



Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice

Assessment Best Practices- Georgia's DAI and PDRA



Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice
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Assessments

- Do not determine good and bad
- Predict future criminogenic risk and/or need
- Not judgment tools
- Are evidenced based
- Are nationally supported
- Must be validated regularly
- Are a piece of the process





Dealing with youth

- Nonjudgmental
 - Open
- Understanding
 - Motivation
- Values and beliefs
 - Differences



Average Adolescent Behavior

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Backtalk | • Sexual development |
| • Exploring new things | • Not wanting to attend school |
| • Physical awkwardness | • Increase in sleep and appetite |
| • Frustration | • Growth spurts |
| • Increasing skills | • Fights with peers |
| • Selfishness | • Lack/Loss of boy/girl friend |
| • Self-absorption | • Drug and alcohol experimentation |
| • Searching out new role models | • Prefer peers to family |



Assessment Tools



- ✓ DAI- **D**etention **A**ssessment **I**nstrument
- ✓ PDRA- **P**re-**D**isposition **R**isk **A**ssessment
- ✓ SDM- **S**tructured **D**ispositional **M**atrix
- ✓ JNA- **J**uvenile **N**eeds **A**ssessment



VALIDATION OF ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Georgia's Juvenile Code requires the use of a validated assessment for detention and risk assessments.

Validation uses statewide data, existing research, and stakeholder feedback to ensure Georgia's assessments are accurate, fair, and useful.



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Detention Assessment Instrument (DAI)

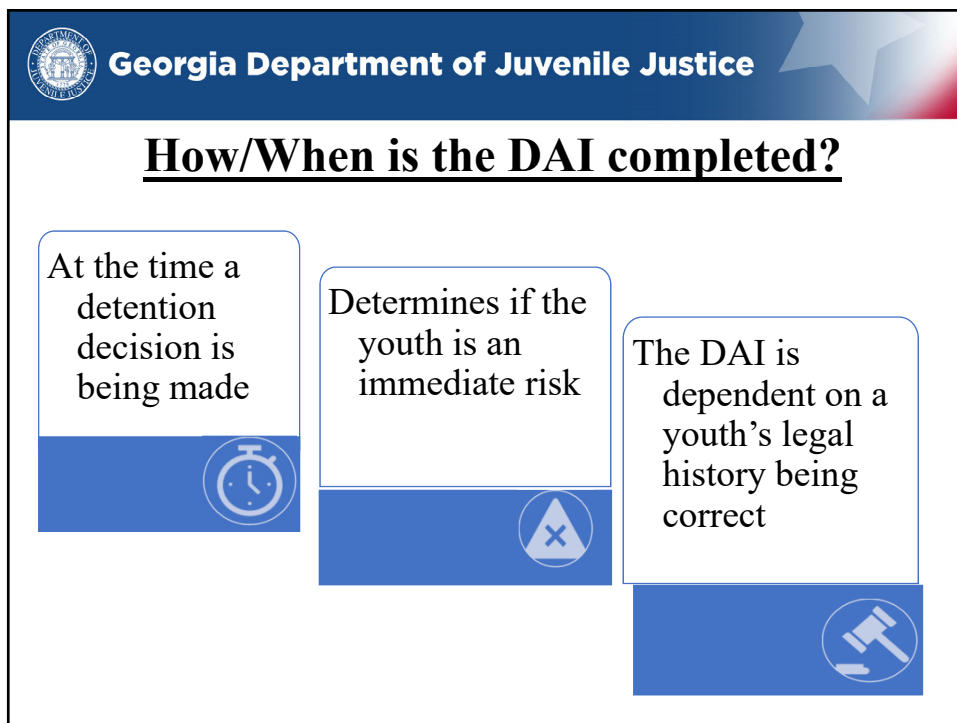
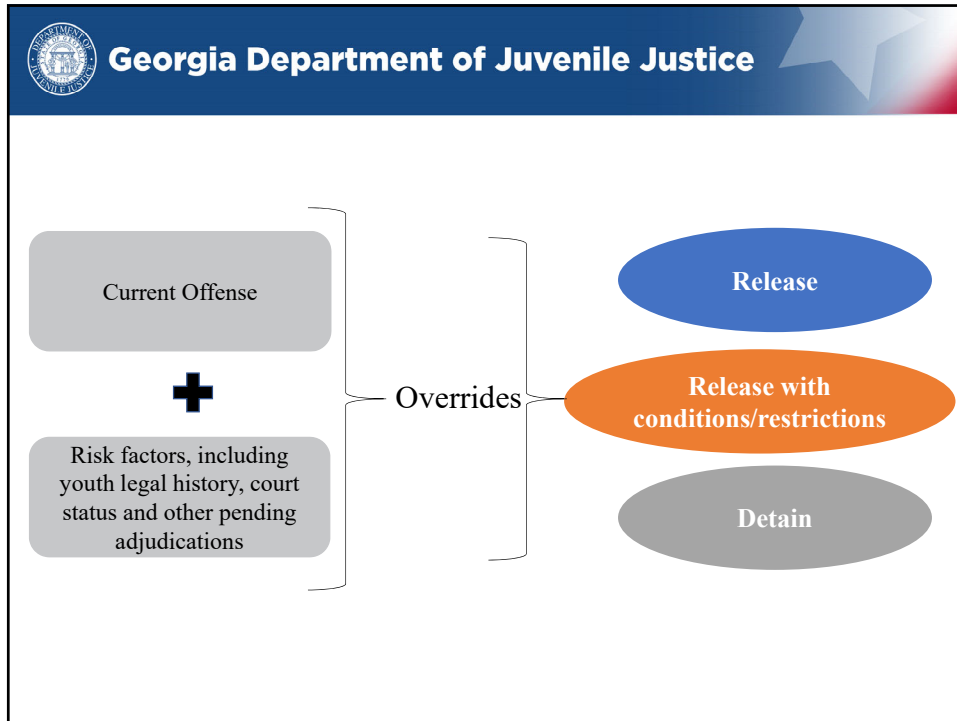
- Guides intake officers when making the critical decision whether to detain or release a youth
- More equitable, objective, and informed detention-decision making
- Reduces unnecessary or inappropriate secure confinement of youth
- It is the right thing to do to protect youth, preserve families, and ensure public safety
- Is required by statute
- GA has used a DAI since 2000.
- Changes implemented in 2014 and 2023.




