's Youth Diversion and Development Office is implementing a comprehensive youth diversion model to link youth with community-based organizations (CBO's), in lieu of an arrest or citation. Community based organizations provide youth with the opportunity to repair harm done to an individual or community and engage them in services that promote youth development. Dependency-involved youth have often been limited from participating in diversion programs due to the lack of a stable adult who can monitor their participation. CASA hopes to fill this gap by appointing CASA volunteers to diverted youth.

### DUAL STATUS

While advocacy for CASAs has centered primarily on the overall well-being of youth in the dependency system, CASAs are more frequently having to advocate for youth in Juvenile Justice Court. Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for youth in the dependency system to come in contact with the juvenile justice system. Youth already served by the dependency system are also more likely to receive harsher sentencing when compared to youth that are not systems involved (Ryan, Herz, Hernandez, & Marshall, 2007). Young people that are dually-involved experience high rates of placement changes, mental health and substance abuse issues, and are more likely to become further involved in the juvenile justice and child welfare system (Herz, Ryan, & Bilchik, 2010). When appointed, CASAs can collaborate with a team of professionals to ensure all services are in place and the youth's needs are being met.

### PROBATION

Youth in the juvenile justice system are not much different from youth in the dependency system. In fact, researchers have found various similarities between these groups. A recent study (McCroskey, Herz, & Putnam-Hornstein, 2017), showed that in a cohort of justice-involved youth in Los Angeles County, at least one referral for alleged abuse or neglect was identified for approximately 83% of youth. When reviewing individual risk factors, traumatic experiences were found to increase the risk for youth violence, including exposure to violence and conflict in the family, harsh or inconsistent disciplinary practices, low parental involvement, parental abuse or criminality, poor family functioning, and poor monitoring of children (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2018); all factors that can also elicit a referral or lead to an open case with DCFS. Much like the dependency system, the juvenile justice system is also difficult to navigate; accessing care, coordinating services, and participating in Juvenile Justice Court hearings are even far more challenging when a youth is criminalized. There is a strong need for the individualized and holistic advocacy CASAs can provide within the juvenile justice system and CASA of Los Angeles hopes to assist in filling that need by providing advocates for youth.

# DIVERSION

## A SHIFT FROM THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Diversion is the opportunity for youth to repair harms done to an individual or community, and engage in services that promote youth development, in lieu of an arrest or citation. Diversion was developed as an effort to reduce youth's involvement in the juvenile justice system. Youth can participate in a diversion program and if completed successfully, they will not face charges in Juvenile Justice Court, their case will be closed, and no record of their involvement with diversion will be kept.

The goal of diversion programs for DCFS-involved youth is to prevent them from further crossing into the juvenile justice system; a system that is known to be both difficult to navigate and challenging to complete successfully.

### CASA'S ROLE IN DIVERSION EFFORTS

Youth involved with DCFS are often overlooked as participants due to the stigma of being in the dependency system. Youth in the dependency system are also often omitted from participating in diversion programs because of the belief that they lack a stable adult to monitor their participation. CASA volunteers can act as a stable adult, challenging the rationale for denying youth the opportunity for diversion.

### REFERRING YOUTH TO DIVERSION PROGRAMS

Police officers have been trained by the Office of Diversion and Reentry, Youth Development and Diversion (YDD) to identify youth who have committed low-level offenses and refer them to diversion.



When a youth initially gets into trouble, the CASA may advocate for the youth to be referred to Diversion through YDD in lieu of further involvement in the juvenile justice system. Reach out to your Advocate Supervisor and the youth's dependency attorney to collaborate and come up with a plan.

### DIVERSION ELIGIBILITY

Youth, 13-17 years old, with low-level offenses. Diversion is provided by community-based organizations, or CBOs, at no cost. Diversion can last anywhere from 1 month to 12 months.

### TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DIVERSION

CASA of Los Angeles is still building out this program and has a low volume of referrals. If you're interested in learning more or advocating for a youth involved in diversion, please speak with your Advocate Supervisor.

# JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM PROCESS

## INITIAL INVOLVEMENT

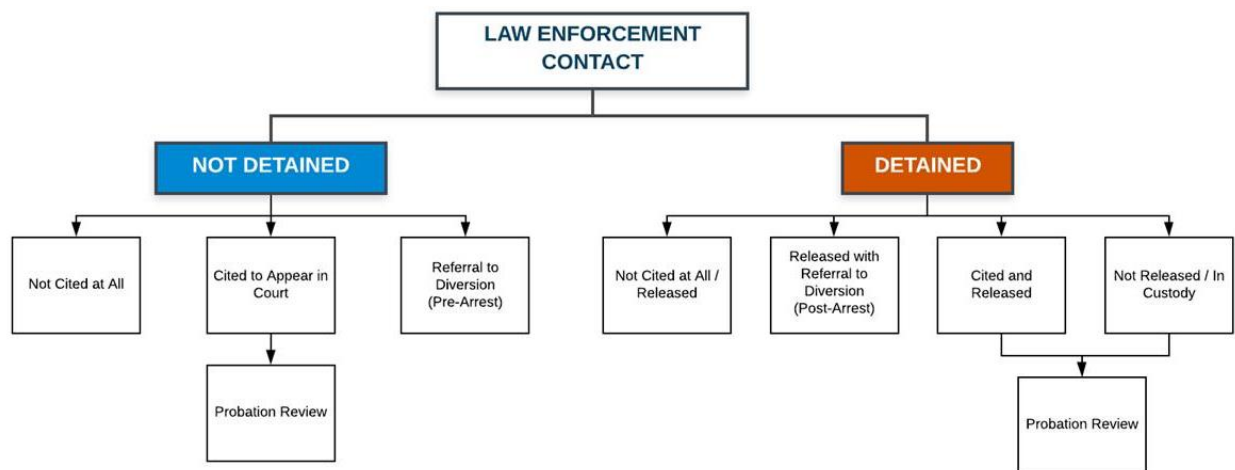
### PURPOSE OF JUVENILE JUSTICE COURT

Juvenile Justice Court (known as Delinquency Court in LA County), is the counterpart to dependency court and was created for the following reasons:

- Protection and safety of the public;
- To preserve and strengthen youth’s family ties; and
- Remove the youth from the custody of their parents ONLY when it is necessary for the youth’s welfare or for the safety/protection of the public.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT CONTACT

When a youth comes into contact with law enforcement, law enforcement is able to handle it in different ways. Ideally, youth will not be detained. Please review the chart below to learn more.



### A YOUTH IS ARRESTED—NOW WHAT?

There are multiple routes that exist when a youth is arrested, as shown above. The route largely depends on the youth’s juvenile justice history, the seriousness of the crime, and is also up to the District Attorney’s discretion.

Some of the possible routes are:

- Youth are counseled (not cited) and released
- Youth are cited and released
- Youth are released and referred to [Diversion](#)
- Youth are cited to appear in Juvenile Justice Court (generally within 60 days of their arrest) and released
- Youth is detained in juvenile hall and is transitioned to Probation IDC (Intake Detention and Control)

## NOTIFYING PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- When a youth is detained in juvenile hall, the officer must try to notify caregivers immediately that the youth is in custody and their location.
- Within an hour of being taken to custody, the youth must be advised of their right to make two phone calls; one call for a caregiver/family relative and another to an attorney.

## PETITION

A petition is the charging document filed in Juvenile Justice Court by the state. The petition formally initiates a juvenile proceeding and describes the alleged offenses committed by that child. The petition requests that the Juvenile Justice Court assume jurisdiction over the juvenile and in some cases, an additional motion is filed requesting the juvenile be transferred to Criminal Court for prosecution as an adult. (National Juvenile Defender Center; <https://njdc.info/juvenile-court-terminology/>)

### FILING A PETITION

For some cases, probation has the discretion to refer the case to the District Attorney. Other, more serious cases, require a mandatory referral to a District Attorney. The District Attorney then has the ability to agree or disagree about the recommendation.

## YOUTH ON PROBATION

When a youth has allegedly broken a law or committed crimes, a petition can be filed. If the case is adjudicated as true and a disposition (sentencing) is ordered by the Juvenile Justice Court, a youth can be released back into the community under certain conditions and under the supervision of a probation officer for a specified period of time. This is known as probation.

### AGE LIMITS

Youth on probation range from 12 to 17 years of age, although probation can last up to 21 years of age. Youth 12 years and under can be prosecuted but only for more serious offenses.

There is a presumption for persons under 14 and prosecution (district attorney) must prove that the youth knows the wrongfulness of their actions. For more information, please refer to "[Gladys R.](#)"

## JUVENILE HALL

A youth may be detained for any alleged crime. Specifically, these are the reasons by age group:

- 14 years old or over and
  - Continuance in the home is contrary to the youth's welfare
  - Immediate and urgent detention is necessary to protect the youth and/or others
  - Youth is likely to flee
  - The youth has violated a Juvenile Justice Court order
  - There is an allegation of personal use of a firearm in the attempted commission of an offense (these youth cannot be released without being brought before a judicial officer)
- Under 14 years old and
  - Attempted a 707(b) offense
  - The allegation of personal use of a firearm





As an alternative to detention, youth may be eligible to be sent home on electronic monitoring, which the court calls Community Detention Program or CDP. CDP is an alternative for youth who would otherwise remain detained in a juvenile detention center. CDP is also an alternative to being removed from the community. Important to Note: CDP is available for youth in the dependency system who live in resource family homes. It is not available for youth living in STRTPs (group homes).

## PROBATION PLACEMENTS

Please refer to the [Placement Options Through Probation](#) chart found in the Appendix.

## CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS

Youth on probation are entitled to some of the legal rights as adults in criminal proceedings, including:

- Right to Counsel
- Right to Confront and Cross-Examine Witnesses
- Right to Remain Silent and Not Incriminate Yourself
- Right to Produce Evidence and to Present a Defense

Youth do not have a right to bail and jury trial. Youth under 16 years of age must be given the opportunity to speak to an attorney before waiving Miranda rights.

## PEOPLE INVOLVED

### WHO IS A PART OF THE PROCESS?

#### PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Parents or caregivers can be involved in their youth's probation case and play a large role in ensuring their child is compliant with the terms of their probation. It is important to note that a large number of youth on probation are still placed in their parents' home. Parents/caregivers do not get legal representation in juvenile delinquency court.

#### DEFENSE ATTORNEYS

The youth is represented by a defense attorney. A youth's defense attorney will likely be from the LA County Public Defender Juvenile Division office but if there is any conflict, there are multiple offices or sources of representation for the youth.

Depending on conflicts of interest, the order of appointment by law is as follows:

- Public defender ([PD](#))
- Alternate public defender ([APD](#))
- Independent juvenile defender panel or panel attorney ([IJD](#)), which can include attorneys and law students from Loyola Law School's Center for Juvenile Law and Policy

- Paid private counsel



If you do not know who the defense attorney is, you can call the:

- Public Defender Juvenile Division main line at (323) 226-8998
- Alternate Public Defender main line at (213) 974-6626
- IJDP main line at (213) 896-6429

Or ask your Advocate Supervisor for assistance.

