

Juvenile Delinquency Residential Placement Review Protocol
July 1, 2014

Duties of Committee

The committee shall review a child's placement in a child caring institution, group home, or private secure facility if the placement is contrary to DCS's recommendation under IC 31-37-17-1.4. The committee shall ensure that the placement is meeting the child's needs, and shall make recommendations to the court about the child's placement. The following should be the considerations:

- 1) Placement is in the least restrictive environment.
- 2) Placement is the most family-like.
- 3) Placement is the most appropriate setting available.
- 4) Placement is close to the parent's home and most allows the parents to be involved in the treatment program.
- 5) Placement is consistent with the best interests of the child.
- 6) Placement is meeting the special needs of the child.

Membership

The residential placement committee shall include:

1. Probation officer and/or probation officer's supervisor;
2. A local county DCS designee – this may be the local officer director, probation consultant, or family case manager supervisor;
3. Family Case Manager if the child has an open CHINS case.

The probation department, at their discretion, may request the attendance of any party or participant that may be needed or appropriate, including but not limited to parties to the action (i.e. prosecutor, public defender, GAL/CASA, parents, child etc.).

Procedures

The probation officer shall schedule a residential placement committee meeting within forty (40) days of a child's placement. The committee meeting shall occur within sixty (60) days of the child's placement.

The residential placement review committee shall meet at such place and time as is feasible and appropriate given the scheduling and responsibilities of the committee membership. The committee may meet in person, by web-conference, or telephonically.

The probation officer responsible for the case shall ensure that all members of the committee have sufficient information to make recommendations to the Court under the above-duties of the committee. This shall include the pre-dispositional report, parental participation plan, any intake information and treatment plans available from the placement, and additional information necessary to allow individuals to be informed and make knowledgeable comments and recommendations. This information shall be provided to the committee members at least 48 hours before the time and date of the meeting.

Recommendations of Committee

Recommendations to the court shall be in writing. The report shall be prepared by the probation officer and shall indicate the position of each member of the residential placement committee regarding the recommendations. Any change in placement recommended by the residential placement committee requires prior court approval before the change in placement occurs.

Statutory references

Ind. Code § 31-9-2-109.5 and Ind. Code § 31-25-2-23 (b)