Domestic Violence Respite

**Purpose:** The intent of the following policy is to describe the appropriate referrals and process for Domestic Violence Respite placements. Domestic Violence Respite services are designed to serve youth that have been arrested on a domestic violence charge, are screened by the local detention centers/screeners and do not meet detention criteria and cannot immediately return home.

**Policy:** CDS shall provide a Domestic Violence Respite Care Services for youth from 10 years of age and up to 18 years of age, who have been charged with an offense of domestic violence (including youth who have been previously adjudicated for other issues) specifically designed to provide a safe alternative to secure detention for youth with pending or adjudicated charges for domestic violence. Youth ages 8-9 years of age may be referred on a case by case basis.

To clarify charges that are acceptable for referral in the DV Respite Program from Ch. 741 FS:

Domestic Violence means any assault, aggravated assault, battery, aggravated battery, sexual assault, sexual battery, stalking, aggravated stalking, kidnapping, false imprisonment, or any criminal offense resulting in physical injury or death of one family or household member by another family or household member.

“Family or household member” means spouses, former spouses, persons related by blood or marriage, persons who are presently residing together as if a family or who have resided together in the past as if a family, and persons who are parents of a child in common regardless of whether they have been married. With the exception of persons who have a child in common, the family or household members must be currently residing or have in the past resided together in the same single dwelling unit.

These services are short-term (typically, no more than twenty one (21) days) and are designed to facilitate services and supports for the safe return of the youth to his/her home minimizing the risk to reoffend. Domestic Violence Respite services should be seen as an intervention service focused on youth and families who may be experiencing severe conflict or have a history of family issues which may have not been resolved.

Eligible youth must have:

1. A pending Domestic Violence (DV) charge. A youth may previously been adjudicated on other charges besides domestic violence, may be on probation and may have DCF involvement
2. Been screened by the JAC/Detention or Screening Unit, but does not meet criteria for secure detention

Ineligible youth are those who:

1. Have current or past fire setting behaviors;
2. have violent or sexual offenses (except for domestic violence);
3. are in need of acute inpatient care or crisis stabilization; and/or
4. are a security or safety risk to other youth or staff.

If the Interface Supervisor determines a referred youth is not appropriate for services, Interface shall decline the referral and shall immediately contact via email or phone the referral source and the Interface Supervisor/Designee will check the ineligible box on the Domestic Violence Respite Referral form and note the disqualifying reason and fax the form to JCRC at (352) 955-6599, as well as enter all declined youth into the Domestic Violence Referrolator denial section. In the event all contracted beds are filled, agencies shall maintain a waiting list and notify the Department JPO and the Network immediately when a bed is available for placement.

If any of the above is determined after a youth arrives at the Interface, the Network and the Department shall be notified and arrangements for the removal of the youth will be made within forty-eight (48) hours of notification.

**Procedure and/or Process:**

The JAC or on call screener will contact Interface to determine if placement is available following arrest and a screening will be completed to begin the referral for the youth into respite care services.. If it is determined that the youth cannot come to shelter, the planned action on the screening form must be recorded on the document and entered into NetMIS. It is the responsibility of Interface to notify the Department if a bed is available.

* DJJ sends the Domestic Violence Respite Referral Form to Interface (fax then call)
* Interface contacts parent, completes CDS screening
* Interface faxes the completed Domestic Violence Respite Referral form to the

JCRC at (352) 955-6599

* Interface shall coordinate the pick-up and transport of the youth to the respite service program (bed) location within four (4) hours of referral from the Department.
* Interface must verify DV charges in JJIS when a request is received for a DV youth.

**Transportation Requirements:**

* Required transport teams needs supervisor approval
* Interface shall coordinate the pick-up and transport of the youth to the respite service program (bed) location within four (4) hours of referral from the Department.
* Transports Teams out of Lake City or Palatka to Gainesville Detention Center Procedure:
  + Both staff would be paid double time for 4 hours. As part of their requirements the transport team would complete the Participant part of the Intake Packet and help settle the youth into the shelter.
* Transports Teams in Gainesville to the Detention Center Procedure:
  + Both staff would be paid double time for 3 hours with the same expectations as stated in the above paragraph.
* Any transport team that has to go out of their County of origin will be approved for the 4 hours of double time.

**Service Requirements:**

* Services provided for these youth should be consistent with all other CINS/FINS program requirements. However, in the case of these youth the Individual Plan should reflect goals of anger/aggression management, family coping skills, or other interventions designed to reduce propensity for violence in the home.
* A youth may fill a bed for up to twenty one (21) days.
* The CCC should be called on court ordered youth who abscond, not on all DV youth who abscond, just those who are court ordered. Otherwise, the normal CCC procedures should be followed as for any youth in shelter.

**Data Management Requirements:**

* Interface shall be responsible for the reporting of all admissions and releases in the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) using the Youth Placement-Probation Module and the Florida Network’s NetMIS data base within 3 business days of the intake and discharge.
* Follow-up
  + Youth receiving respite services will receive 30 and 60 day follow-up performed by Interface using the follow-up questionnaire developed by the Network.
  + Follow-up will be done via telephone with the identified participant or immediate family member for the purpose of determining program effectiveness and/or need for additional services.
  + Follow-up data is to be entered into NetMIS.