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Detention Decision What It's Not

- Punish, treat or rehabilitate youth
- Allow youth's parent/guardian/legal custodian to avoid legal responsibility
- Satisfy demands by a victim, the police or the community
- Permit more convenient administrative access to the youth
- Facilitate further interrogation or investigation
- Due to a lack of more appropriate facility





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Risk Items

Youth has additional delinquent charges pending adjudication in the past 90 days that are not on this referral.

☐ No 0

☐ Yes 2

Youth has prior escape(s) and failure(s) to appear for a delinquency court hearing.

☐ No 0

☐ Yes 2

Number of prior adjudicated delinquent charges (do not include violations, escapes, contempt of court charges, or traffic charges)

☐ None 0

☐ One 1

☐ Two or three 2

☐ Four or more 3

Age at first delinquent offense

☐ 16 or older 0

☐ 14 or 15 1

☐ 13 or younger 2

☐ N/A 0


Is youth currently under judicial supervision for a criminal or delinquent offense?

☐ No, the youth is not on probation 0

☐ Yes, the youth is on probation 0

Total risk score (0-10)

DAI- Risk



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DAI- Most Serious Current Offense

Most serious current offense

☐ Class A designated felonies 12

☐ Class B designated felonies 10

☐ All other felonies 8

☐ All misdemeanors 2

☐ Lesser acts including but not limited to: CHINS, probation violations. 0

Final score (add total risk score and current offense score)

Detention Recommendation

☐ Score of 7 or less Unconditional release

☐ Score of 8-11 Release with conditions

☐ Score of 12 or more Detain



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Overrides

Overrides support workers in considering additional mitigating and aggravating factors that reflect values around community safety, youth success, and profession training and expertise.

Overrides should be used with discretion - a typical override rate for an assessment like the DAI is around 15%.

When utilizing and override all details and circumstances should be described clearly.



