

2014

**Statutory Responses to Domestic
Minor Sex Trafficking Victims**

Connecticut



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Identification

Neglected, Uncared for, or Abused Child

Initial Custody

Authority for Initial Custody:

The court may:

- Summon parents to appear with child
- Issue an ex parte order giving temporary custody to a suitable agency or person

Placement:

Temporary care and custody may be placed:

- With a person related to the child or youth by blood or marriage, or
- With some other person or suitable agency.

Process Following Initial Custody

Where is child referred after initial custody?

The child is referred to the Commissioner of Children and Families to investigate.

When and how does court assume jurisdiction?

A petition filed in the Civil Session of Superior Court by a public official, a child caring institution or agency, or the child or his or her representative.

Child from Family with Service Needs

Authority for Initial Custody:

Police may take custody of child reported or believed to be from family with service needs: truant, runaway, beyond control of parents, immoral conduct, 13yo+ engaged in sex.

Placement:

- Transport to home of parents/refer to court
- Hold in protective custody (12hrs)
- Place w. any public or private agency, but not in an adult or juvenile detention facility.

Where is child referred after initial custody?

Probation officer refers to community-based program/provider or family support center for voluntary services and/or files FWSN petition.

When and how does court assume jurisdiction?

- Complaint filed in Civil Session by public official, child caring institution or agency, or the child or his or her representative.
- Petition filed if voluntary services ineffective.

Delinquent Child (under 16, immune from prostitution charges)

Authority for Initial Custody:

Child arrested on apprehension in the act, on speedy information, or when process appears imperative. If prostitution charge, minors <16 are immune (16-17 presumed DMST victims)

Placement:

- Release to parent/guardian
- Release to own custody
- Placement in a juvenile detention center

Where is child referred after initial custody?

LEO must report suspected abuse to DCF if DMST. Otherwise, referral to non-judicial youth service program, or to judicial process.

When and how does court assume jurisdiction?

- Complaint filed in Criminal Session of Superior Court alleging delinquent act.
- After investigation, the court can authorize the filing of a delinquency petition.

Trafficking Victims in Connecticut

Placement Process Pending Adjudication/ Investigation

When must placement hearing be held after initial custody?

Within 10 days of ex parte order for the child's temporary care and custody

What are the placement options?

Temporary care and custody may be placed:

- With a person related to the child or youth by blood or marriage, or
- With some other person or suitable agency.

Adjudication or Referral to Alternate Process

Adjudication:

Court determines if abused/neglected/uncared for child w/in 10 days of prelim. hearing

Or Alternate Process

N/A

Placement Following Adjudication

Dispositional Outcomes

- Commitment to the department
- Guardianship to a public or private agency
- Placement with relative or other person

Dispositional Outcomes

N/A

When must placement hearing be held after initial custody?

If not held immediately, will be held in accordance with date issued on summons.

What are the placement options?

A judge may give temporary custody of the child to a suitable person or agency, not including adult or juvenile detention facilities.

Adjudication:

Must show by clear and convincing evidence that child is from family with service needs.

Or Alternate Process

Prior to adjudication, the court may continue the matter and refer the family to community-based services.

Dispositional Outcomes

- Order the child to remain in the home, subject to probation supervision
- Order appropriate school and community services
- Refer to DCF

Dispositional Outcomes

- Services may be offered for a reasonable period of up to 6 months, with a 3 month extension.
- If the matter is satisfactorily resolved, petition is dismissed.

When must placement hearing be held after initial custody?

The next business day

What are the placement options?

- Release to parent or guardian
- Assignment to youth services program
- Placement in a juvenile detention center

Adjudication:

Must show beyond a reasonable doubt that child is delinquent.

Or Alternate Process

The court may order a non-judicial disposition if:

- The alleged facts are admitted
- A competent acceptance of the disposition has been given by the child and his parent

Dispositional Outcomes

- Commitment to the department
- Juvenile detention center
- Placement in an alternative incarceration program
- Probation

Dispositional Outcomes

- Probation not to exceed 180 days
- Other activities that the court determines are practicable, such as work in public buildings or property