

Department of Juvenile Justice

Alternatives to Detention (ATD)

Alternatives to Detention (ATD) Defined for the DAC Program

- ▶ ATDs are short-term (preferably no more than 30-45 days), less restrictive placements in which youth who meet the criteria are placed after referral and assessment.
- ▶ These placements, while outside secure detention, are still considered to be in what is termed the “Detention Continuum.”
- ▶ Types of Detention Alternative Programs:
 1. Home Incarceration Program (HIP)/Electronic Monitoring
 2. Home Supervision Program (HSP)/Tracking
 3. DJJ Frankfort Group Home, Morehead Alternative Program (MAP).
 4. Foster Care
 5. Private Child Care (PCC)
 6. Community Programs (mentoring, evening reporting centers)
 7. In-Home Wrap-around Programs

Goals of the ATD Program

- ▶ Divert youth from secure detention who can safely remain in the community in order to serve them more appropriately and assure an adequate number of detention beds for offenders who present public safety issues
- ▶ Keep the youth and the community safe
- ▶ Ensure that the youth does not get new charges while pending court appearance
- ▶ Ensure that the youth returns to the next court appearance

What is a Detention Alternative Coordinator?

- ▶ A Detention Alternatives Coordinator (DAC) is a DJJ employee assigned to a geographic area to provide least restrictive placements for youth who otherwise would be in secure detention. DACs cover all 120 counties.
- ▶ The DAC has an array of programs and placements to which offenders can be referred when appropriate.
 - These are statewide programs that can be accessed by every DAC**
- ▶ The DAC helps to monitor the population in the detention centers, especially status offenders, and to keep Kentucky in compliance with OJJDP regulations.
- ▶ The DAC helps to expedite cases by monitoring the length of stay of youth in detention and to notify the courts and attorneys of youth who have been in detention a long time.

When Are ATDs Used?

- ▶ At the police custody level if they meet the low/moderate level on the CDW screening tool and if HIP, a foster home, or shelter is approved by a judge.
 - ▶ A Court Designated Worker (CDW) is the worker who is called out when a youth is taken into custody and who takes complaints (juvenile charges) from the officer. Citizens and victims can also file charges.
- ▶ At the initial detention hearing after a youth is taken into custody and detained.
- ▶ At any point during a court hearing in which a court is going to detain a youth and a less restrictive placement is available/in the best interest of the youth.
- ▶ It is important to note that ATD is utilized if space is available.

DAC Process

ONE

Youth booked in or ordered placed in court

Order received from Judge referring youth after the detention hearing or anytime during the court process

TWO

Detention worker to notify DAC or DAC is in court

DAC completes placement tool and Human Trafficking Screen

THREE

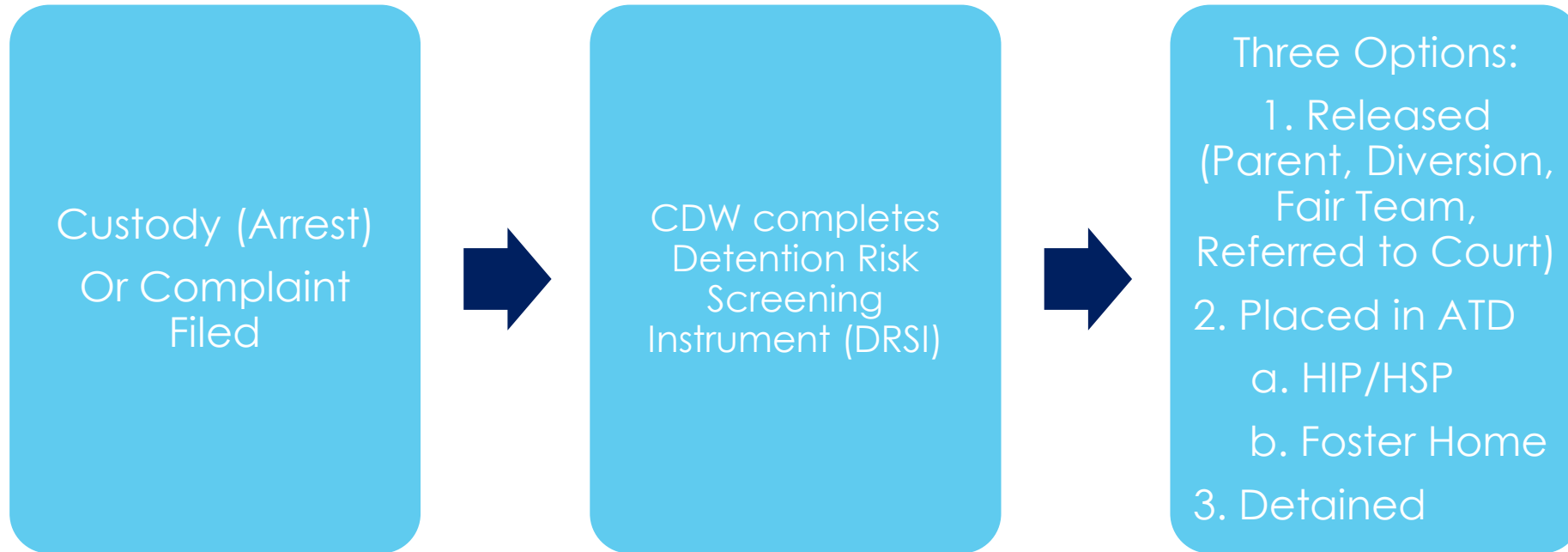
Youth approved or denied by placement

DAC notifies court and all other interested parties

Youth remains in placement until next court date

Court notified of any violations

Pre-Detention ATD Process



Case Management

- ▶ The case managers, foster care providers, and PCC counselors are the first line of contact for the clients
- ▶ However, the DACs are also on-call and are expected to provide case management when necessary
- ▶ DACs perform home and school visits
- ▶ DACs are encouraged to communicate via phone or FaceTime with clients when necessary
- ▶ DACs are encouraged to assist in making community referrals and making sure the clients have what is needed to be successful in the placement.

Determining Appropriate Placement

- ▶ The DAC use an ATD Placement Tool.
- ▶ The Tool scores the youth using the current charge. If the youth has multiple charges, only the most serious charge is used.
- ▶ The Tool also takes into account protective factors and aggravating factors. Aggravating factors have a limit that can be scored and can be cancelled out by the protective factors.
- ▶ After the Tool is scored, the youth is placed in a low, moderate, or high category.
- ▶ Home incarceration, foster care, private child care, and detention are determined based on the score.
- ▶ The court can also request one of the placements and overrides up or down can be sought.

*A Human Trafficking screen is also conducted on each youth. If Human Trafficking is suspected or discovered a referral to Child Protective Services is made and also reported to the DJJ Legal department.

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