

# ADOLESCENT SERVICES

## Working with Detained and Incarcerated Youth

42-6

---

### Policy

The Department of Children and Families shall continue to support and plan for detained and incarcerated youth during the pretrial period and, if sentenced to the custody of the Department of Correction (DOC) for 12 months or less, continuing through the period of incarceration when the youth:

- is committed as abused, neglected, uncared for or delinquent or when the Commissioner is the youth's statutory parent;
- was in a DCF out-of-home placement immediately prior to detention or incarceration;
- is under the age of 21; and
- is otherwise eligible for continued DCF services.

---

### Rationale

Youth who are committed to DCF and who are subsequently incarcerated may lack appropriate family supports and have no contact outside the correctional facility. The DCF Area Office or Juvenile Justice Social Worker may be the youth's only source of support and information.

---

### Bail Policy

In cases in which a DCF youth is arrested and bail is set, DCF shall not post the bond.

---

### Incarcerated Youth Who Are Not Committed or in DCF Out-of-Home Placement

In cases in which an incarcerated youth or the youth's family is involved with DCF but the youth is not committed to DCF or is not in a DCF out-of-home placement, the Social Worker shall assist the family by providing reasonable and available services such as transportation to visit the youth and accompanying the family to court hearings.

---

### Incarcerated Youth Who Are Committed and were in a DCF Out-of-Home Placement

When DCF learns that a youth is in DOC custody, DCF shall inform DOC of the youth's legal status. For those youth who are committed to DCF, or for whom DCF is the statutory parent, and who were in out-of-home placement, the Social Worker shall request to be notified by DOC if any other party seeks to affect the release of the youth.

DCF shall assess the incarcerated youth to determine if it is appropriate to seek his or her release. This assessment shall include a review of the history of the youth and his or her family, the current situation and the offense for which the youth is incarcerated. This information shall be used to determine whether:

- release appears to be in the youth's best interest;
  - release will pose a threat to the youth or to others; and
  - release will be a threat to the community.
-

## ADOLESCENT SERVICES

### Working with Detained and Incarcerated Youth

42-6

---

**Incarcerated Youth Who Are Committed and were in a DCF Out-of-Home Placement (continued)**

If it is determined that the youth can be safely released, the Social Worker shall develop an appropriate discharge plan, including an alternative placement. This plan shall be presented to the criminal court through the State's Attorney and the youth's criminal defense attorney, and the Social Worker may advocate that it be accepted and agreed to as an alternative to incarceration.

If the youth is assessed as ready for release but does not have a court date within a reasonable period of time, the Social Worker shall consult with DCF legal staff and the youth's criminal defense attorney to determine how to bring the release plan to the attention of the court.

For those youth who have been assessed as not ready for release, continued efforts shall be made by the Social Worker to provide appropriate services during the period of incarceration. Services shall include, but not be limited to, arranging for family members to visit the youth, reasonable commissary deposits, and regular visits and other contact with the Social Worker.

---

**Planning for Incarcerated Youth**

The DCF-DOC liaison shall arrange for, invite participants to, and attend an Initial Planning Conference (IPC) for a youth prior to the next criminal court hearing.

The IPC shall be held at the correctional facility whenever possible and include appropriate correctional staff.

Other invitees shall include the youth whenever possible, all appropriate DCF staff, service providers, family members and the youth's attorney and guardian ad litem, if applicable.

For those youth having significant mental health or addiction problems or who are cognitively limited, invitees may also include DCF Central Office staff, as well as staff from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) or the Department of Developmental Services (DDS).

---

**Services to DCF Youth upon Release**

In collaboration with the youth's primary DOC clinician and the DCF-DOC liaison, the Social Worker shall make timely referrals to appropriate community resources to promote a successful transition from DOC custody and continuity of care.

The Social Worker, along with the DCF-DOC liaison, shall develop a plan to fill the youth's medication prescriptions at the time of release.

---