## COLLABORATING WITH DEFENSE ATTORNEYS

CASAs may collaborate closely with defense attorneys but the attorneys may initially require a written waiver of confidentiality in order to start communication. It is important to explain a CASA's role to the defense attorney as they may not be familiar. Ensure that you provide them with proper documentation as stated in the [CASA's Role, Identifying Yourself as a CASA](#) section. An example of what to say could be as follows:

“Hi, I am a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) at CASA of Los Angeles. I was appointed by Judge \_\_\_\_\_ to provide advocacy for *youth* and have been working with *youth* for x (state time). As an officer of the court, I am entitled to the information listed in the Court Appointment Order. As an advocate, I support the youth’s needs, can support coordination of needs and care, and can submit a court report/written advocacy statement in support of the youth and their accomplishments. I do not ask the youth about previous or current alleged criminal activity. If the youth begins to make disclosures, I will encourage them to inform you—I do not include that information in court reports or written advocacy statements but will discuss it with my supervisor at CASA. With that being said, I am a mandated reporter, so if the youth reports that they are being harmed, want to harm themselves, or want to harm others, I am instructed to disclose it by filing a report. I understand your role as a defense attorney and that there may be details about the youth’s case that I cannot be made privy to; however, I am happy to offer my support in getting the youth out of the juvenile justice system as soon as possible.”

It is important to note that unlike youth’s attorneys in dependency court, who represent the youth’s best interests, juvenile defense attorneys are ethically bound to represent their clients’ expressed interests. A juvenile client, like an adult client, is generally entitled to “call the shots” on how their case will proceed. A juvenile defender’s focus, is generally on defending against the allegations in the petition and obtaining the least punitive and restrictive outcome for their client. This includes getting charges dismissed if possible, negotiating for the sustaining of the least serious charges, arguing for the lowest level disposition, and minimizing collateral consequences. Collateral consequences include the ability to seal arrest and court records, sex offender registration, the possibility of juvenile strikes, immigration implications, effects on driving privileges, and other consequences (access by employers/military, DNA collection, victim restitution, gun ownership bans).

Defense attorneys are also ethically bound by the attorney-client privilege. As such, defense attorneys may not legally disclose information obtained from their client or in the course of their investigation without their client’s consent. Defense attorneys will generally require a written

consent signed and dated by the client. CASAs should understand that unless the CASA is considered part of the defense team, information that is disclosed to CASAs *may* be construed as a waiver of the privilege, and for that reason defense attorneys may and should be very circumspect with any information they choose to share.

As such, there may be times when CASA volunteers may not be able to get much information from the defense attorney or may not fully agree with the defense attorney's defense strategy. If this is the case, CASAs must ultimately respect a defense attorney's position or strategy. CASAs may always consult with their Advocate Supervisors if they have questions or concerns about collaboration with defense attorneys.

To support defense attorneys in advocating for and representing youth, CASAs may disclose any of the following information:

- Abuse and neglect or maltreatment background
- Trauma since being in the child welfare system
- Current dependency case plan and services youth is receiving
- Placement options
- Current placement, medical, education, mental health, and Regional Center information
- Identifying the negative consequences of a 602 wardship finding
  - E.g., if they're suitably placed, running away becomes a probation violation and can lead to juvenile hall (vs replacement by DCFS if solely 300 ward)
- Family and sibling relationships



Occasionally, defense attorneys may choose to not communicate with CASAs altogether, in which case CASAs must respect this decision and gather information elsewhere. CASAs may still offer to defense attorneys to submit a [Written Advocacy Statement](#) to help the case. Important to Note: Written advocacy statements must first get Advocate Supervisor approval before being sent to the defense attorney for final approval. If the report may inadvertently harm the defense, the attorney may choose not to disclose the report at that time or defer disclosure until the case has been adjudicated.

### **DISTRICT ATTORNEY (DA)**

The DA represents the public and decides whether to file a petition (charges) against the youth and prosecute them. The DA also recommends consequences to the Juvenile Justice Court.

## PROBATION OFFICER (PO)

POs are responsible for the “care, custody, and control” of a youth. Probation officers make recommendations and refer youth to services. They supervise compliance with probation conditions and submit reports to the Judge, updating them on the status of the youth’s well-being and how they are doing in terms of their probation plan.



Any information DAs and POs have on the youth may be used against them in Juvenile Justice Court. See [Sharing Information](#) for more details.



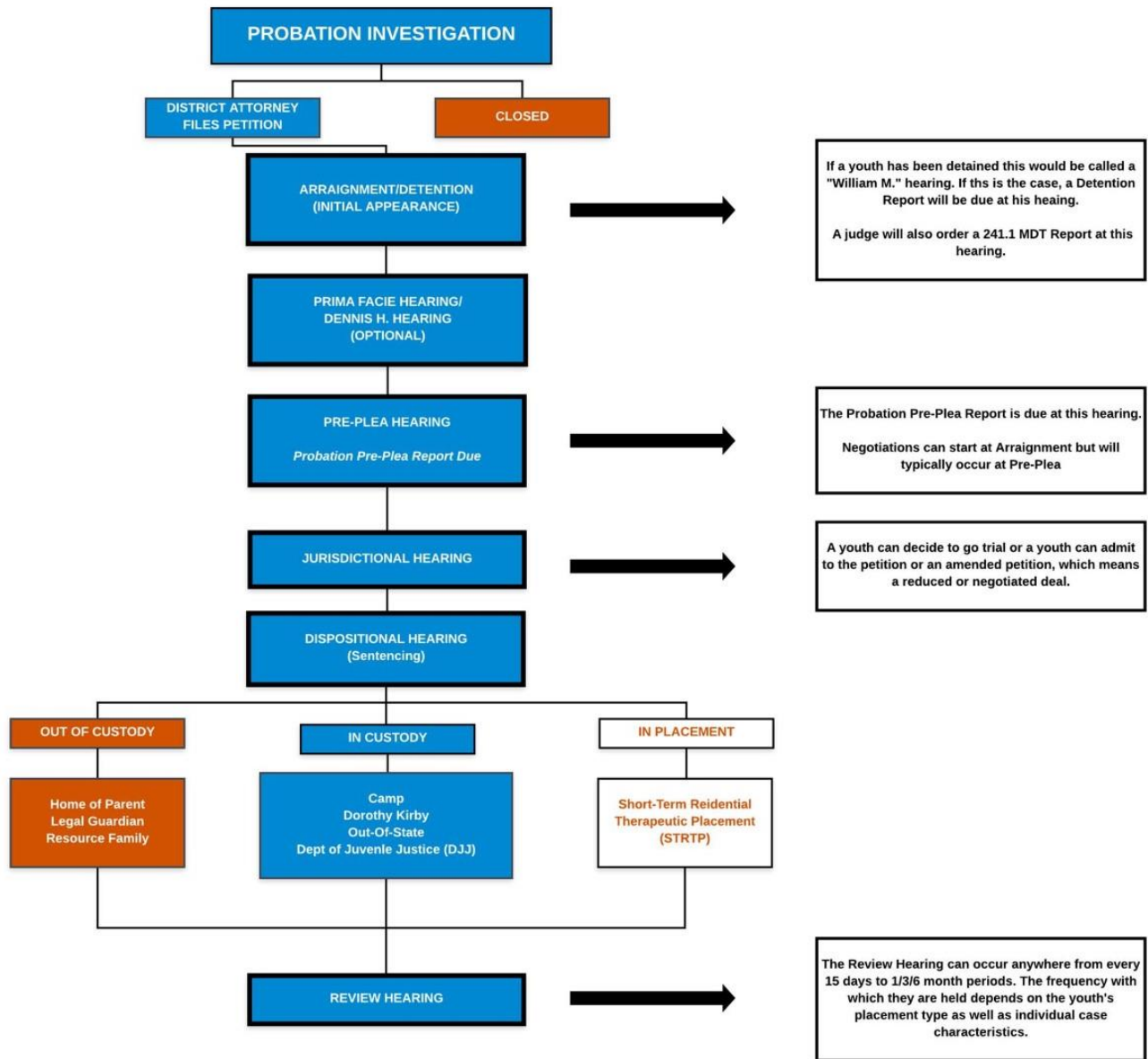
Every time a youth changes placement, they will be assigned a new PO, as there are different POs responsible for youth placed in the community, detention, and camp. Only youth who are assigned to a specialized unit are able to keep their same PO, regardless of where they are placed.

## JUDGE/HEARING OFFICER/COMMISSIONER

This person is responsible for reviewing all the information presented and making decisions in the best interests of the youth. Orders facilitate rehabilitation of the youth while considering the needs and safety of the public.

# JUVENILE JUSTICE COURT PROCESS

The life of a case within the juvenile justice system is outlined below. While there may be some factors that influence the speed of the process or continuance of hearings, this is the general order that is followed.



## TYPES OF HEARINGS

### ARRAIGNMENT/DETENTION HEARING

The criminal charge is read to the youth in Juvenile Justice Court and their constitutional rights are explained. The attorney can and almost always waives this part of the hearing.

- An attorney is appointed prior to arraignment. If an attorney has not already been appointed, one will be appointed at this time.
  - The youth will be asked to admit to the charges or deny the charges made against them. The youth should discuss this with their attorney prior to the hearing.
- If the youth is detained, the court considers and may order release, release with CDP or continued detention.
- If a youth has an open case with the dependency system, the [WIC 241.1 Protocol](#) is initiated.



There are very strict timelines that must be kept for both the filing of the petition and the youth being brought to court. A violation of the timelines will require the court to release the youth.

The defense attorney can ask the court at arraignment to release the youth. Any information the CASA can provide the defense attorney in support of the motion to release can be very helpful.

### PRIMA FACIE HEARING (Commonly known as a “Dennis H.” Hearing)

Prima facie is the initial examination of the allegations or claim. During this hearing, the evidence is evaluated to determine if there is enough to move forward with the case. No live witnesses are called in these hearings; only the preparer of the report will be called to testify. The attorney can also request another detention hearing at this same time and argue for the youth’s release.



If a prima facie showing is not made, the youth must be released.

### PRE-PLEA HEARING

The defense attorney and district attorney negotiate a disposition of the youth’s case. The defense attorney will inform the youth of the offer and discuss the pros and cons of that offer with the youth. The youth will make a decision about whether they want to accept the offer or not. It is important to note that if the youth does not want to accept the offer, the offer may no longer be available in the future or the offer could be changed to be a better or lesser offer.

### JURISDICTIONAL HEARING OR ADJUDICATION

At the Adjudication, which resembles an adult trial without a jury, the Juvenile Justice Court makes a decision about whether the petition is “true” or “not true”. If found “true”, a decision is made

about whether a youth is described in WIC Section [601](#) or [602](#). If the allegations are found “true”, the Juvenile Justice Court “sustains” the juvenile justice petition.

