

PROBATION DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVE

No.	744
Issued	03/18/99
Post Until	04/19/99

SUBJECT: ASSESSMENT OF CASES WITH NEGLECT AND ABUSE HISTORIES

Many families who come to the attention of Probation have records of abuse and neglect in their homes. It is imperative that proper attention be given to concerns in this area and that appropriate case decisions be made for minors who may be in danger of continued neglect or abuse. The following procedures are effective immediately:

New Investigations

On all new juvenile investigations a check of the Juvenile Automated Index system is made by the investigating Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) to determine if there is a record of Section 300 Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) contacts. If so, the DPO must contact the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Court Liaison Office at (323) 526-6892 to obtain a synopsis of their case and a summary of services provided. The 300 WIC record is then discussed with minor and parents or guardian to help determine the stability and suitability of the home.

When conducting a pre-filing investigation, if the case is active to DCFS, the DPO must determine if a joint assessment pursuant to the 241.1 WIC is appropriate. DPOs who are not familiar with the 241.1 WIC protocol can obtain assistance and a copy of current guidelines from the Juvenile Consultant at (562) 940-2523 or the Special Investigations Unit SDPO at (323) 980-2777. The procedures outlined in the 241.1 WIC protocol are to be followed for initiating a joint assessment.

Guidelines of the 241.1 WIC protocol apply in 652 WIC decisions on active 300 WIC cases. A determination must be made as to which department (Probation or DCFS) and which court (Delinquency or Dependency) can best meet the needs of the minor while providing for the protection of the community. Some active cases are suitable for informal probation pursuant to 654 WIC. Cases are not to be closed on the sole basis of active 300 WIC status. On investigations of active 300 WIC minors, the DPO must confer with the DCFS Children's Services Worker.

Most joint assessments ordered by the court are for 300 WIC dependents who incur 602 WIC filings in delinquency court. These cases are usually assigned to the Special Investigations Unit. The 241.1 WIC protocol must be followed whether an investigation is assigned to this unit or to a regular investigation unit.

Reevaluation of Minors Completing Camp and Placement Programs

Careful scrutiny shall be given in decisions to return minors to homes with a history of abuse or neglect. A home visit and an evaluation are required prior to the return of a minor from camp or placement to a parent or guardian who was the subject of previous abuse or neglect allegations. The home visit for camp wards is to be made by the Camp Community Transition Program or Specialized

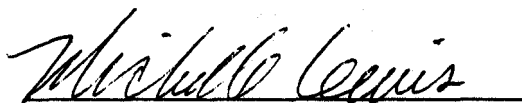
Gang Suppression DPO. Cases requiring this service should be identified early in the camp program. The camp DPO makes the referral for the home visit six weeks prior to the anticipated release date by telephoning the CCTP or SGSP SDPO of the unit to which the case is to be assigned. The field DPO reports any concerns about the home setting to the camp DPO so that they can be addressed and reported to the court.

A referral for the appropriate level of supportive service is made if the minor is released home. Such services are available through the Family Preservation Program or the Systems of Care wraparound program. Referrals to these programs are made by contacting the Central Placement Unit at (562) 940-2529.

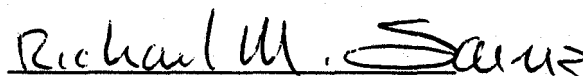
If a minor has complied with all conditions of probation and has shown stable progress towards positive goals but has no suitable home to which to return, a 241.1 WIC joint assessment is in order. For such a minor who completes a camp or placement program, Probation involvement is not continued for the sole purpose of providing the minor with a place to live. The DPO shall request a 241.1 WIC joint assessment as soon as minor's behavior has shown that the minor can reasonably be expected to succeed in a DCFS placement.

Some cases would be best served by DCFS Independent Living and Emancipation Planning programs. The joint assessment process can be used to identify appropriate cases. Referrals must be made with ample time for proper planning. DCFS needs three weeks to a month to complete a joint assessment and present their findings to the Dependency Court.

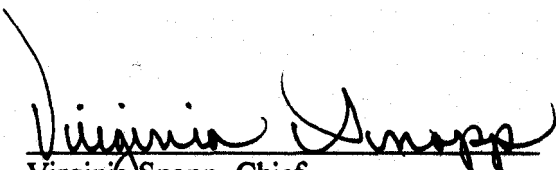
Contact the Juvenile Consultant at (562) 940-2523 with questions regarding this Directive.



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