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DAI- Overrides

Select whether an override will be applied.

- ☐ No override
- ☐ Discretionary override to less restrictive custody
 - ☐ Override to release with conditions
 - ☐ Override to release

Select mitigating circumstances.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth is under 12 years old | <input type="checkbox"/> Apparent diminished cognitive or behavioral capacity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth involvement in offense was remote | <input type="checkbox"/> Good adult supervision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth in active treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> Good academic record |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth is employed | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth is remorseful and cooperative with authorities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |

- ☐ Discretionary override to more restrictive custody

- ☐ Override to detain
- ☐ Override to release with conditions

Select aggravating circumstances.

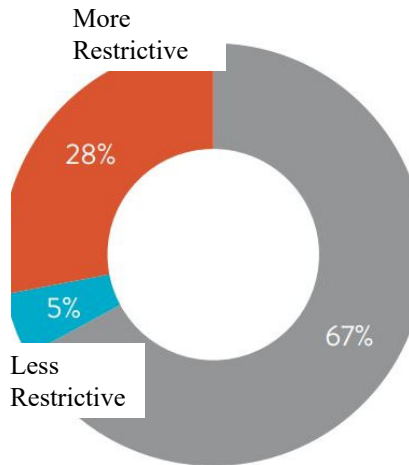
- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expressed intent to reoffend or harm victim | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth has a bench warrant |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Severe/violent harm done to victim | <input type="checkbox"/> Possession of a weapon (as defined in school code § 16-11-127.1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Home invasion | <input type="checkbox"/> Professed/verified criminal gang activity |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of adequate adult supervision | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Victim is a young person, a disabled person, an older adult, or an otherwise vulnerable person | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify) _____ | |

- ☐ Policy override to detention

- ☐ Youth is an out-of-state runaway
- ☐ Judicial order mandating detention (oral or written order)



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Override Rates- 2022

Recent validation data showed that staff were often not detailing when an override is utilized.

The current statewide override rate is above recommended use, with nearly all overrides being to a higher level of custody.

Rate at which overrides are monitored.



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DAI in Practice

- Gather as much information as possible when completing the assessment
- Review information in JTS, JDEX and any other data system
- Do they have potential to harm the community or to not appear in court
- Talk with law enforcement
- Talk with youth
- Talk with parent/guardian





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Pre- Dispositional Risk Assessment PDRA

- 10 item tool
- Provides risk level
- Completed post adjudication- predisposition
- Should be done early in the process
- More information gathered better results
- Risk level should inform supervision