### **DISPOSITION HEARING**


The judge reviews the disposition report. This is the Juvenile Justice Court equivalent of adult “sentencing”. The court makes decisions about whether the youth will be declared a “ward” of the court, what type of Probation the youth will be put on, what setting they will be ordered to (home, group home, locked facility) and for how long they will spend in that setting.

## POSSIBLE DISPOSITIONS

DISMISSAL	
<p>The Juvenile Justice Court dismisses the petition. This can happen where there is insufficient evidence, or after a period of probation has been completed. In addition, the court can dismiss “in the interests of justice.”</p>	
<b>Dismissal with Prejudice</b>	Dismissal of an action with a bar to bringing any other petition on the same set of allegations.
<b>Dismissal without Prejudice</b>	Dismissal of an action specifically not barring subsequent petitions on the same set of allegations.
INFORMAL PROBATION	
Informal probation comes with probation conditions. The following are known as non-wardship probations.	
<b>Informal Probation (654 WIC)</b>	<p>Absent a dismissal, the “ideal situation” is for a youth to be placed on informal probation. A 654 is the lowest level of probation and usually for those who have committed their first offense. It lasts a minimum of six months to complete and may be extended past six months. If the youth completes the terms of their probation successfully, the case is dismissed and their record is automatically sealed. If the youth is not successful, the court can terminate without sealing, or set the matter for adjudication.</p>
<b>Informal Supervision (725 WIC)</b>	<p>This supervision lasts approximately six months, is only available for misdemeanor(s), or if a youth is younger than 14 years of age. This disposition requires an admission or a sustained petition. Youth that have had multiple offenses may also qualify for this disposition. After six months of monitoring, the Juvenile Justice Court must either dismiss or proceed to disposition.</p>
<b>Deferred Entry of Judgment (790 WIC)</b>	<p>This option lasts 12-36 months. This disposition is only for those that are over 14 years of age and are facing a felony. It is not available for serious felony offenses. If the youth is successful in completing their requirements, their admission is set aside, and their records are automatically sealed. If the youth is not successful, the Juvenile Justice Court will make a decision on how to proceed to a higher level of disposition.</p>



**FORMAL PROBATION**  
This establishes the youth as a Ward of the Court with probation conditions.

<b>Home on Probation (602 HOP)</b>	Court order for probation where the youth resides in the community (usually with a parent/guardian). The default time for monitoring the youth’s progress is approximately 12 months but the Juvenile Justice Court can also have jurisdiction of the youth until 21 years old. Probation completes reviews and progress reports to submit to the judge.
<b>Suitable Placement (602 SP)</b>	<p>Court order for the youth to be placed in foster care, at either a residential placement, group home, or relative’s home. The court reviews the youth’s progress in suitable placement on a six-month time frame. While the youth is waiting to go to placement, the court must review the case each 15 days to ensure the probation department is making reasonable efforts to find a placement.</p> <div style="border: 2px solid orange; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;">  <p>For youth going to foster care placements, there are strict rules on what constitutes reasonable efforts and unexcused delay in finding placement will require release. Consult with the youth’s Defense Attorney or your Advocate Supervisor if you believe this applies to your youth.</p> </div>
<b>Camp Community Placement (602 CCP)</b>	Court order for the youth for placement in a camp operated by the Probation Department. The commitment to camp is either 5-7 months or 7-9 months, although Probation may request additional time.

**DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE OR DJJ**

DJJ, sometimes called DJF or Department of Juvenile Facilities, is currently the most restrictive of all dispositions. DJJ is run by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, which also runs the state prisons for adults. Only serious offenses qualify a youth for DJJ. As of March 2020, DJJ will no longer accept new youth and youth will instead be housed within their county. For more updated information, reach out to your Advocate Supervisor.

**REVIEW HEARINGS**

**15-DAY REVIEW HEARING**

When a youth’s suitable placement or camp/Dorothy Kirby commitment is pending, the Juvenile Justice Court shall periodically review the case every 15 days to determine whether the delay is reasonable. The Juvenile Justice Court can ask probation about efforts made to carry out orders that have been made, reasons for delay, and the effect of the delay upon the youth. Often these

hearings are non-appearances for the attorney and the youth so CASAs may not get information on what happens at them.

## 6-MONTH REVIEW HEARING

The youth's status overall should be reviewed no less frequently than every 6 months.

## COMPETENCE

Concern over a youth's competence usually arises if a youth's developmental or cognitive delays prevent them from participating in and understanding Juvenile Justice Court proceedings. When there is a concern, the youth's defense attorney can declare doubt as to the youth's competency. The defense attorney or the Juvenile Justice Court can then request a Competency to Stand Trial (CST) evaluation. The Juvenile Justice Court would then appoint an expert from the Juvenile Competency to Stand Trial Panel (JCST Panel) to perform a CST evaluation. During this process, the adjudication and all other typical juvenile justice court proceedings are put on hold.



If a youth is detained in juvenile hall when a declaration of doubt is made, the youth may potentially have to stay detained during the process. A CASA is encouraged to talk to the defense attorney to see if the youth can be released during this time. If the youth is released, DCFS likely will be responsible for placing the youth because the 241.1 MDT process to determine lead agency will not have yet been completed.

If the CST evaluation findings determine the youth is not competent, the youth may receive competency restoration trainings, or remediation services, and be ordered to attend competency restoration hearings, where the judge will learn about their progress. Remediation services can be provided by probation and DMH, or Regional Center and usually last several weeks.

- If, following competency training, the youth is found competent, the youth is declared "restored" and the judge will move forward with the youth's case.
- If it is determined that the youth cannot regain competency in the reasonably foreseeable future, the court may release the youth and may also dismiss the petition.

Other times, defense attorneys will seek to have an independent expert appointed to conduct a confidential psychological evaluation, or prepare a social history. The independent expert becomes part of the defense team, covered by attorney-client privilege. The report is done under the provisions of the penal code and evidence code section 730. For that reason, defense attorneys will often request "730s" and these experts and their reports are often referred to as "730's." The report does not need to be disclosed to anyone but can be released by the defense attorney if they believe it can be useful. With a 730 request, many types of assessments can be requested, including a psychological or neuropsychological evaluation which provides insight as to the youth's needs and intellectual functioning. This is another way that defense attorneys can learn more about the youth's needs. It is important to note that when 730s are requested, there is no pause/hold put on hearings like there is when a declaration of doubt is made and a CST evaluation is requested.



Please note that 730s requested through defense attorneys can remain confidential, while 730s requested through dependency attorneys are more accessible by others (e.g., DCFS) because they are part of the youth's dependency file. It is best practice for both attorneys to consult whenever a 730 is going to be requested so that they can take a strategic approach that is mindful of the youth's privacy and reduces the risk for harm.

Due to these procedures, it is important to note that the timeline for this process is often slow. To learn more about this process, CASAs are recommended to contact their Advocate Supervisors review the [Competency to Stand Trial Protocol](#), and consult with the defense attorney.

## PROBATION CONDITIONS

### PROBATION CONDITIONS

Probation conditions are requirements set forth by the court. These conditions vary based on the youth's needs and are normally related to the charges, but may include the following:

- School
  - Enrollment
  - Adequate attendance
  - Improvement with or passing grades
  - Improvement in behaviors
- Therapeutic Intervention
  - Wraparound services
  - Individual therapy
  - Family therapy
  - Drug counseling
  - Sex Offender therapy/Group counseling
- Drug testing/urinary analysis
- Prohibiting contact with specific people/areas or people/areas that are gang-affiliated
- Community service hours
- Restitution – fees owed to compensate for the victim's loss
  - The youth should consult with their attorney about challenging the amount of restitution alleged
- Visits with the probation officer or unannounced visits



CASAs should be wary of probation conditions related to the youth's social media. Probation and/or the court should not make restrictions around the youth's social media use unless the charge relates to technology. Should this come up in court, CASAs may speak to the defense attorney about appropriateness.

## REQUESTING PROBATION CONDITIONS

CASAs are allowed access to probation conditions and may obtain them from the defense attorney or through probation.



777 WIC, also known as **TRIPLE 7**, is a probation violation and an order changing or modifying a previous order. The probation officer may file a violation report to court (called a Triple 7). The youth can admit the violation or have a hearing. It is recommended that the youth consult with their defense attorney prior to admitting anything. Violations occur anytime a youth breaks the terms of probation (e.g., missing curfew, running away).

## COMPLETING PROBATION

Probation officers determine whether a youth completes probation successfully based on the case plan requirements and whether they were met. Probation also makes a decision based on whether the youth has caught additional charges or not. When probation notes that a young person has completed the terms of their probation and has maintained positive behaviors for a period of time, they will likely move forward with recommending to the judge that their case be closed successfully.

Defense attorneys can also be proactive and move the court to terminate probation. If you have information that would support a motion to terminate, you should share it with the defense attorney.

# DUAL STATUS

## DUAL STATUS YOUTH

A youth receiving services from both child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Youth may also be called a “Dually Involved” or “Crossover” youth.

## DUAL STATUS INVOLVEMENT

There are different routes that lead to involvement in both systems:

- A DCFS-involved youth who gets arrested and has a juvenile justice petition filed.
- Youth who is declared a WIC 602 (ward of the court via the juvenile justice system), placed home on probation and then removed from their home by the Department of Children and Family Services.
- Youth who was declared a 602, successfully completed probation but has no safe home to return to.
- Youth who has pending petitions in both Dependency and Juvenile Justice Courts.
- Non *WIC 300 youth*\* with new juvenile justice petition suggesting abuse
  - Meaning, a youth who is charged through the juvenile justice system where facts arise suggesting the youth might also be abused or neglected
- WIC 300 youth on informal or formal probation who commits a new offense or violates probation

\*WIC 300 youth describes a young person that is a dependent of the Court due to experiencing abuse and neglect.

## WHEN YOUTH IN THE DEPENDENCY SYSTEM ARE DETAINED

Similar to youth only on probation, they may be counseled and released, referred to diversion, cited to appear in Juvenile Justice Court, or be detained. When a young person in the dependency system is detained, however, it is important for the CASA to first notify their dependency attorney.



For youth in the dependency system, there is an agreement about how notices work between youth’s dependency attorneys (dependency attorneys are from the Children’s Law Center; CLC), DCFS and probation. CLC has an attorney on-call for after hour arrests every day, including weekends. When an arrest is made and a youth is detained in IDC:

- IDC has the discretion to release the youth
- IDC is required to contact the on-call CLC attorney to notify and obtain important information (e.g., medication needs)
- CLC attorneys can advocate for release at this time

CASAs should always follow up with the youth’s dependency attorney, as they can quickly intervene. CASAs may not discuss any knowledge they have about the alleged charges with anyone outside of the attorney.



