

Helping You Prepare for Juvenile Justice Conferences

A quick guide for Probation employees

Presented by



Conferences with Probation participation:

- **EFGC** (Expedited Family Group Conference)
 - Available any time; ideally held:
 - When the youth is at risk of detention or out-of-home placement
Focus: utilizing extended family and kinship to support the youth while remaining in the nuclear family's home by providing respite or structure; or, utilizing them as placement to deescalate the situation.
 - After an extended out-of-home placement when there are concerns about the youth regressing or losing progress made when returning home.
Focus: garnering support from extended family/friends in developing a plan to continue gains made by the youth in a structured environment; set expectations for consequences if plan is not followed.
- **Juvenile Justice Mediation**
 - **VYC/VDC** (Victim Youth Conferencing/Victim Defendant Conferencing)
 - Ideally property crimes/theft but can be applied to any case type
Focus: repairing the harm that has been caused to victims/community rather than the law that has been violated. Probationers gain insight into the consequences of their actions in a way that reduces recidivism.
 - **Other Mediations**
 - Ideally to resolve issues identified as standing in the way of a youth's progress, ability to not reoffend, or successful completion of probation.

Probation may also be asked to participate in Mediations or Facilitations with clients.

EFGC

AT REFERRAL: The Probation Officer will consult with the coordinator to:

- discuss family strengths
- strategize on presenting concerns in a way they can be received by the family
- discuss resources that can/cannot be offered to the family
- discuss Judge's/Probation's essential concerns
(ie: family members that put the youth at risk)
- make facilitator aware of the key risk factors that must be addressed in the family plan
- discuss the status of the court case
- identify those who should participate in the conference

EFGC

AT CONFERENCE: The Probation Officer will:

- Provide a **brief overview** of why the youth is at risk of detention/out-of-home placement or the risks they see for a youth returning home from detention or other out-of-home placement.
- Discuss the **strengths** of the **youth** and of the **family**.
- **Present** the **bottom lines/essential concerns**; these become the outline the family uses to develop their plan.
- **Provide feedback** to the family if the plan they create requires **resources** from the state or community.
- **Approve the plan** developed by the family. (The Probation Officer in attendance should have the **authority** to approve the plan or have **immediate access** to a supervisor who can approve the plan, before the meeting adjourns.)

FOLLOW UP:

- Mediation West will provide a **written report** the probation officer can incorporate into the juvenile's case plan.
- A follow up conference is **optional** and may be scheduled.

VYC and VDC

AT REFERRAL: The Probation Officer will:

- Provide a **brief overview of** what placed the youth on Probation, the Conditions of the Probation Order, and how those are being met.
- Discuss the **mindset** of the youth; level of responsibility s/he is taking for the incident.
- Talk about **expected length of Probation** so reparations agreements can be crafted within the time period

Probation Officers are not typically asked to participate day of conference. Probation Officers receive status reports on the conference and reparation status throughout the case.