

Working with a child in juvenile hall

When you have a child who has been arrested and being faced with delinquency charges:

- You will not be able to get a copy of the incident report from the probation officer, but you can get a copy from the DPSS social worker and placement
- Call the probation officer and introduce yourself as the child's CASA. Leave a message with your contact info if it goes to voice mail. You may be asked to fax a copy of your court order to the probation officer before s/he will speak with you about the case against your child.
- Talk to the DPSS SW and find out whether the agency will be recommending that your child remain in dependency or delinquency. The social worker will be meeting with the probation officer for a Meet and Confer to determine which side would best serve the child
- The probation officer is NOT mandated to meet with the child. They will not usually visit with the child unless the child is acting out in the hall
- Explain the differences of dependency and delinquency to your child, often times, no one does this. Also, the CASA can remain on the case if it does become a delinquency case (then your child is referred to as a 602 ward). The CASA may want to explain this to the child, as we have had a social worker tell a child that if he was moved over to delinquency, he would no longer have a CASA.
- When a child is admitted into the hall, the probation officer has authority over the case
- Even if the delinquency charges are dropped, they will not release the child unless they have somewhere to place him or her.

Rules of the hall:

- Only wear closed-toe shoes. No sandals or flip flops.
- Do not bring anything into the hall (including food, purses, extra clothing, CD players, cell phones, gifts for the child, etc)
- You can contact the hall and ask to be transferred to the nurses' station to verify that they are aware of any psychotropic medication that your child is prescribed. All kids have a physical when they are admitted to the hall
- Be sure to bring your VFC badge and a copy of your court order. You will trade your VFC badge in for a visitor badge when you check in.
- The best times to visit are between 10-10:45am, from 1-2pm or 3-4pm. There is a shift change between 2-2:45, and no visits are allowed at that time. Meals are served daily between 11-12 and 4-5 and no visits are allowed at those times either.
- Your child should attend school while s/he is in the hall.

Court Reports:

- Court reports can be submitted for Readiness hearings
- Be sure to get a copy of the delinquency minutes and use the delinquency number and appropriate hearing name.

- Be sure to include the district attorney, probation officer and minor's delinquency attorney in the court report routing
- Do not include anything about the incident that brought him or her into the hall
- Do not include any incriminating behaviors
- Do be sure to highlight the positive behaviors
- Talk to your child and find out if s/he is on kitchen duty or has earned enough points to make outside phone calls, and include this in your court report
- Notify the dependency attorney, as they may not know that the child has been arrested and that attorney can attend the Readiness hearing
- If you are aware of any placements that are willing to take the child, be sure to include this in the report and notify the attorneys.
- At the Readiness hearing, you will not sit at the table. Still check in with the court officer so the judge knows the child's CASA is in the court room.
- Remember not to communicate with your child when s/he is brought into the court room. You will be asked to leave the court room if you attempt to do this as it is a criminal hearing, not a dependency one.