CASAs must always first consult with the youth's attorney before informing the CSW about a youth's arrest or detention. The youth may be referred to diversion or released with a citation which is meant to stay off of the youth's record. Informing attorneys first allows them to advocate on behalf of the youth and avoid further involvement in juvenile justice system. Notifying CSWs of the arrest first may prevent youth from these opportunities and the incidents may be documented in reports, depriving the youth of confidentiality.



When visiting their youth, CASA volunteers **may not** ask the youth about the charge or investigate juvenile justice matters. Additionally, if made privy to case information, the CASA **may not disclose** any information related to the youth's charges. The CASA may only inform the parties above that the youth is detained and refer them to the defense attorney for additional information. Please see [Sharing Information](#) for information on confidentiality.

## LEAD AGENCY

### LEAD AGENCY—RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLACING THE YOUTH

A lead agency is responsible for placing the youth in an appropriate setting and determining their case plan. The lead agency is determined by which system would more adequately address the youth's needs and which system provides the least restrictive status.

For the most part, both systems have shared responsibilities. Each agency is required to FULLY participate in the youth's case plan; they must work together to serve the best interests of the youth and the community. This allows for increased support of the youth, no duplication of services, and continuous communication.



If a CASA notices that the youth is not getting equal support from both systems, they should inform attorneys as soon as possible.

### PROBATION OVERSIGHT

Often, professionals believe that with probation being the lead, there will be stricter oversight; this is a common misconception. If probation is the lead, they have the same abilities and oversight whether they are the lead or not.

### THE FINAL SAY—WHO WILL BE THE LEAD AGENCY

The Juvenile Justice Court must read and consider the 241.1 assessment and decide which system, dependency or juvenile justice, best serves the interest of the child and protection of the

community. Although the law states that the court should make a decision at an earlier stage, practically speaking the court waits to see if the petition will be sustained. Thus, the decision is made or takes place at the dispositional hearing.

### DISAGREEMENTS ON LEAD AGENCY

If a Probation and DCFS disagree in their recommendations about who the lead agency is, the Conflict Protocol states that the case goes up the supervisor chain of command with probation having the final decision. No solo recommendation is allowed.

## WIC 241.1 PROTOCOL

When a youth becomes concurrently involved in both the dependency system and the juvenile justice system, a new protocol is activated. This protocol is known as the WIC 241.1 Protocol. This protocol seeks to support youth by ensuring cooperation between both agencies via assessments, multidisciplinary team meetings (MDT), and a collaborative development of recommendations to the Juvenile Justice Court, known as the 241.1 MDT Report. The 241.1 protocol also helps identify who the lead agency or the placing agency will be.

## PROCESS FOR ORDERING A 241.1 MDT REPORT

### ORDERING A 241.1 MDT REPORT AT ARRAIGNMENT/DETENTION HEARING

At arraignment, the judge will order a 241.1 Multidisciplinary Team Meeting (MDT) Report. At this point, the youth will usually enter a denial to the offense but this decision is made in collaboration with their defense attorney.

- If the youth is later declared a ward and placed on probation without the Court following the 241.1 process, the entire hearing can be vacated.
- Exception: Transfer hearings (formally fitness hearings).

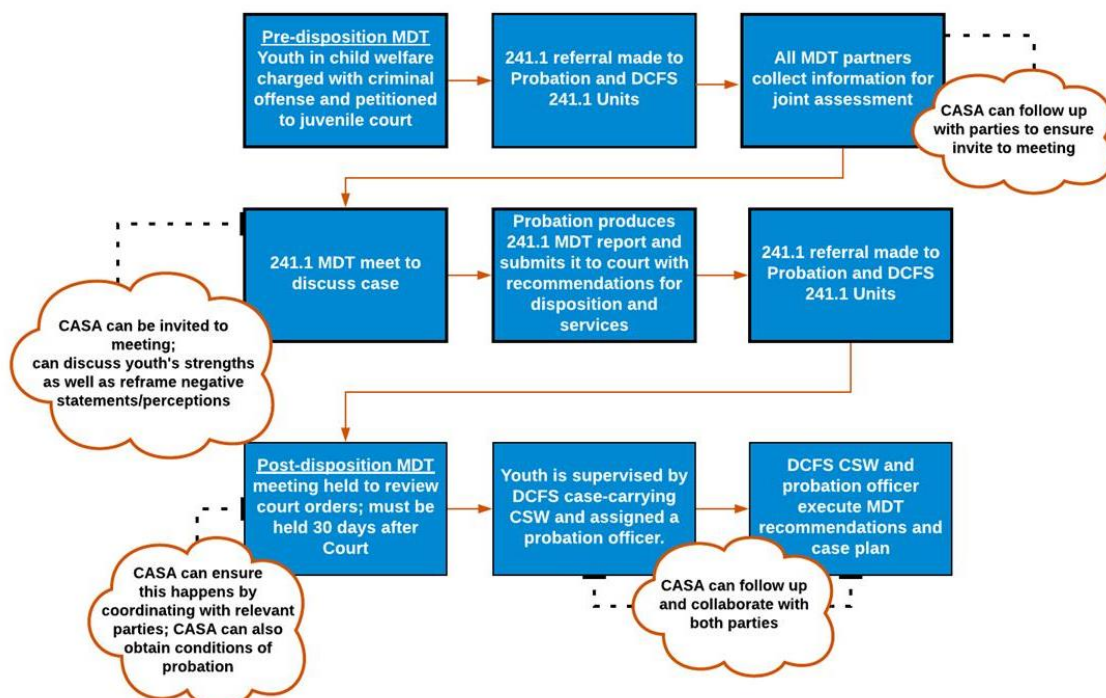


If the CASA is able to attend the Arraignment/Detention hearing, they must follow guidelines for introducing themselves as a CASA to the youth's defense attorney, see [Who is a Part of the Process?, Collaborating with Defense Attorneys](#).

CASA may only be present as a support during this time and will not be required to speak in court, until post-adjudication.

CASAs may inform the defense attorney of the youth's status in the dependency system and provide them with any relevant information.

## 241.1 MDT PROCESS




Borrowed and adapted from Herz & Dierkhsing (2018) A brief update on dual systems youth research [PowerPoint Slides].


## 241.1 MDT TEAM MEMBERS

The MDT team consists of official (attendance required) members and invited (attendance not required) members. Each official and invited member plays a unique role in the team.

OFFICIAL TEAM MEMBERS Attendance required.	
<b>Children’s Social Worker (CSW)</b>	The CSW is employed through the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and is assigned to monitor the youth’s safety, well-being, and permanency needs. They link the youth and family to services, advocate for family connections when appropriate, follow Dependency Court orders, and submit reports to the Dependency Court with details on the youth’s overall well-being. At the MDT, CSWs provide the team with their insight on the youth’s needs. CSWs also make a recommendation about who they believe will better serve the youth (probation or DCFS), given their needs.
<b>DCFS 241.1 Liaison</b>	The liaison is responsible for setting up the Multidisciplinary Team Meeting with the required parties. The DCFS 241.1 Liaison is also responsible for notifying the dependency attorney and CASA.



<p><b>Investigative Probation Officer</b></p>	<p>This PO is responsible for producing the 241.1 MDT report and submitting it to the court with recommendations for disposition and services. This is different from the probation officer that is formally assigned to monitor the youth’s probation. If the youth is put on probation, they will be assigned another probation officer.</p>
<p><b>Juvenile Court Department of Mental Health (JCDMH) Clinician</b></p>	<p>This clinician conducts a dependency file review as well as history of mental health contacts. A summary is developed and is submitted to the 241.1 MDT team. It includes information on prior and current treatment, psychotropic medications taken, dates of service, and any other relevant information.</p> <div data-bbox="521 642 1409 1024" style="border: 2px solid orange; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;">  <p>The defense attorney usually does not allow DMH to assess youth for 241.1 as there are no protections from self-incrimination during this process. If a DMH Clinician asks to speak to the CASA, the CASA should first consult with their Advocate Supervisor and the youth’s attorney before any disclosures are made. Disclosures made must be strengths based and focused on the youth’s needs.</p> </div>
<p><b>Education Specialist</b></p>	<p>A specialist is contracted by DCFS to evaluate the youth’s school records and produce a summary and assessment of the youth's educational history and current needs. A copy of the report needs to be provided to all 241.1 MDT team prior to the meeting.</p>
<p><b>INVITED MEMBERS</b> Attendance not required.</p>	
<p><b>Dependency Attorney</b></p>	<p>This attorney may attend the MDT but they will not be allowed to remain when a decision needs to be made about a recommendation for disposition and lead agency.</p>
<p><b>Defense Attorney</b></p>	<p>This attorney may attend the MDT but they will not be allowed to remain when a decision needs to be made about a recommendation for disposition and lead agency.</p>

CASA	<p>CASA volunteers are allowed to provide their insight, information, and be present for the first part of the MDT. The CASA is not be allowed to remain when a decision needs to be made about the recommendation for disposition and lead agency. CASA advocates should always reach out to their Advocate Supervisors for information on how to advocate for their young person.</p> <div style="border: 2px solid orange; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;">  <p>A handout, <a href="#">Best Practices for Advocacy in the 241.1 MDT Process</a>, is available to support Advocate Supervisors and CASA volunteers in the appendix.</p> </div>
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## 241.1 MDT TEAM RESPONSIBILITIES


The 241.1 MDT Team is responsible for:

- Preparing a joint assessment between Probation and DCFS
  - CASAs can be interviewed during the information gathering process, please see [Best Practices for Advocacy in the 241.1 MDT Process](#). CASAs may also complete a *Preparing for a Multidisciplinary Team Meeting* form to assist them in how they communicate about a youth.
- Attending the 241.1 Pre-Disposition MDT meeting
- Making recommendations about necessary services
- Deciding which agency will assume the “lead”
- Scheduling the post disposition meeting
- Preparing the post-disposition report

### FIRST MEETING: PRE-DISPOSITION MDT MEETING

Once the youth’s records have been collected and sufficient information has been gathered, both DCFS and probation are required to have a 241.1 Pre-Disposition MDT meeting with all team members present. The Pre-Disposition MDT meeting is held to review the assessment/information gathered and discuss which agency will best serve the needs and interests of the youth and the safety of the community.

- Only MDT members are present when the lead agency and disposition recommendation is presented. Other members are excused at this time.



A CASA can participate in the Pre-Disposition MDT meeting. CASAs have valuable information to contribute and can request to attend this meeting in person or via telephone conference.



When a CASA attends these meetings, they may not comment on the petition, accuracy of the allegations made, or make any statements on behalf of the youth that indicate remorse or impairment of abilities. This can further criminalize the youth, threatening their freedom and can be particularly harmful to the youth for the defense attorney's defense strategy. (Please see [Best Practices for Advocacy in the 241.1 MDT Process](#) and fill out the [Preparing for a Multidisciplinary Team Meeting](#) form to review with your Advocate Supervisor and Defense Attorney.

### REVIEW OF 241.1 MDT REPORT

When the judge reviews the recommendations largely varies on the judge's perception of when it is appropriate to review the findings. Some judges review the 241.1 MDT Report prior to the Jurisdictional Hearing and some review it at Disposition.