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Post-Adjudication



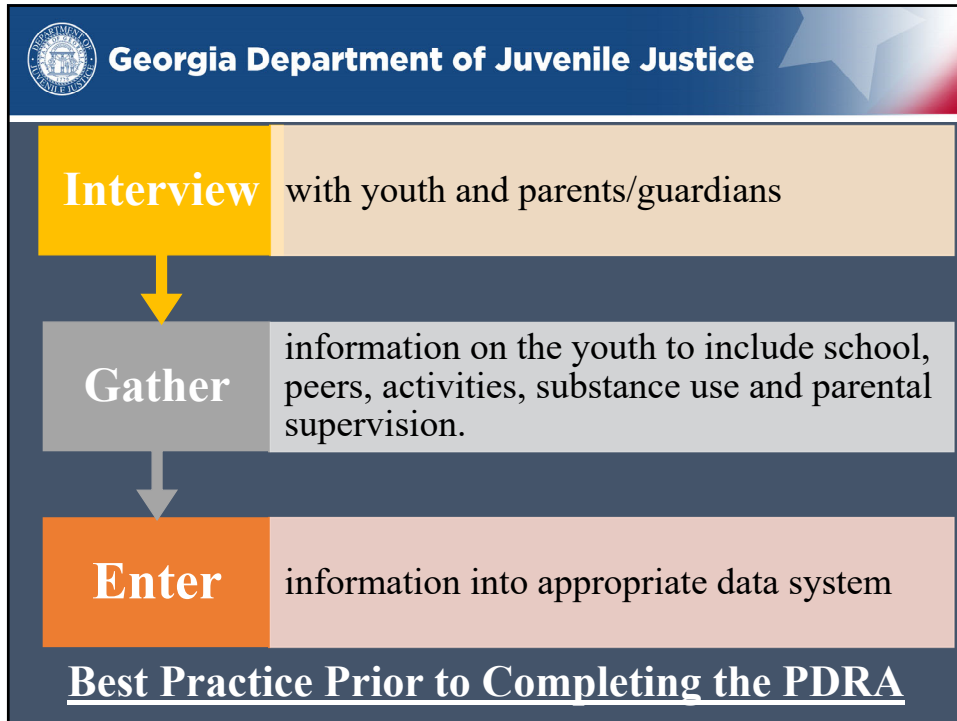
Pre-Disposition




The PRDA generates the SDM.



PDRA/SDM should be presented clearly to the court when/if requested.



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PDRA Risk Areas (1-5)

- Age at First Juvenile Adjudication (including current)
 - 16 or older..... -1
 - 14 or 15..... 0
 - 13 or younger..... 2 _____
- Total Number of Juvenile Adjudications (count separate adjudication dates, including current)
 - One..... -1
 - Two or three..... 0
 - Four or more..... 2 _____
- Total Prior Adjudications for Violent/Assaultive Offenses (count separate adjudication dates, NOT including current)
(enter actual number _____)
 - None..... 0
 - One or more..... 1 _____
- Most Serious Current Offense is Property-Related
 - No..... 0
 - Yes..... 1 _____
- Number of Out-of-Home Placements (RYDC, YDC, residential [Do Not include DFCS placements])
(enter actual number _____)
 - None..... 0
 - One or more..... 1 _____



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PDRA Risk Areas (1-5)- Definitions

1. Age at First Juvenile Adjudication

Determine the youth's age at the time of his/her **1st adjudication** for a delinquent or status offense. **DO NOT Include adjudications for dependency or custody.** If this is the youth's 1st adjudication, base the score on the youth's current age.

2. Total Number of Juvenile Adjudications

This is a count of the number of different **DATES** of juvenile adjudications for the youth for a delinquent or status offense, including the current adjudication. **If a juvenile was adjudicated on one date for three different offenses, or multiple counts related to 1 offense, it is still considered 1 adjudication.**

3. Total Adjudications for Violent/Assaultive Offenses

This is a count of all adjudication **DATES** in which 1 or more allegations were for violent/assaultive offenses. Be sure to count any and all adjudications of delinquency for violent/assaultive offenses that occurred in the past, **NOT including the current adjudication.** Violent/assaultive offense include all offenses against persons that are assaultive in nature including felony and misdemeanor assaults, kidnapping, murder, armed robbery, robbery, carjacking, sexual assault, etc. **Burglary and weapons possession are not violent offenses.**

4. Most Serious Current Offense is Property Related

Indicate whether the most serious offense the youth is **CURRENTLY** charged with is a property-related crime.

5. Number of Prior Out-of-Home Placements

This is a count of the number of time **the court has previously ordered** an out of home placement **as a result of a delinquent or status offense.** Include commitments to group homes, correctional facilities, residential treatment centers and post dispositional detention. **DO NOT include pre-dispositional stays in detention, informal placements with relatives or foster care placements as a result of child abuse and neglect.** Do not include behavioral/mental health placement/hospitalizations.



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PDRA Risk Areas (6-10)

6. School Discipline/Attendance During the Prior 12 months

- a. Enrolled, attending regularly, no out-of-school suspensions; or graduated or GED..... -1
- b. Some truancy; suspended out-of-school once or twice; considered somewhat disruptive..... 1
- c. Major truancy or dropped out; suspended out-of-school three or more times; considered seriously disruptive 2 _____

7. Substance Abuse

- a. No problem or experimentation only..... 0
- b. Use sometimes interferes with functioning..... 1
- c. Use frequently interferes with functioning; chronic abuse; dependency..... 2 _____

8. Peer Relationships

- a. Friends provide positive influence..... -1
- b. Some delinquent friends with negative influence..... 0
- c. Most friends are delinquent with strong negative influence; or youth is a gang member..... 2 _____

