

Division of Juvenile Corrections

DIRECT COMMITMENT PROCEDURES

to Cadet Achievement Program (CAP), Youth Corrective Sanctions Program (YSCP) and Support, Perseverance, Respect, Initiative, Teamwork and Education (SPRITE) Program

Overview:

County departments of social services/human services may recommend that a juvenile court directly commit a delinquent to the Cadet Achievement Program (CAP, boot camp at Lincoln Hills School (LHS); the Youth Corrective Sanctions Program (YSCP); or the Support, Perseverance, Respect, Initiative, Teamwork and Education Program (SPRITE).

Direct commitments to CAP, YSCP, or SPRITE require an agreement among the county department, Division of Juvenile Corrections (DJC) and Office of Juvenile Offender Review (OJOR) prior to the county formally recommending to the court the direct placement of a youth.

Direct Commitments to the Cadet Achievement Program

CAP is a challenging 90-day short-term, cost-effective alternative to other DJC programs. The voluntary program uses a developmental military model to create a positive and success oriented environment. Youth learn the values of education, self-discipline, physical fitness, hard work, leadership, teamwork and community service.

It is the intent of the Cadet Achievement Program to prepare youth for successful family and community reintegration by building on their educational achievements, personal competencies and enhanced self-esteem.

CAP Program Components

CAP includes a concentrated regimen of the following:

- Education
- Counseling
- Experiential Team Building Activities
- Community Service Work Crew
- Physical Work
- Treatment Groups
- Military-Style Drill and Ceremony
- Community Phase (not at LHS).

LHS Phase

- Youth selected for the program will be involved in structured programming 16 hours per day, 7 days a week
- Up to four groups (platoons) for a total of 50 youth can be accommodated at any point in time
- All on-ground components of the program are housed in the CAP living Unit (Langston Hughes Cottage), a separate education center and other segregated areas within Lincoln Hills School. CAP youth do not participate in services and programming with other LHS youth
- The final component of CAP at LHS requires youth to participate in community service work crew activities.
- Youth may enter CAP on a weekly basis resulting in youth within a platoon being at different levels at one time.

Community Phase

- Intensive community supervision is required for all youth as they transition from highly structured JCI into less structured environment in the community. In most cases, youth participate in the Youth Corrective Sanctions Program (YSCP). Each youth's Corrective Sanctions placement will be reviewed by the state field agent and assigned county liaison at between 45 and 60 days after transfer to the community. At that time, if the state and county agrees the youth has fulfilled community expectations,

the state agent will recommend to OJOR that the youth be released from YSCP to county aftercare, or state aftercare supervision. If the youth has not met expectations and/or requires additional supervision, the state and county may agree to retain the youth in the YSCP. A review will again be held every 45 to 60 days thereafter to determine a youth's need for less intensive services.

Legal Criteria for Direct Placement in CAP

- Youth must meet the criteria for commitment to the State Department of Corrections established in s.938.34 (4m)., Stats: Court found youth to be delinquent for the commission of an act, which if committed by an adult, would be punishable by a sentence of 6 months or more; Court found youth to be a danger to the public and in need of restrictive custodial treatment.

Since enactment of WI Act 33 in 2003, post-release supervision may be provided by state agents in counties where the state provides aftercare, or by county workers in counties that provide their own aftercare.

CAP Youth Characteristics

- Youth is a person the county department would normally consider placing in a Juvenile Corrections Institution (JCI)
- Youth does not require specialized AODA or sex offender treatment, or have serious mental health needs.

County Department and Court Responsibilities

A county considering a direct placement to CAP should contact Alan Crevier of LHS Office of Juvenile Offender Review at 715-536-8386 ext. 1222, to discuss the youth's appropriateness for the program. If it appears the youth is appropriate for CAP, the county proceeds with the following:

- Writes a Dispositional Report recommending that the court commit the youth to DOC with a directed commitment to CAP. The report must include a clear and detailed transition plan for the youth 's return to the community after completion of CAP
- After the court issues the Dispositional Order placing the youth in CAP, arranges for youth placement at LHS
- Prepares a informational packet to send with the youth upon admission to LHS, including but not limited to: Dispositional Order Dispositional Report School information Prior Placement(s) information Psychological information Medical information.