- The district attorney, defense attorney, and Juvenile Justice Court are not bound by the recommendation set forth by the 241.1 MDT; if they disagree, they can argue or recommend another outcome.
- In order to change the lead or placement setting, a reassessment is required.
- If a youth is going to a camp or Dorothy Kirby, Probation must be the lead.

### POST DISPOSITION MDT

Two weeks following disposition, a Post Disposition MDT is held to review the Juvenile Justice Court's orders/the youth's case plan and identify a plan for helping the youth complete these requirements.

- While these meetings are required by the LA County 241.1 Protocol, they are not always held. A CASA can follow up to advocate for the team to meet and discuss ways to support the youth in completing their requirements.
- A CASA can obtain the terms of the youth's probation at this point to develop advocacy goals around them.



This meeting is often not held. If the CASA notices this meeting is not being scheduled, they may notify the youth's attorneys.

## DUAL STATUS YOUTH: PEOPLE INVOLVED

A youth that is dually involved is placed in a unique position; they are to receive services from both the dependency system and juvenile justice system. The following chart includes a list of people that are a part of the juvenile court process.

DEPENDENCY	
<b>Children’s Social Worker (CSW)</b>	Monitors the young person’s dependency case, supports implementation, and follows up of the case plan.
<b>Dependency Attorney</b>	Represents the young person in Dependency Court but is often involved as a support or advocate while a young person goes through the juvenile justice system. The dependency attorney may sometimes work collaboratively with the defense attorney.
<b>CARE Unit</b>	If it is their first time making contact with the juvenile justice system, youth are eligible for representation through CLC4 and can have access to the <u>CARE Unit</u> .
JUVENILE JUSTICE	
<b>Defense Attorney</b>	Represents the young person in Juvenile Justice Court. When defending the youth, they consider loss of liberty, lifelong criminal records, immigration applications, etc.
<b>District Attorney (DA)</b>	Represents the public and decides whether to bring charges and prosecute. District Attorneys recommend consequences to the Juvenile Justice Court.
<b>Deputy Probation Officer (DPO)</b>	Responsible for the “care, custody, and control” of a youth, makes recommendations, and refers a youth to services.  Supervises youth’s compliance with probation conditions.  Submits reports to the judge to update them on the status of the youth’s wellbeing and how they are doing in terms of their probation plan.
<b>Judge/ Hearing Officer/ Commissioner</b>	Responsible for making decisions in the best interest of the youth.  Their Juvenile Justice Court orders facilitate rehabilitation of the youth while considering the needs and safety of the public.

## SPECIALIZED JUVENILE JUSTICE COURTS AND PROBATION UNITS

Please refer to [Specialized Juvenile Justice Courts and Probation Units](#), found in the Appendix.



Just like youth on probation, youth that are dually involved also face **TRIPLE 7**, a probation violation.

### DUAL STATUS YOUTH CHARGED WITH A NEW PETITION/TRIPLE 7

- If there is a new charge or violation, a new (or supplemental) 241.1 must be completed. The MDT conducts a reassessment meeting.
- New probation conditions may be added.
- The youth may be sent to a more restrictive placement or to juvenile hall.

### COMPLETING PROBATION

Probation decides whether they will recommend termination and the judge decides if the youth completed probation successfully based on the case plan requirements and whether they were met. When probation notes that a young person has completed the terms of their probation and has maintained positive behaviors for a period of time, they will likely move forward with recommending to the judge that their case be closed successfully.

When a youth's probation case closes, their dependency case can still remain open. The dependency case will remain open as long as conditions exist that prevent the young person from returning to their caregiver safely.

### TURNING 18 WHILE ON PROBATION

A youth turning 18 while under dual supervision can still be on probation under the juvenile justice system, depending on their progress with probation conditions. When youth that are dually involved turn 18, they are still eligible to become a non-minor dependent through DCFS.

Youth involved with probation are also eligible for Transition Jurisdiction (WIC 450). Transition jurisdiction is available to a youth 18-21, who have a concurrent foster placement order or out of home placement order at the time of their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday (or between 17.5- 18 years of age). Youth receiving transition jurisdiction services are eligible for housing assistance and financial support.



If a dual status youth turns 18 while they are in Dorothy Kirby or Camp, they are at risk for denial of AB12 services. The law is unclear regarding AB12 eligibility under these circumstances. If a CASA is aware that your youth is approaching the age of 18 while placed at Dorothy Kirby or Camp, please reach out to the CLC attorney immediately. A termination of jurisdiction or a Home of Parent order right before the youth turns 18 can affect AB12 eligibility.



Previously, DCFS has made a recommendation to close out the youth's dependency case so that they can receive transition jurisdiction through WIC 450. While transition jurisdiction can be a valuable resource, CASA advises against it because the youth's needs should be met through DCFS if their deprived needs have not been met. Additionally, receiving AB12 through DCFS reduces contact with probation once their probation case closes, since transition jurisdiction is monitored through probation. If the CASA finds that this is happening, the CASA should inform their Advocate Supervisor and both the dependency and defense attorney.

# CASA ROLE

## FOR STARTERS!

### IDENTIFYING YOURSELF AS A CASA

As best practice, a CASA Volunteer should always carry their CASA badge, CASA Cover Letter, and their Dependency Court Issued Appointment Order. This documentation is necessary to gain access to information and have the ability to visit a youth when they are in a placement or detained.

### ETO DOCUMENTATION

CASAs are required to keep ETO updated. This includes updating Volunteer Hours, Case Note Log, and the Child Visit Log. Maintaining ETO ensures you are in compliance as a CASA, allows Advocate Supervisors to remain informed and support CASAs, and tracks all of the advocacy efforts that have been done throughout your appointment. To learn more about ETO, refer to the [CASA Volunteer Handbook](#).

### WARNING SIGNS – ARE THE RIGHT SERVICES IN PLACE?

When gathering information, it is important to make note of what services have been used, what services have yet to be used, and what services have been delayed and for what reasons. This information is critical for supporting youth, ensuring their care does not become under prioritized, and reducing the likelihood for duplication of services.

### DIRECT ADVOCACY

- Collaborate with their dependency attorney
  - Update them on Juvenile Justice Court hearing results if they are unable to attend
- Advocate for the youth's dependency needs
- Collaborate with the defense attorney
  - Update them on Dependency Court hearing results if they were not present at their dependency hearing
  - Respect their boundaries with regards to disclosures of information
  - Discuss youth's needs and what information can be shared with DCFS and probation
- Communicate the youth's needs with probation and CSW after discussing them with their defense attorney (Be mindful of [Sharing Information](#) protocol)
- Advocate for prosocial activities, mentoring programs, or anything youth states would prove beneficial to their well-being
- Advocate for the least restrictive setting and outcome by providing mitigation information to the defense attorney
- Advocate during the [241.1 MDT process](#)
- Inform all team members about upcoming hearings so transportation is arranged
- Identify barriers to completing the terms of probation
  - Some common barriers include but are not limited to:

- Coordinating transportation to services or community service
- Placement is not meeting the needs
- Duplication of services
- Conflicting appointments or an overbooked schedule
- Mental health needs require attention
  - Therapy or psychotropic medication needs
- Check in with youth to learn how they are feeling
  - With dual-status involvement, it is possible for a young person to feel overwhelmed with how many care providers are involved or feel a lack of control in their personal life
- Visit them in juvenile hall and camp settings



For step-by-step support, please refer to the [Getting Started With JJ Advocacy!](#) Handout found in the Appendix.

## CONFIDENTIALITY

When a CASA is sworn in, they take an oath of confidentiality to protect the youth’s *case-related information* (any information that can readily identify a youth and is defined in detail in the [CASA Volunteer Handbook](#)). This means that the CASA must protect the information that has been entrusted upon them and not disclose any details to people not involved in the case. For more guidance on this topic, please review the [Volunteer Handbook](#).

However, sharing information with others involved in the case is acceptable and sometimes necessary. To learn more about disclosures, please refer to the [Sharing Information](#) section found in this guide. CASAs are strongly encouraged to talk to their Advocate Supervisor about disclosures of information and what is appropriate, especially around sensitive information such as: sexual/reproductive health, mental health diagnoses, substance use, etc.

Specifically when advocating for youth that are dually-involved, CASAs may not discuss the details of the youth’s charges with anyone involved in the case, with the exception of their Advocate Supervisor and the youth’s dependency attorney and defense attorney. If information about the youth is being reported inaccurately, the CASA must first consult with their Advocate Supervisor and defense attorney, and allow the defense attorney to make any corrections.

The CASA and Advocate Supervisor, with support from the defense attorney, will decide what information is disclosed to the Juvenile Justice Court via [Written Advocacy Statements](#).




Review and familiarize yourself with the [CASA Volunteer Handbook](#) so you are updated on CASA’s confidentiality practices.




## SHARING INFORMATION

In order to build rapport and strengthen the relationship with a young person, a CASA must always be mindful of the information that is shared, especially as it relates to their juvenile justice involvement. CASAs should also always consult with their Advocate Supervisors when they are unsure about how to proceed.

As best practice, CASAs should always refer to the CASA LA [Volunteer Handbook](#) for details on what to disclose. Information provided to any reporting parties can be documented in both Dependency and Juvenile Justice Court reports and have the potential to inadvertently criminalize a young person. Nonetheless, there is information that could prove to be largely beneficial if given to certain parties. The table below outlines additional considerations and pointers related to disclosure with youth involved in the Juvenile Justice system.

RECEIVING PARTY	INFORMATION THAT CAN BE SHARED
<b>CASA Advocate Supervisor/ CASA Staff</b>	CASAs can share any and all case-related information with their Advocate Supervisors. This includes conversations had with the youth, parties involved, and any other case related details. Sharing all information with Advocate Supervisors is important and strengthens a CASA’s ability to advocate appropriately for their youth.
<b>Child/ Youth/ NMD</b>	<p>You can discuss anything related to the youth’s <i>dependency</i> case in an age and developmentally appropriate manner. Regarding juvenile justice matters, you can speak with the youth about requirements of their probation plan, potential barriers, connection to services, and potential placement options.</p> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> CASAs must avoid discussing any past or current charges/allegations with the youth.</p>
<b>Defense Attorney/ Dependency Attorney</b>	<p>Any and all case-related issues. It is encouraged to run any concerns/issues by the youth’s attorneys prior to sharing information with other parties, with the exception of your Advocate Supervisor.</p> <div style="border: 2px solid #FFC000; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;">  <p>Reminder: A CASA is not entitled to information related to an ongoing criminal investigation. As such, a defense attorney may choose to not disclose information to the CASA Volunteer, and they are within their right to do so.</p> </div>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Deputy Probation Officer (DPO)</b></p>	<p>In general, be discerning about what information you share with the Juvenile Justice Court/DPO. Consider how the information would be used and how it may impact the young person’s trajectory in the juvenile justice system.</p> <p><b>Always consult with your supervisor and the youth’s defense attorney before disclosing information to the DPO/Juvenile Justice Court.</b></p> <p>Note: This also applies to the Probation Officer involved in the 241.1 process. Investigative Probation Officer</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>District Attorney (DA)</b></p>	<p>As it is the district attorney’s position to prosecute the young person based on alleged charges, CASAs should not share information directly with the District Attorney or any of their staff.</p> <div style="border: 2px solid orange; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;">  <p>If contacted by a district attorney for a statement, CASAs must not make any immediate disclosures and always first consult with their Advocate Supervisor and the child’s defense attorney before disclosing information that could be shared with the district attorney.</p> </div>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Children’s Social Worker (CSW)</b></p>	<p>Discuss any dependency-related case matters. Refrain from discussing any information related to the charges, as it may end up in a CSW report.</p>

**MANDATED REPORTING**

CASA volunteers are mandated reporters. This means CASAs are required to report, by law, any known or suspected child neglect or maltreatment, if the youth wants to harm themselves, or expresses intent to harm others. CASA advocates should always consult with their Advocate Supervisor prior to submitting a referral. For additional and more detailed information on how to proceed with regards to Mandated Reporting, please review the Mandated Reporting section on the CASA [Volunteer Handbook](#).

