

<b>SONOMA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT</b>			
<b>JUVENILE HALL POLICY &amp; PROCEDURES MANUAL</b>			
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## **POLICY STATEMENT**

It is the policy of the Sonoma County Juvenile Hall to assess all youth brought into the facility following the DRAI Guide. Juvenile Hall shall place youth in the least restrictive setting to assure their appearance in court and help protect public safety.

## **PROCEDURES**

### 1. Definitions

- a. **Alternatives to Detention:** measures that may be imposed on youth who are being formally processed through the juvenile justice system, at the pre-disposition stage, that do not involve physical placement in secure detention. These are less restrictive means that assist youth from further creating a public safety risk or failing to appear in Court.
- b. **Flight Risk:** a youth that is likely to leave the Court's jurisdiction and therefore fails to appear for their initial court hearing.
- c. **Public Safety:** refers to the welfare and protection of the general public where the primary goal is the prevention and protection of the public from dangers affecting safety.
- d. **Public Safety Risk for the purpose of detention:** compromising the protection, health and welfare of the community due to violent/dangerous criminal/delinquent activity.
- e. **Risk Level:** the likelihood of a youth to reoffend (low, moderate, high)

### 2. Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI)

#### a. General

- i. The DRAI provides guiding recommendations about which youth are more or less likely to be successful in a community placement, secure detention, or an alternative to detention (i.e., electronic monitoring) while not posing a further public safety risk. It is a tool that standardizes the process and builds a more equitable system. Using an objective screening tool allows:
  1. JCC staff to not be influenced by personal feelings and opinions;
  2. Increases the odds that all youth are treated equitably;
  3. Decreases the likelihood that a youth's detention is impacted by who screened them;
  4. Eliminates unintended bias;
  5. Reduces unnecessary and harmful detention for lower risk youth; and

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6. Enhances public safety and court appearance rates.

b. Completion and Scoring

i. A DRAI shall be completed on all youth booked into the facility with some exceptions which are listed in the DRAI Guide. This assessment is done to determine whether a youth meets the criteria for release without restriction, release to an alternative to detention, or to remain detained in the Juvenile Hall pending a Detention Hearing. A JCC staff will complete the DRAI. Once completed, the JCC staff will notify the supervisor who will review and research information which may include further dialogue with the youth and family, if necessary, and ultimately approve the DRAI results.

1. JCC staff will complete each portion of the DRAI in order to obtain a score. JCC staff shall select the appropriate answer to each item from the menu on the form. The total score will automatically calculate.
2. The supervisor will review the form/score and additional information provided by the JCC staff. The final decision will be made based on the score unless mandatory detention or override criteria are met following the DRAI Guide. The supervisor will then proceed with the following options:
  - a. Contact the parent/guardian for straight release of the youth pending further notification from Probation or the Court.
  - b. Contact the parent/guardian for release to electronic monitoring or a varied alternative to detention pending further notification from Probation or the Court.
  - c. Contact the parent/guardian to advise that the youth is being booked into Juvenile Hall pending a detention hearing or further notification from Probation.
3. Administration will review all DRAIs.

3. Overrides

a. General

i. A supervisor may override the screening decision up from straight release to either release the youth to an alternative to detention or detain the youth, based on criteria outlined in the DRAI Guide. On rare occasions, the supervisor may override

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the score down from secure detention to an alternative to detention, also outlined in the DRAI Guide.

- ii. When considering overrides, the following factors will be considered: flight risk, public safety, safety of the victim. This is not an inclusive list as there may be other factors as to why an override is necessary.
    1. Reasons for overrides shall be clearly documented in the DRAI
  - iii. Administration will review all overrides at supervisor meetings as part of coaching.
4. Alternative to Detention
- a. Youth that are released to an alternative to detention will have their parent/guardian notified by a supervisor or their designee.
  - b. During regular business hours, Monday-Friday, youth being released to Electronic Monitoring (EM) will be signed up in the EM office by a Deputy Probation Officer (DPO). After hours and on holidays, trained JCC staff will meet with the youth and parent and perform the EM sign up.
    - i. Juvenile Hall supervisors will have access to the EM office key in the key box to access equipment after hours.
5. PACT Pre-Screens
- a. In addition to the DRAI, a pre-screen assessment will be completed on all bookings based on the guidelines described in the PACT Pre-Screen Guide. This assessment will only be completed by staff that have received training for the tool. The information gathered in this interview determines a youths "risk level" which can be used later to determine the supervision of the youth.
6. Use and Tracking of Assessments at Detention Hearing
- a. DPO staff assigned to Court will have access to the DRAI and may reference the information contained in the tool during the youth's initial Court appearance.
7. Training
- a. All JCC staff assigned to Intake and all supervisors/acting supervisors will be trained in how to use the DRAI and the DRAI Guide. As updates occur, staff will be notified.
    - i. Administration will perform annual reviews of the DRAIs and determine if additional training is required.
  - b. All Intake staff will be trained in how to perform an EM sign up.
8. Quality Assurance
- a. The goal of the DRAI is to make decisions that will prevent negative outcomes (new offenses, failures to appear) during the short time

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youth await their initial hearing on the presenting offense, and during the time until disposition on the case. Quality assurance activities will be carried out to assure the DRAI is administered as designed, monitor outcomes, and make necessary adjustments.

- i. The Program Planning, Implementation and Evaluation (PIE) Team will regularly analyze data from the DRAI and report findings to the Juvenile Hall Administration periodically on a schedule not less than quarterly, and annually with more depth and discussion of findings. The reports shall address the following:
  - 1. DRAI screening decisions and Court recommendations
  - 2. Court decisions at time of initial hearing
  - 3. Override rates
    - a. Reasons for overrides
    - b. Results at initial hearing of youth that had an override.
  - 4. Re-offense and FTA outcomes during the pre-disposition period for DRAI released youth.
  - 5. The experiences of racial/ethnic and gender groups at key decision points to monitor and address disparities.
- ii. Juvenile Hall Administration shall share the findings of the report with staff on an annual basis.
- b. The DRAI shall be validated when enough data exist to successfully carry out the validation. Successful validation will identify the most predictive set of assessment items related to pre-disposition re-arrest and FTA, and set scores and cut points to make the DRAI most effective at assessing risk of re-offense and FTA. A qualified consultant may be utilized to assist with the validation of the DRAI.

**REPLACEMENT HISTORY:**

Revised 07/29/07;

Revised 09/2021

APPROVED BY:

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