Court

The recommended wording for the Dispositional Order is the following:

"[Name of youth] is committed to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections for a period of [at least six months] for placement in the 90-day Cadet Achievement Program at Lincoln Hills School. Upon completion of CAP, [Youth] is placed under the supervision of [Wisconsin Department of Corrections OR _____ County, whichever provides aftercare in that county]. If [Youth] fails to complete CAP, he will be placed in a type one secured juvenile correctional facility unless this court determines otherwise."

DJC Contacts

- Primary Contact: OJOR Lincoln Hills School (715)-536-8386
- Secondary Contact: OJOR Director (608)-240-5918

[Direct Commitments to the Youth Corrective Sanctions Program](#)

Youth Corrective Sanctions Program (YCSP) services have been provided since 1994. Currently DJC provides aftercare supervision in 26 of Wisconsin's counties. DJC provides community supervision for Wisconsin youth in the Serious Juvenile Offender Program and YCSP.

YSCP Services

- Individual Case Planning
- Re-Integration / Transitional Services
- Liaison services with all counties
- Individualized programming such as AODA, Cognitive Intervention Program, Independent Living, Sex Offender Treatment, Victim Impact
- Individual & Family Counseling
- Community Service Projects and Payment of Restitution
- In-Home Electronic Monitoring of YSCP Youth
- Incremental level system to enhance community protection & re-integration of YSCP Youth
- Lifework Education Program
- Utilization of Community School Systems.

Legal Criteria for Direct Placement in YSCP

- Youth must meet the criteria for commitment to the State Department of Corrections established in s. 938.34 (4m)., Stats: Court found youth to be delinquent for the commission of an act, which if committed by an adult, would be punishable by sentence of 6 months or more; Court found youth to be a danger to the public and in need of restrictive custodial treatment.

YSCP Youth Characteristics

- Youth is a person the county department would normally consider placing in a Juvenile Correction Institution
- Youth does not require specialized AODA or sex offender treatment, or have serious mental health needs.

Referral Process for Direct Commitments for YSCP

- County Department consults with contacts in the YSCP and DJC Office of Juvenile Offender Review (OJOR) to provide basic information regarding the pending offense, offense history and primary contacts. The primary and secondary contacts are listed below:

Primary Contacts:

OJOR -Ethan Allen School: (262)-646-3341

OJOR- Lincoln Hills School: (715)-536-8386

OJOR- Southern Oaks Girls School: (262)-878-6500

DJC Regional Offices:

Southeast Region (414)-229-0701 or (414)-229-0708 or (414)-229-0685

Northwest Region (608)-288-3353 or (715)-241-8892 or (920)-729-3911

Secondary Contacts:

OJOR Director: (608)-240-5918

Regional Chief: Southeast (414)-229-0709; Northwest (608)-288-3352.

- Based upon the information, OJOR and a state field supervisor may conclude that circumstances of the case preclude the youth from participation in YSCP. OJOR will inform the county
- If initially referral appears appropriate, OJOR and a state field supervisor will request additional information regarding the youth and determine whether to consider the referral by completing the Family Home Assessment (FHA). OJOR will inform the county when the FHA will not be completed and the referral is rejected
- If approved, a YSCP Agent conducts a home visit with parent/guardian to review program requirements and Community Supervision Rules and Conditions, determine the parent/guardian's willingness to cooperate with program and verify appropriate telephone services
- Based on the visit, the YSCP agent completes a FHA and provides recommendation to OJOR and a state field supervisor regarding the appropriateness of the referral
- OJOR approves or denies the referral for direct commitment to YSCP based upon information provided by agents and notifies the referring county of the decision to accept or reject the referral.