**DISCLOSURES OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**

As a rule of thumb, CASAs must not inquire or engage in conversations about a youth’s previous or current criminal activity. If a youth discloses any information related to criminal activity, CASAs must consult with their Advocate Supervisor about next steps, which may include encouraging the youth to notify their attorney or the CASA directly notifying the attorney. CASAs may also encourage the youth to share this information with their dependency attorney or defense attorney and remind them of attorney-client privilege.

# WRITTEN ADVOCACY STATEMENTS

## WHEN TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN ADVOCACY STATEMENT

Youth typically have juvenile justice hearings every 3-6 months. However, some youth may have hearings as often as every other month. Based on the frequency of the youth's scheduled hearings, a CASA can submit a written advocacy statement every 6 months, as new and important information arises, or at the request of the defense attorney. CASA volunteers should always check in with the defense attorney and their Advocate Supervisor if they plan on submitting an advocacy statement.

## BENEFITS OF SUBMITTING WRITTEN ADVOCACY STATEMENTS

A CASAs written advocacy statements can be largely beneficial in many ways. First and foremost, it allows a young person to feel supported. Secondly, a CASAs letter may:

- Provide more up to date information to the defense attorney.
- Allow the Juvenile Justice Courts to see the humanity and potential of youth who have a support system
- Provide an opportunity to give accurate information to the Juvenile Justice Court if any reporting party misstates the information or overstates the seriousness of the allegations
- Speak to the youth's character and growth
- Provide an opportunity to reframe the narrative about the youth

## WRITTEN ADVOCACY STATEMENT TEMPLATE

The written advocacy statement template is available to CASAs and can be obtained through their Advocate Supervisor.

## CONTENT OF WRITTEN ADVOCACY STATEMENTS

As a basic rule, CASA advocacy statements should document ways in which youth have been amenable to supportive services and focus on the youth's well-being. Additionally, the written advocacy statement should strive to be strengths-based, and give the Juvenile Justice Court a better picture of the youth's character, strengths, and resiliency.

Statements may include the following information:

- Background information on the youth's progress prior to detention
- Youth's strengths and needs. Some examples include:
  - Youth's strong academic record or noted improvements
  - Youth's involvement in extracurricular sports or activities
  - Youth's engagement in individual therapy, and any significant progress made in the past months
- If the youth could benefit from additional services, that may be noted and the following may be requested: Regional Center assessment, assessment for an IEP, workers to assist with providing youth a stable placement
- Holistic information and context about the youth's behavior and circumstances in placement

## WHAT'S NOT ALLOWED

CASA volunteers must be mindful that their written and spoken words can carry a lot of weight in the perception of the youth by the court and may end up in their juvenile case file, which is accessible by law enforcement, Probation, and the District Attorney. At times, CASAs may want to present information they believe to be helpful to their youth's case. However, this information could potentially incriminate the youth or cause harm. Therefore, CASA letters should NOT include the following information:

- Discussion of the youth's pending petition or circumstances surrounding the charge
- Report of behaviors that may be construed as "gateway" behaviors (substance use, fights at school, multiple "AWOLs" or leaving placement without permission, etc.)
- Mental health diagnoses
  - This is dependent on each case – please consult with your Advocate Supervisor about this information

## REVIEW OF WRITTEN ADVOCACY STATEMENTS

CASA volunteers must submit their written advocacy statements to their Advocate Supervisors for review, prior to submitting them to the defense attorney or Juvenile Justice Court. Advocate Supervisors must review the information being presented to ensure the advocacy statement is written in concordance with CASA's advocacy mission and to ensure that the written advocacy statement does not inadvertently advocate against the youth or incriminate them.

Once the letter is approved by the Advocate Supervisor, the letter must then be submitted to the defense attorney for approval. Submitting the letter to the defense attorney for approval is of the utmost importance, as they will be developing a defense for the youth and CASA of Los Angeles does not want to interfere with their defense plan. If the defense attorney does not believe the letter should be submitted, the CASA volunteer should abide by their decision.

## SUBMITTING WRITTEN ADVOCACY STATEMENTS

To allow enough time for edits and collaboration with the defense attorney, it is recommended that the letter be submitted to the Advocate Supervisor 2 weeks prior to the scheduled Juvenile Justice Court hearing.

- If the written advocacy statement draft is submitted on time and approved by both the Advocate Supervisor and the defense attorney, the CASA may print 5 copies of the written statement to take to Juvenile Justice Court. The CASA may give the written advocacy statement to the defense attorney to distribute.
- If the written advocacy statement draft is not submitted on time or is not approved by both the Advocate Supervisor and the defense attorney, the CASA advocate cannot submit the written advocacy statement. The Advocate Supervisor may instead advise the CASA to attend the hearing and consult with the defense attorney on how to advocate for the youth in Juvenile Justice Court.

# APPENDIX

## I'M MATCHED- NOW WHAT?

### GETTING STARTED WITH JJ ADVOCACY!

Once you have reviewed the youth's case file and met with your Advocate Supervisor, you are ready to get going with advocacy work! Remember to reach out, be patient, and collaborate with your Advocate Supervisor when you feel stuck. Here's a list of first steps to take:

- Block off upcoming court dates in your calendar
  - Juvenile Justice Court hearings- defense attorneys or DPOs have this information
  - Dependency Court hearings- Advocate Supervisors have access to this information and it is available on the ETO Hearings Touchpoint
- Scan your CASA Cover Letter and Court Appointment Order into a PDF file
- E-mail the social worker, probation officer, dependency attorney, and defense attorney a copy of your CASA Cover Letter and Court Appointment Order
  - Let them know you are the Court Appointed Special Advocate and are wanting to set up a time to talk about the youth and their current needs
    - With probation officers, it is recommended that CASA volunteers only meet with them post-disposition/post-adjudication (not pre-). CASAs should consult with defense attorneys about one-on-one meetings with probation. Meetings with probation should focus on gathering information to determine needs, not disclosing information.
  - You do not have to have met with the social worker, probation officer, defense attorney, or dependency attorney before meeting your CASA youth. However, it is preferred that you let them know you are planning a visit with the youth and introduce yourself.
  - Ask if your youth as any of the following, as they will be important people to contact
    - Wraparound Team/ IFCCS Team- Teams specializing in holistic support for youth
    - CARE Unit- CLC team that provides additional support to youth involved in both the dependency and juvenile justice system
    - Regional Center Case Worker- For youth with developmental delays
    - Special Education/IEP/504 Plan or Education Attorney- For youth that require specific accommodations at school
    - Saving Innocence- To support youth that have been trafficked
    - Mentor(s)- Adult supports through programs, family friends, etc.
  - Ask about any upcoming Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Meetings (specifically 241.1 MDT meetings), Child Family Team (CFT) meetings, or Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meetings. Record the dates and make an effort to attend in person or by phone.
- Ask the social worker or attorney who the educational rights holder + developmental decision maker is
  - This will help identify who you will be collaborating with or if the youth needs someone appointed

- Contact the youth's placement and set up a meeting with the caregiver and the youth.
  - Make note of any visiting rules if the youth is in a group home or juvenile hall.
  - It is important to visit your youth without any preconceived notions. Often times, youth are portrayed very negatively in their reports but are genuinely kind and excited to meet someone new.
  - If your youth seems to not be excited or indifferent about meeting you, it is okay! It is your first meeting. Remember: you are doing this for them, not you!
  - Ask the youth about their strengths and needs.
    - Make a list of these to review with your Advocate Supervisor
  - Have fun and get to know the youth!
- When meeting with case parties, take plenty of notes and make note of acronyms you do not understand
  - Try not to take notes while meeting with your youth. Focus on relationship-building!
- Contact your Advocate Supervisor with any questions or concerns

## BEST PRACTICES FOR ADVOCACY IN THE 241.1 MDT PROCESS

When a foster youth has a charge filed, both DCFS and Probation teams will meet to conduct a Multidisciplinary Meeting (MDT). This is to determine who will take “lead”, or best serve the youth’s needs at this time. CASAs can ask to participate in the MDT meeting but are not mandatory participants. Here are some tips to keep in mind at each stage of the MDT.

### BEFORE THE PRE-DISPOSITION MDT MEETING

- To be included in the MDT meeting, CASAs can reach out to the youth’s dependency attorney or social worker, who may link them to the DCFS 241.1 Liaison responsible for setting up the meeting. If the CASA is in the hearing where the 241.1 Assessment is ordered, they could ask the defense attorney to request an order that CASA be contacted with information about date/location of MDT meeting.
  - The CASA may arrange to participate by phone.
- CASA volunteers must consult with their Advocate Supervisors about the youth’s current situation and needs.
  - Advocate Supervisors will provide individualized feedback and coaching around how to best advocate for the youth.
- CASA volunteers should develop a list with interventions that have been attempted and interventions that have yet to be explored. If there are interventions that have been requested by the Dependency Court but have not come to fruition, the CASA may mention these services to the team.
- CASA advocates may be interviewed by the Probation Officer prior to the Pre-Disposition MDT meeting. CASA advocates should always consult with their Advocate Supervisor about what information they are able to provide.
- CASA must consult with both the defense attorney and the dependency attorney about what the CASA is able to share, what recommendations would be appropriate, and what would be best for the CASA to bring up during the meeting.
  - At times when the defense attorney and dependency attorney suggest different recommendations, the CASA must consult with their Advocate Supervisor.

### DURING THE PRE-DISPOSITION MDT MEETING

CASA volunteers are able to provide a unique lens for viewing the youth, as they likely interact with the youth the most. However, it is important to note that at MDTs, there will be team members that are required to report all information presented to the Juvenile Justice Court. Thus, CASAs should be mindful of the information that is given to the team and how the information is presented.