9. Parental/Caregiver Supervision

- a. Parental/Caregiver supervision and discipline usually effective; youth usually obeys rules; Minor conflict..... 0
- b. Parental/Caregiver supervision often ineffective or inconsistent; frequent parent-child conflict..... 1
- c. Little or no parental/caregiver supervision/discipline; or constant conflict; youth usually disobeys.. 2 _____

10. Youth Participation in Pro-Social Activities

- a. Youth participates in at least one sport/athletic, church, hobby/creative, or school activity..... 0
- b. Youth does not participate in any of the above pro-social activities..... 1 _____

Total Score _____



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PDRA Risk Areas (6)- Definitions

6. School Discipline/Attendance During the Prior 12 months

This is a combined measure of the youth's school attendance and/or behavior.

Enrolled, attending regularly, no out of school suspensions: During the past year, the youth has been enrolled in school, and attended regularly (Fewer than 5 days truant), and has not been suspended out of school and is not considered a discipline problem by school officials (one or fewer written behavioral reports to school officials in the last 3 months of school). Include here any youth who has graduated or obtained a GED. Also include youth who have not attended school in more than 1 year, are older than 16, have no plans to finish high school or earn a GED and are employed (full or part time).

Some truancy, or suspended 1-2 times or considered somewhat disruptive: During the past year the youth has been enrolled in school, but has missed 5-15 days of school due to truancy, OR has been suspended out of school on 1-2 occasions due to either truancy or behavior problems, OR is considered somewhat disruptive by school officials (2-3 written behavioral reports to school officials in the past 3 months of school).

Major truancy or dropped out; suspended out of school 3+ times or considered seriously disruptive: During the past year the youth has been enrolled in school, but has missed more than 15 days of school due to truancy, OR was not in school due to dropping out or expulsion; OR has been suspended out of school for 3 or more occasions due to either truancy or behavior problems, OR is considered a major discipline problem by school officials- (4 or more written behavioral reports to school officials in the past 3 months of school and/or violent/aggressive toward person(s)) AND/OR youth is 16 or older, not enrolled in school and is not employed.



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PDRA Risk Areas (7)- Definitions

7. Substance Abuse

Indicate the degree to which drug/alcohol involvement has affected the youth's functioning in the year prior to the CURRENT disposition.

No problem or experimentation: No use or occasional use that does not result in disruption of functioning. Uses less than once per month; OR more frequently, but relationships with parents not strained over use or involvement with using peers; AND no school problems associated with use; AND no arrests for drug/alcohol related offenses (within the past year).

Use sometimes interferes with functioning: Use of substances is associated with some disruption of the functioning. Family relationships may have become strained over use; OR the youth often associates with substance abusing peers and this has had a negative impact on family, school or community functioning; OR some deterioration in school performance or attendance believed to be drug/alcohol related; OR 1-2 school disciplinary actions related to substance abuse; OR 1-2 substance abuse related arrests in the past year; OR any referral in the past year for out-patient treatment for drug/alcohol abuse.

Use frequently interferes with functioning; chronic abuse; dependency: Use of substances is associated with significant disruption of the functioning. Family relationships have become strained over use; OR the youth primary peer group is substance abusers and this has had a negative impact on family, school or community functioning; OR major deterioration in school performance believed to be drug/alcohol related; OR 3 or more school disciplinary actions related to substance abuse; OR 3 or more substance abuse related arrests in the past year; OR any referral in the past year for in-patient treatment for drug/alcohol abuse; OR admitted or diagnosed dependency.



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PDRA Risk Areas (8)- Definitions

8. Peer Relationships

Use the definitions below to guide scoring.

Friends provide positive influence: Friends provide positive support and influence. Friends not known to be delinquent or to have influenced youth's involvement in delinquent behavior; no more than 1 juvenile complaint involving co-defendants within the past year.

Some delinquent friends with negative influence: Some companions involved in delinquent behavior. Has had co-defendants in 2-3 arrests in the past year and/or a juvenile complaint was made for some friends.

Most friends are delinquent with strong negative influence or youth is a gang member: Primary peer group has a strong delinquent orientation and/or most friends have been referred to juvenile court, and/or 4 or more arrests involving co-defendants in the past year. OR youth is a gang member; youth demonstrates involvement in gang activity, e.g., tattoo(s), self-admission; use of gang symbols/signs, logos, drawings, hang signs, street gang or gang-related charges.



