

**JUVENILE REENTRY
A HOLISTIC APPROACH**

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**Responsibilities of Children’s Counsel in
Delinquency**

- * California Rule of Court 5.663 (formerly CR1479 July, 2004)
- * Ensures post-disposition representation, “*Counsel must continue to represent the child unless relieved by the court...*”
- * Provides for the ancillary and collateral needs of youth in the delinquency system

**The Need
Why do we need post-disposition
advocacy??**

- * Disproportionate representation of high-needs minority youth in the juvenile justice system
- * High rates of placement failures and recidivism
- * Extensive detention lengths of stay for youth awaiting placement
- * Advocate for appropriate placement to meet individualized needs of the client and family
- * Reduced AWOLs and placement failure
- * Earlier graduation from placements
- * Successful termination from juvenile probation

Collaborative Partners The Team

- * The Courts
- * Community Based Agencies
- * Juvenile Probation Department
- * Public Defender
 - * Dedicated Placement/education attorney
 - * Dedicated Social Worker

The Role of the Post-Disposition Placement Attorney

- * Provides legal representation for all clients who are committed to out of home placement
 - * All those committed are in custodial detention awaiting placement
 - * Assesses the client for individualized needs
 - * Works with juvenile probation and community based services to identify most appropriate placement
 - * Maintains contact with the families to address legal issues and other concerns

By the Numbers Prior to 2011

- * In 2008
 - * African American Youth
 - * 47.9% of juvenile probation referrals
 - * Only 12% of SF youth aged 10-17
 - * 78% of Out of Home Placement FAILURES
 - * Latino Youth
 - * 25% of juvenile probation referrals
 - * Only 23% of SF youth aged 10-17
 - * 21% of Out of Home placement FAILURES

By the Numbers
JCRT results since 2011

- * Reduced Recidivism
 - * 12% for JCRT youth
 - * 41% for non-JCRT youth
 - * 81% for DJJ youth

By the Numbers
JCRT results since 2011

- * Private bar youth recidivism rate- 70% in first 6 months after returning from placement and county camp
- * NOW, recidivism rate is at 8% in first 6 months
- * 4 years ago 290 OHP commitment orders
- * LAST YEAR reduced to 99 OHP commitment orders

Objectives of Juvenile Court Reentry Team

- * 100 youth per year of Public Defender client
- * 100% of youth undergo a full risk/needs assessment for adjudication (YASI) to inform appropriate placement and service planning
- * Updated assessment as part of case planning at time of review hearings and 6 months prior to release
- * Families receive intensive support beginning 3 months prior to release

Objectives of Juvenile Court Reentry Team (continued)

- * Comprehensive Individualized Reentry Case Plan addresses
 - * Housing
 - * Vocational training
 - * Completion of education
 - * Therapy or drug treatment and additional services
- * Link youth to aftercare services 6 months post-release

CASE PLANNING How to Ensure Success

- * School assignment and placement prior to release date
- * Defender and Social work advocacy for current IEP plans for special education youths
- * Family reintegration and counseling **prior to** and after release
- * Assessment and provision of individualized counseling to address substance abuse, anger management, behavioral and mental health needs
- * Consideration of vocational readiness and employment opportunities
- * Gender and Sexual orientation services to meet the special needs of girls and LGBTQ youth

Foster Care Youth

- * New extended foster care benefits for foster care youth AB12 to provide successful emancipation for youth to age 21
- * Ensure that record sealing is a priority as an established protocol for the courts and probation
- * Provide a fresh start for youth in securing employment and future success