At the MDT, information about the allegations and the youth’s history will be presented. During this meeting, it is important that CASAs navigate the meeting with an understanding of helpful advocacy and harmful advocacy.

### HELPFUL ADVOCACY

- Focus on highlighting the youth’s strengths and progress while CASA has been involved.
- State services that have been helpful in the past.



- Make note of specific services that the youth would benefit from (least restrictive placement, mental health services, educational supportive services i.e. IEP, etc.)

#### HARMFUL ADVOCACY

- Do not discuss the youth's alleged charges and/or the incidents leading to the charges at any point. Information provided can be used against the youth and negatively affect what is recommended to the Juvenile Justice Court.
  - If the youth has disclosed information related to the charge and you notice discrepancies between what is being reported by the team and what the youth has said, do not attempt to correct this at the MDT. Make note of it and inform the youth's defense attorney.
- Do not argue with the team. The CASAs role is only to communicate the positive aspects of the youth and needs. Arguing with the team will not result in a change of perception or recommendation and may likely affect the youth's case negatively.

After the youth's information has been reviewed, probation and DCFS will discuss the recommendation about the lead agency. Before making the final decision, the CASA will be asked to leave the meeting (or get off the phone call). This is standard protocol.

#### AFTER THE PRE-DISPOSITION MDT MEETING

CASA volunteers should:

- Follow up with their Advocate Supervisor to debrief.
- Follow up with the defense attorney on what recommendation will be included in the 241.1 Joint Assessment Report. Be mindful that even though the defense attorney is supposed to receive that information 5 days before the hearing, it is more common that they do not get the 241.1 Joint Assessment Report, which includes the recommendation, prior to the hearing date.
- Attend the Disposition Hearing to determine the outcome of the case and if the findings are found true, what the terms of probation will be.
  - Based on the recommendation, CASA can follow up on the youth's needs with the "lead" agency.
- Follow up with the team to learn when the *Post-Disposition MDT* meeting will be held.

## PREPARING FOR A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM MEETING

YOUTH NAME	DOB	CURRENT PLACEMENT	LEAD AGENCY
<b>SUPPORT SYSTEM</b> Family members, non-related extended family members, coaches, mentors, teachers, neighbors			
<b>STRENGTHS</b> Personality, academic, mental health, resilience, personal growth, maturity, interpersonal relationships.			
<b>CURRENT NEEDS/PENDING EFFORTS</b> Anything that may improve the youth's overall well-being or has yet to be explored, e.g., academic needs, mental health needs, extracurricular/hobby, permanency needs.			
<b>CURRENT SUPPORTS IN PLACE</b> Indicate what services the youth is currently receiving. Include contact information if available. E.g., Wraparound, IFCCS, TBS, P3, Tutoring, Individualized Education Plan, Regional Center Services.			
<b>PAST EFFORTS</b> What has previously been tried; barriers to services (e.g., youth not connected to provider, transportation, placement changes)			
<b>UPCOMING APPOINTMENTS</b> Child Family Team Meetings, IEP meetings, Wraparound meetings, etc.			
<b>UPCOMING COURT HEARINGS</b> State the date, courthouse location, and court room number			
<b>TRANSPORTATION TO HEARINGS</b> Support the team in coordinating who will be responsible for taking the youth to their upcoming hearings.			

## ATTENDING JUVENILE JUSTICE COURT

Although each juvenile justice (JJ) court will be different, some general information is outlined below to inform CASAs on attending JJ court.

### PREPARE BY

- Gathering JJ court information (e.g. courthouse name, address, courtroom number, floor level).
  - The social worker, defense attorney, or your Advocate Supervisor may be able to assist with gathering this information.
- Identifying the defense attorney appointed to your youth by asking the dependency attorney, social worker, or calling the Public Defender main line: (323) 226-8998.
- Drafting a written advocacy statement to submit to the defense attorney and consulting with defense attorney on a verbal statement to the Court
  - A written advocacy statement **cannot** be submitted without an Advocate Supervisor's review or permission. The statement must also be reviewed by the defense attorney.
- Informing the youth, family, and/or defense attorney that you plan on attending.
- If the CASA youth is not detained, try confirming that they have transportation to JJ Court by connecting with their current caregiver or placement staff.

### MAKE SURE TO BRING

- Professional attire
- CASA badge
- Business cards
- CASA Cover Letter
- Dependency Court Appointment Order
- 5 copies of the written advocacy statement (if one was written and approved)
- Cash (may need for parking or purchasing food/beverages)

### CHECK-IN AT JJ COURT

- CASAs should wait outside the JJ courtroom for the bailiff to conduct check-ins.
  - When the bailiff conducts their check in, CASAs should inform them of their role as a CASA and provide them with the CASA youth's name.
  - At this time, CASAs may also mention that they would like to speak with the attorney. The bailiff may be able to refer CASAs to the defense attorney.
- JJ Court attendees typically wait outside the courtroom until their case is called.

### CHECK IN WITH THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY

- CASAs should provide the defense attorney with a copy of their written advocacy statement and copies.

- CASAs should review the contents of the report with the defense attorney once more and update them if there were new developments since the written advocacy statement was approved and finalized.
- CASAs should express concerns and needs to the defense attorney.
- If the CASA wishes to address the JJ Court, the CASA may inform the defense attorney.
  - It is best practice for the CASA to inform the attorney of what they would like to state to ensure that the CASA's statements do not harm the defense attorney's defense strategy.

#### **DURING THE HEARING**

- The bailiff will call the case when it is ready to be heard
- When entering the courtroom, CASAs may sit in the gallery behind the youth and/or defense attorney.
  - The CASA may also ask the attorney for guidance on where to sit.
- CASAs may address the JJ Court when:
  - They are asked by the Judge.
  - The defense attorney informs the CASA it is okay to address the JJ Court.
  - The CASA raises their hand and requests permission from the judge.
- If the youth is detained, the CASA may request an "after court visit" or phone call to check in with the youth. The CASA should inform the defense attorney prior to the hearing that they are seeking an after-court visit or phone-call. If the defense attorney does not request it, try to get their attention prior to the hearing ending and worst-case scenario, you may state "May I get an after-court visit (or phone-call) today?".

## PLACEMENT OPTIONS THROUGH PROBATION

CASAs must advocate for the safest and least restrictive setting. It is important to collaborate with your Advocate Supervisor and the youth’s defense and dependency attorneys before making recommendations to the court.

Home on Probation (HOP)	<p>Home on probation or HOP, allows the youth to return home/to their placement while promising to complete their probation conditions.</p> <p>CDP (also known as house arrest/ankle monitor) is available for youth that are home on probation, after the detention hearing when their case is still pending. In order to go home on CDP, caretakers are required to have a landline phone.</p>
Suitable Placement	<p><b>Group homes</b> – Short term residential treatment programs (STRTP; formerly known as Level 12 and 14 group homes), not locked.</p> <p><b>Locked STRTP’s</b> – Locked facilities that require a Caregiver’s Authorization Affidavit or Conservatorship.</p> <p><b>Dorothy Kirby Center</b> – (DKC) a locked, suitable placement on court orders. This option is only available for youth whose cases have Probation as the lead agency. Consult with the youth’s attorneys about youth eligibility.</p>
Out-of-State Placements	<p>Probation has contracts with various placements located out-of-state.</p>
Camp	<p>This is typically for a length of either 5-7 months or 7-9 months. There are multiple camp placements both inside and outside of LA County. For a list, please refer to <a href="#">Halls, Camps, And Courthouse Locations</a> in the manual.</p>
Department or Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)	<p><a href="#">DJJ</a> provides education and treatment to youthful offenders up to age 25 who have committed serious crimes and require high treatment needs. Referral to this placement is often rare.</p>

## VISITING JUVENILE HALL

### WHO CAN VISIT

- CASAs are able to visit youth who are placed in a juvenile hall or camp.
- Approved visits are limited to parents, legal guardians, and grandparents. Other relatives and supportive adults may be added to a youth's visitor list by the juvenile justice judge. A legal guardian must bring their guardianship documents to the facility to be approved.
- For religious purposes, youth's ministers, priests, rabbis or other authorized chaplain may visit upon approval by the religious facility coordinator.
- All visitors must be 21 years of age, unless authorized by a Juvenile Justice Court order, which would then be classified as a special visit and would require permission.
  - You should request an after-court visit if the youth is detained and then the Court PO will ask you for documents and get you on approved list of visitors
  - For camp visits, it is best to coordinate with Probation first; ask the Court PO if there is a specific PO assigned to the youth at camp
  - To learn more about special visits, contact the youth's defense attorney.

### WHEN TO VISIT

- CASAs have been allowed to visit their youth during and outside of family visiting hours. CASAs must consult with facility staff to gain special permission and be diligent about respecting any rules that come with this permission.
- Family visits are conducted on Saturdays from 1:00-3:00pm and on Sundays from 1:00-4:00pm.
  - While CASAs may visit during these hours, CASAs must be mindful that these hours are specifically set aside for family. If the CASA is only allowed to visit during this time, the CASA should coordinate visitation with the family and always prioritize the family's availability to visit over their own.

### WHAT TO BRING/NOT TO BRING

- A valid form of ID
- CASA Cover Letter
- Appointment Order
- CASAs and other visitors are permitted to bring in their keys with no more than 2 keys on a single key ring
- CASAs and other visitors are not permitted to bring personal items to the youth

### DRESS CODE

- CASAs and all other visitors must be appropriately dressed.
- CASAs **must** wear closed toe shoes.

## TALKING TO YOUTH

- CASAs are encouraged to continue strengthening their relationship to their CASA youth by asking how they are feeling, helping them identify their needs, and encouraging them to advocate for themselves as needed.
- CASAs may not ask the youth about the charges. If the youth starts to discuss the charges, CASAs must direct the youth to the defense attorney.
- CASAs may not offer the youth legal advice.

## CONSIDERATIONS

- While CASAs can certainly visit youth during normal visiting hours, CASAs should do their due diligence in ensuring that their visits do not unintentionally create a scheduling conflict with visits between the youth and their family.
- If CASAs are allowed to visit outside of visiting hours, CASAs should ensure their visits are scheduled ahead of time and do not interfere with regularly scheduled activities that are beneficial to the youth's well-being or development (e.g., school, therapy, group activities).
- Due to limits on what can be taken into the juvenile hall, CASAs are encouraged to practice their best judgment and hide personal belongings in their vehicle while visiting their youth.
- Visiting a young person while they are detained can be emotionally challenging. CASAs are welcome to reach out to their Advocate Supervisors following visits, if needed.
- Some juvenile halls will not allow off-hours visits, regardless of CASA efforts to arrange them. In these situations, the CASA should visit youth during visiting hours. If this is not doable, it is possible to make a formal request via a written advocacy statement or Juvenile Justice Court report. The CASA should consult with their Advocate Supervisor about this request.