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PDRA Risk Areas (9-10)- Definitions

9. Parental/Primary Caregiver Supervision

Use the definitions below to determine the nature and extent of parental/caregiver supervision.

No problem: Parental/caregiver supervision, discipline and control is consistent and usually effective. Any conflict with the parents/caregivers over discipline reflects a degree of conflict that would be expected with any teenager.

Some problem: Parental/caregiver-child conflict occurs occasionally and at times is disruptive, OR parental/caregiver supervision, discipline and control are sometimes ineffective or inconsistent.

Major problems: Parental/caregiver-child conflict occurs consistently and creates turmoil, OR repeated instances of family violence involving the youth, OR parental/caregiver supervision, discipline and control are almost non-existent, OR parent/caregiver contributes to the youth's delinquency OR parent/caregiver rejecting of, or refuses responsibility for youth.

10. Youth Participation in Pro-Social Activities

Indicate whether the youth participates in or has participated in at least 1 pro-social activity during the past 3 months (any activity, for any length of time) Pro-social activity includes sports/athletics, church activities, hobbies, creative activities such as art, clubs, drama, music, or school activities at which an adult is present. If the youth is engaged in any activity related to pro-social activity (e.g., training for sports, practicing music, creating art) score as if the youth was participating in the activity.



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PDRA Scoring

- Uses both negative (-) and positive (+) scores
 - A negative score is giving credit for a strength

Low: -4 to 1

Medium: 2 to 5

High: 6 and above

- No overrides



Score Risk Level (check one): ☐ -4 to 1 Low Risk ☐ 2 to 5 Medium Risk ☐ 6+ High Risk



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PDRA's should be reviewed for accuracy

PDRA's are not overridden

PDRA's can be deleted but there must be supporting documentation

One PDRA per adjudication



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The Structured Dispositional Matrix (SDM)

- Prompted by legislative changes in Georgia & recommendation of the Special Council
- Developed based on Georgia youth
- Combines risk assessment with seriousness of offense to yield evidenced-base matrix
- Should inform recommendations to the court
- Least restrictive custody/supervision required to ensure community safety
- Maximize use of community-based options
- Control cost of intervention for delinquent youth.



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(SDM)

Offense Severity Class	Risk Level		
	High	Medium	Low
Class A: Designated Felony	Commit to Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) 24 months in Youth Development Campus (YDC) plus 12 months intensive supervision	Commit to DJJ 12 months in YDC plus 9 months intensive supervision	Probate or Commit to DJJ 6 - 9 months in YDC plus 6 months intensive supervision
Class B: Designated Felony	Commit to DJJ 12 months confinement plus 6 months intensive supervision	Commit to DJJ 6 - 9 months confinement plus 6 months intensive supervision	Probate 6 months intensive supervision



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(SDM)

Serious Felony	Probate with short-term program (STP) (0 to 30 days) or Commit to DJJ	Probate with STP (0 to 30 days) or Commit to DJJ	Probate 6 months supervision
Other Felony (not designated felony) or Misdemeanor With Exception	Probate for 24 months If DJJ: 24 months supervision; eligible for administrative caseload/termination after 12 months	Probate for 38 months If DJJ: 24 months supervision; eligible for administrative caseload/termination after 6 months	Probate for 12 months If DJJ: 24 months supervision; eligible for administrative caseload/termination after 3 months
Misdemeanor	Supervised probation 12 months; eligible for termination at 6 months or refer to restorative justice practice or refer to services	Supervised probation for 6 months or refer to restorative justice practice or counsel and release	Court-involved: Judicial reprimand refer to restorative justice practice Not court-involved: Counsel and release or informal adjustment (diversion)



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Evidence Based Practices (EBP)

Multi-systemic
Therapy (MST)

Thinking for a
Change (T4C)

Functional
Family Therapy
(FFT)

Intensive Family
Intervention (IFI)

Multidimensional
Family Therapy
(MDFT)

Aggression
Replacement
Therapy (ART)



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