County Department Responsibilities if YSCP Referral is Appropriate

- County writes a Dispositional Report recommending that the court commit the youth directly to YSCP.
- Contacts OJOR when court issues the direct commitment order and arranges for the youth's placement at a JCI for the Assessment and Evaluation process.
- Prepares a packet of information to send with the youth upon admission to a JCI including, but not limited to: Dispositional Order Dispositional Report School information Prior Placement information Psychological information Medical information School Information.

Court Responsibilities for YCSP

- Court commits the youth to DOC for at least 10 months with the understanding the youth completed a 35 day Assessment and Evaluation process at a JCI
 - The recommended wording for the Dispositional Order is the following:
 - "(Name of Youth) is committed to the State Department of Corrections for a period of (number) months until (dd/mm/yy) for placement in the Youth Corrective Sanctions (YCSP)".
- Upon successful completion of YCSP, DOC may place the youth on state or county aftercare
- If the youth fails to complete YCSP, DOC may place the youth in a secure JCI unless otherwise directed by the court.

DJC-JCI Responsibilities for YCSP

- While at a JCI, YCSP youth complete the 35-day Assessment and Evaluation process including being involved in an initial Joint Planning and Review Committee meeting
- If at anytime during the Assessment and Evaluation process OJOR determines that the youth should not be placed in YCSP, OJOR will immediately notify the committing county and court
- At the initial JPRC, members determine the appropriateness of administratively transferring the youth to YCSP. OJOR either transfer the youth to YCSP or notifies the court and county that the youth is not appropriate for YCSP.

DJC-YCSP Responsibility

- Ensure YCSP youth meet all supervision requirements
- Respond to violations according to proper procedures
- Upon successful completion of YCSP, DJC may release the youth to state or county aftercare
- If youth fails to complete YCSP, staff will immediately notify the committing county and court that the youth failed. The court has two options - order the youth to finish the commitment period at a JCI or return the youth to court for a change in placement.

Direct Commitments to the SPRITE Program

The Support, Perseverance, Respect, Initiative, Teamwork and Education (SPRITE) Program is a dynamic, adventured-based, educational program operated by the Division of Juvenile Corrections for delinquent youth. It is designed to teach youth the necessary skills to successfully reintegrate back into the community. The 25 to 28-day SPRITE Program teaches youth pro-social behaviors, independent living skills and responsibility through problem-solving activities including wilderness expeditions, rock climbing, community service and urban exploration. The SPRITE House is located in Oregon Wisconsin. Youth reside there during the program.

Direct Commitment to the SPRITE Program is available to youth from all counties in Wisconsin as a diversion to placement in a JCI. When a court directly commits a youth to SPRITE, a youth does not participate in the 35-day Assessment and Evaluation process at a JCI, because the court does not place the youth under the legal supervision of DOC. DJC provides the program, but the county department remains the agency that legally supervises the youth.

SPRITE Program Youth Characteristics

- 14-17 years old
- Medically healthy
- Has history of contacts with juvenile justice system
- Needs positive life experiences to address personal challenges
- Mentally stable

- Does not need AODA treatment
- Does not need long-term correctional commitment
- Recognizes that SPRITE may be last chance before correctional confinement.

Referral Process for Direct Commitments to SPRITE Program

- A county contacts the SPRITE staff who then forwards the following documents to the county:
Explanation of Referral Process Selection Criteria SPRITE Program Referral & Face Sheet
- SPRITE may request documentation from the county regarding the youth's social history, offense history, educational records and other information that assist in evaluating the referral
- SPRITE staff conduct a phone or personal interview with youth
- SPRITE determines the youth's appropriateness for the program
- Youth with serious mental health needs, untreated AODA issues, and physical impairments that prevent full participation are generally not accepted
- If the referral is accepted, SPRITE notifies the referring county department
- County department obtains a court order directly placing the youth in SPRITE
- SPRITE writes periodic evaluations of youth and forwards the reports to the committing county.

SPRITE Program Contacts

- SPRITE (608)-288-3356
- Regional Chief (608)-288-3352