## WRITING YOUTH IN JUVENILE HALL

Corresponding through mail is one of the most efficient ways of communicating with youth who are in juvenile hall. Youth may correspond with family members and other individuals through mail indefinitely while they are staying at the facility, and they are also provided with the necessary mailing supplies.

### SENDING MAIL

- For security reasons, the youth may not receive anything other than mail.
  - CASAs (and any other parties) cannot hand-deliver anything to the youth, even if it is something that would normally be allowed to be sent via mail.
- Letters must be addressed properly with a return address for proper delivery
- Envelopes may not exceed 5" x 7" in size.
- Youths may receive photographs but they must not exceed five (5) in quantity at any given time. Photographs must not be offensive in nature.

### WHAT'S NOT ALLOWED

- Packages may not be sent in the mail.
- Youth are not allowed to write to another hall, camp, or Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ).
  - CASAs must decline requests from youth to forward mail to an incarcerated sibling or friend.
- Youth cannot write to anyone in jail or prison unless it is their guardian or parent.
- Since paper, writing utensils, envelopes, and stamps are provided for the youth, these items cannot be brought into the facility or be sent to them in the mail.

### INMATE ID

The CASA may obtain the Inmate ID from the youth, their DPO, CSW, or by calling the juvenile hall reception desk and providing the youth's first and last name. This information will be needed when addressing the envelope.

### HOW TO ADDRESS AN ENVELOPE

CASA volunteers must always use the CASA Office address when mailing letters. CASAs **may not** use their personal address. Advocate Supervisors may scan and email CASAs any letters from their youth or mail them directly to the CASA.

### MAIL INSPECTION

Confidentiality is limited to correspondence between the youth and his/her attorney only. All other letters are reviewed for security reasons prior to being given to the youth.

- Thus, CASAs must be mindful of what they write in their letters.



**SAMPLE ENVELOPE**

CASA's Name & Supervisor Name  
CASA of Los Angeles  
201 Centre Plaza Drive, Suite 1100  
Monterey Park, CA 91754

STAMP

CASA youth's name, *Inmate ID*  
*C/O: Name of Juvenile Hall*  
*Juvenile Hall address*

## FOR YOUTH: QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR ATTORNEY

(Borrowed and Adapted from UCLA Youth and Justice Clinic)

You and your defense attorney have attorney-client privilege. This means everything you tell your attorney will remain confidential. Try to trust your attorney and provide them with any information they need, especially as it relates to your case. This will help them fight your case. This is some information you might want to give your attorney:

- Educational history (IEP, 504 Plan, non-public school enrollment)
- Family life
- Any challenges you've experienced recently or throughout your life
- Therapy or psychiatric attention you've received
- Anywhere you receive services from (e.g., regional center, GRYD)
- Any extracurricular activities you are involved in
- Your hobbies, interests, and goals
- All the great qualities that make you who you are
- Anything else you think is important or might help your case

Do not give anybody else information about your charges, not even your CASA. You can also ask to speak only when your attorney is present.

### BELOW ARE A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS YOU MIGHT WANT TO ASK YOUR ATTORNEY

#### AT ARREST

- What is Juvenile Justice Court?
  - *If you have a case with DCFS:* How is Juvenile Justice Court different from Dependency Court?)
- Why was I arrested?
  - What are my charges?
- What are the consequences of an arrest?
- Will an arrest show up on my record? What about as an adult?
- What can be done in Juvenile Justice Court if one of my rights in arrest are violated?
- Can I call someone I trust? Like a caregiver or a CASA?
- What am I allowed to talk about with others?
  - Can I choose to not talk to people?

#### PRE-DISPOSITION

- Can I go home or back to my group home today? Can you argue for my release today?
  - Can I go home on CDP (Community Detention Program; ankle monitor)?
  - If I can't go home today, can you explain why?
- What are the possible conditions for CDP?
- What are the requirements of my release home while the case is pending?
- What happens if I violate the condition of release?

## PLEAS

- What is a plea?
- Will you explain what diversion (654) means and if I am eligible for it? What are the requirements that must be completed under a diversion program?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of my options?
- Will this count as a strike? Please explain what a strike is to me.

## SEALING

- Can an arrest be sealed on my record?
- Can a juvenile conviction (via plea or adjudication) be sealed on my record?
- Is there a difference on my record if I choose to do juvenile court-based diversion?
- What is the process of sealing my record?
  - Who can my sealed record be accessed by?
- Is it possible to have the records completely destroyed? When does that happen?
  - Can my arrest or juvenile convictions be used against me as an adult if my record is ordered destroyed?
- What's a juvenile strike?

## GRIEVANCES

- If you have a grievance about an issue within the facility, tell your attorney and ask about how best to deal with the issue before reporting it to a PO
- Ask your attorney about the Ombudsman process
- What possible retaliation might I face?
- If you would like help with a health, education, mental health, or other issue, tell your attorney and ask what to do to make sure your needs are met.
- What can be done in Juvenile Justice Court if one of my rights in custody are violated?

## GENERAL

- How long should I expect this process to take?
- What information or records do you need to build my case?
- When can we find time for me to discuss with you any traumas or difficulties I have faced in life?
- How do I get in contact with my family or guardians?

# SPECIALIZED JUVENILE JUSTICE COURTS AND PROBATION UNITS

## COURTS

### **STAR COURT – “SUCCEED THROUGH ACHIEVEMENT AND RESILIENCE”**

**COMPTON JUVENILE COURTHOUSE-Department 261**

**Judge Pratt**

The Succeed through Achievement and Resilience (STAR) Court supervises cases for youth who have been arrested and found to be CSEC-involved (Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children), or who have disclosed being CSEC-involved after arrest on other charges. STAR Court aims to focus on safety and access to resources and services for youth, while addressing juvenile justice matters.

STAR Court is in session once a week at Los Angeles County Juvenile (Juvenile Justice) Court. STAR Court appearances for youth are scheduled approximately every 3-5 weeks, depending on case circumstances and the youth’s progress. If appropriate, the Deputy Probation Officer (DPO), counsel and/or members of the treatment team may request more frequent court contact. Youth are supervised by the STAR Court and treatment team for 18 months or until the curriculum has been successfully completed.

Youth may be referred to the program by juvenile hall medical staff, mental health providers, law enforcement officers, probation officers, social workers, attorneys and judges.

### **MENTAL HEALTH COURT/JMHC- “JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH COURT”**

**EASTLAKE JUVENILE COURTHOUSE**

**Judge Hill**

JMHC serves youth whose juvenile justice matters demonstrate a link to a mental health disorder or learning disability diagnosis. JMHC’s goal is to reduce recidivism amongst youth who have severe mental health or other developmental needs. JMHC consists of a collaborative team from multiple agencies including: a judge, prosecutor, defense attorney, consulting psychiatrist/psychologist, probation officer, DCFS personnel, and an educational advocate. This team is responsible for creating an appropriate case and treatment plan for each youth.

The youth’s team will work with a host of community-based organizations to connect the youth and their caretakers to supports recommended in the youth’s individualized case plan. These additional support providers may include: regional center, schools, WRAP around teams, and other community-based non-profits.

Youth may be referred to the program by the defense attorney from any Juvenile Justice Court within Los Angeles County.

For more information on specialized Juvenile Justice Courts, contact your Advocate Supervisor.

## UNITS

### DUAL SUPERVISION UNIT

The dual supervision unit provides increased support to the youth. DPOs from this department carry a smaller caseload, thus providing enhanced communication, supervision and monitoring of dual supervision youth. Per their website: probation reviews new cases; consults with the DCFS social worker to coordinate services; provides case management, including making field visits, gathering casework or related information; enforcing conditions of probation; consulting with social worker relative to multi-disciplinary planning to meet youth's needs; and preparing reports for Juvenile Justice Court.

A referral to this unit is determined by who has the lead.

- Youth on formal probation with DCFS as the lead are assigned a probation officer from the "Dual Supervision Unit".
- Youth on formal probation with probation as the lead are assigned a probation officer from "Placement Supervision Unit."

### CSEC UNIT

The CSEC Unit through probation, much like the dual supervision unit, provides increased support to the youth. DPOs from the CSEC Unit have a strong understanding of the unique needs presented by youth who have been trafficked or are currently being trafficked. They visit with the youth frequently throughout the month, attend meetings (e.g., CFT & MDT), provide the youth with enrichment activities, and link them to supportive services. DPOs from this department carry a smaller caseload and remain appointed to the youth throughout the life of their case, even if the youth leaves their placement and is gone for a long time.

Consult with the youth's DPO if you believe they may benefit from working directly with the CSEC Unit.

## HALLS, CAMPS, AND COURTHOUSE LOCATIONS

As of June 2020, there are significant efforts to close halls and camps.  
To learn if any camps or halls have closed, reach out to your Advocate Supervisor.

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY JUVENILE HALLS

**Central Juvenile Hall**  
1605 Eastlake Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90033  
(323) 226-8611

**Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall**  
16350 Filbert St.  
Sylmar, CA 91342  
(818) 364-2011

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY CAMPS

**Camp Afflerbaugh**  
6631 North Stephens Ranch Road  
La Verne, CA 91750  
(909) 593-4937

**Campus Kilpatrick**  
427 S. Encinal Cyn. Rd.  
Malibu, CA 90265  
(818) 889-1353

**Camp Rockey**  
1900 N. Sycamore Cyn. Rd.  
San Dimas, CA 91773  
(909) 599-2391

**Camp Joseph Scott**  
28700 Bouquet Cyn. Rd.  
Saugus, CA 91350  
(661) 296-3231

**Camp Paige**  
6601 N. Stephen Ranch Road  
La Verne, CA 91750  
(909) 593-4921

**Dorothy Kirby Center**  
1500 S. Mc Donnell Ave.  
Commerce, CA 90022  
(323) 981-4301

### LOS ANGELES COUNTY JUVENILE COURTHOUSES

**Compton Courthouse**  
200 West Compton Blvd.  
Compton, CA 90220  
(310) 761-4300  
Parking: 400 South Acacia Ave.  
Cash only; under \$10.

**Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse**  
275 Magnolia  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(562) 256-3100  
Parking: 101 S. Magnolia Ave.  
Cash only, under \$20.

**Michael D. Antonovich Antelope Valley Courthouse**  
42011 4th Street West  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
(661) 483-5536  
Parking: Free; on the south and the east sides of the courthouse.

**Eastlake Juvenile Court**  
1601 Eastlake Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90033  
(323) 227-4399  
Parking: Street, metered.

**Inglewood Juvenile Courthouse**  
110 Regent Street  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
(310) 412-8301  
Parking: Public, across the street.  
Cash only, under \$20.

**Pomona Courthouse South**  
400 Civic Center Plaza  
Pomona, CA 91766  
(909) 802-1100  
Parking: Lot on 7th St.; south side of the courthouse  
Cash only; under \$20

**Sylmar Juvenile Courthouse**  
16350 Filbert Street  
Sylmar, CA 91342  
(818) 256-1180  
Parking: Free courthouse lot.