

Arizona Code of Judicial Administration
Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Feedback
Section 6-105.01: Powers and Duties of Officers Evidence-Based Practices

The Maricopa County Juvenile Probation Department respectfully submits the following comments regarding proposed draft changes to Powers and Duties of Officers Evidence-Based Practices.

Section:

A. Definitions

Comment: "Child," "youth" or "juvenile" definition should be updated to reflect new statutory language of extended jurisdiction.

Suggested Language:

"Child" "youth" or "juvenile" means "an individual who is under the age of eighteen years," as provided in A.R.S. § 8-201(6) OR UNTIL THE JUVENILE IS NINETEEN IF JURISDICTION IS RETAINED PURSUANT TO [A.R.S. § 8-202, SUBSECTION H](#).

B. E.3.h Duties of Probation Officers

Comment: E(3)(h) Juveniles can generate multiple referrals in a short time-span. This can be the result of law enforcement clearance or submission practices which may not reflect the timing of the offending and can create a clustering of new referrals. This can result in the over-assessing of the juvenile. The current language suggests that a new assessment should be completed after every referral. It is recommended that assessments only be completed after adjudication per the disposition tool instructions. Each county has varied recidivism rates. Cut off scores for high, moderate, and low should not be uniform across the state. Each county should validate their AZYAS scores and recidivism at a local level and determine optimal cut off scores for the best outcomes for youth.

Suggested Language:

E.3(h) Conduct a youth assessment for each juvenile who is ADJUDICATED DELINQUENT IN the juvenile court and update the assessment on each subsequent ADJUDICATION AND EXCLUDING ADJUDICATIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF PROBATION. The court shall use the assessment to determine the appropriate disposition of the juvenile. The results of the assessment shall be used by the probation officer to recommend a level of supervision and to formulate a case plan for the juvenile. USING THE ASSESSEMENT AND LOCAL RECIDIVISM RATES, EACH COUNTY WILL VALIDATE AND DETERMINE THE OPTIMAL CUT OFF SCORES FOR LOW, MODERATE, AND HIGH RISK CATEGORIES.

C. E.3.h(2) Duties of Probation Officers

Comment: E(3)(h)(2) Consider removing detailed disposition choices within ACJA as it prevents changes if updates need to be made in the future. The matrix is new and being piloted. Including this language in Code at this time is unnecessary.

Suggested Language:

E.3(h)(2) The disposition tool of the youth assessment shall be completed ~~post adjudication / pre-disposition~~ following the adjudication and prior to the disposition. The probation officer shall use ~~results of the assessment~~ the Recommendation Matrix to recommend ~~level of~~

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placement and supervision GUIDE a disposition RECOMMENDATION. of Court Consequence, Short-term Standard Probation, Standard Probation, Juvenile Intensive Probation Supervision or commitment to the Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections.