

# **Juvenile Runaways from Former Department of Corrections Programs Now Administered by the Department of Human Services**

Directive #2-94  
Issued by:

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Administrative Director

## **Background**

At its February 2, 1994 meeting the Conference of Family Division Presiding Judges discussed standardized procedures for dealing with runaways from residential community corrections programs such as "Fields" programs. These programs are managed by the Division of Juvenile Services, Department of Human Services. Juveniles are admitted to these programs in two ways, either on committed status after being classified at Jamesburg, or on probation, without ever having been committed to a correctional facility. The Department of Human Services has adequate procedures, which do not require any action by the Judiciary, to be followed when juveniles on committed status run from a community corrections program.

However, there is a problem when juveniles on probation leave these programs. Currently such juveniles are reported as missing persons, but this creates a problem since police then have no authority to have these juveniles detained when they are apprehended. According to the Division of Juvenile Services there are approximately forty to fifty such incidents each year. Even though these juveniles are not on committed status, they have usually committed serious offenses and have a significant prior record. The Department of Human Services needs to be able to respond quickly in order to protect the public when such a juvenile runs away from a community corrections program.

## **Procedure**

The Conference of Family Division Presiding Judges has recommended the following standardized procedure to be followed for juveniles on probation who run away from a residential community program run by the Division of Juvenile Services, Department of Human Services.

The Department of Human Services Police will prepare a Notification and Request for Determination of Probation Violation. This will provide the necessary legal basis for Family Division Intake in approving detention of the juvenile, if warranted by the circumstances of the case. The case would then follow the same procedures as any other violation of probation.

The Notification and Request for Determination of Probation Violation need not be signed by a probation officer. **It may be signed by a representative of the Department of Human Services. Only one signature is required.** The form need not be signed by a supervisor or Chief Probation Officer in addition to being signed by a representative of the Department of Human Services. Copies of this form, together with a memorandum explaining its use, are attached.

**Please distribute a copy of this directive to each intake officer performing detention monitoring duties in your vicinage.**

## **EDITOR-S NOTE**

The only change to the original text has been the removal of references to specific contact people within the AOC.