

2014

**Statutory Responses to Domestic
Minor Sex Trafficking Victims
District of Columbia**



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Identification

Initial Custody

Process Following Initial Custody

Neglected Child

→ Authority for Initial Custody:

Any employee of the Agency or law enforcement officer may take custody if:

- There is reason to believe child is endangered
- At request of the Director of Social Services

Placement:

- Release to parent / guardian
- Shelter care
- Medical facility for treatment and/or evaluation

→ Where is child referred after initial custody?

Complaints are referred to the Director of the Child and Family Services Agency

When and how does court assume jurisdiction?

Petitions initiating judicial action may be signed by any person who has knowledge of the facts alleged

Child in Need of Supervision

→ Authority for Initial Custody:

Law enforcement may take custody with:

- Reasonable grounds to believe child is a run-away truant or in violation of a court order
- An order from Division of Social Services

Placement:

- Release to parent / guardian
- Detention or shelter care
- Medical facility for treatment and/or evaluation

→ Where is child referred after initial custody?

Complaints are referred to the Director of Social Services

When and how does court assume jurisdiction?

Petitions may only be signed by the Director of Social Services, a representative of a licensed child caring or social services agency, school officials or law enforcement

Delinquent Child

→ Authority for Initial Custody:

Law enforcement may take custody:

- With reasonable grounds to believe committed a delinquent act
- If child violated a court order

Placement:

- Released to parent / guardian
- Detention or shelter care
- Medical facility for treatment and/or evaluation

→ Where is child referred after initial custody?

Complaints are referred to the Director of Social Services

When and how does court assume jurisdiction?

Petitions initiating judicial action may be signed by any person who has knowledge of the facts alleged

Trafficking Victims in District of Columbia

Placement Process Pending Adjudication/ Investigation

→ When must placement hearing be held after initial custody?

Within 72 hours (excluding Sundays)

What are the placement options?

If in custody, child may only be placed in:

- Foster home
- Group home, youth shelter or other appropriate non-delinquent shelter
- Another facility designed by the Division of Child and Family Services

Adjudication or Referral to Alternate Process

→ Adjudication:

Held within 45 days of the child being ordered into shelter care

Or Alternate Process

N/A

Placement Following Adjudication

→ Dispositional Outcomes

- Return to parent with conditions
- Foster care
- Placement with a relative or other individual
- Medical or psychiatric facility

→ Dispositional Outcomes

N/A

→ When must placement hearing be held after initial custody?

Not later than the next day (excluding Sundays)

What are the placement options?

- Foster home
- Group home, youth shelter or other appropriate home for allegedly delinquent children or
- Detention home

→ Adjudication:

Hearings within 30 days if child is in secure setting, within 45 days if in shelter care

Or Alternate Process

N/A

→ Dispositional Outcomes

- Protective supervision
- Child placement agency
- Custody transfer to public agency for the care of delinquent children

→ Dispositional Outcomes

N/A

→ When must placement hearing be held after initial custody?

Not later than the next day (excluding Sundays)

What are the placement options?

- Foster home
- Group home / youth shelter
- Detention home for delinquent children
- Possible placement in adult jail for those 16-18 years whose conduct threatens other youth

→ Adjudication:

Hearings within 30 days if child is in secure setting, within 45 days if in shelter care

Or Alternate Process

Diversion possible, which will suspend adjudication, if finding of delinquency is not in best interest of child or public

→ Dispositional Outcomes

- Remain in custody of parent/guardian
- Protective supervision
- Child placement agency

→ Dispositional Outcomes

Process could include supervised drug testing, parenting classes, and counseling for up to 6 months with possible extension