



# Dual Status RESOURCE GUIDE

Updated Spring 2026

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## Essential Documents

- [Memorandum of Agreement](#)
- [Dual Status Screening Tool Report](#)
- [Referral to Dual Status Assessment Team](#)
- [Recommendation of Dual Status Assessment Team](#)
- [Order on Recommendation of Dual Status Assessment Team](#)

## Helpful Quick Links

- [CHINS Preliminary Inquiry Statute](#)
- [Delinquency Preliminary Inquiry Statute](#)
- [Adjudication Screening Statute](#)
- [Dual Status Assessment Team Statute](#)
- [Dual Status Assessment Team Meeting Statute](#)
- [Dual Status Assessment Team Report Statute](#)
- [Dual Status Lead Agency and Adjudication Statute](#)
- [DCS Parenting/Family Functioning Assessment Service Standard](#)
- [CJJR crossover youth practice model](#)
- [CJJR YouTube video on Dual Status](#)
- [RFK Dual Status Youth–Technical Assistance Workbook, Updated Edition](#)
- [RFK Guidebook, 3rd edition](#)
- [RFK Building a Brighter Future for Youth with Dual Status](#)

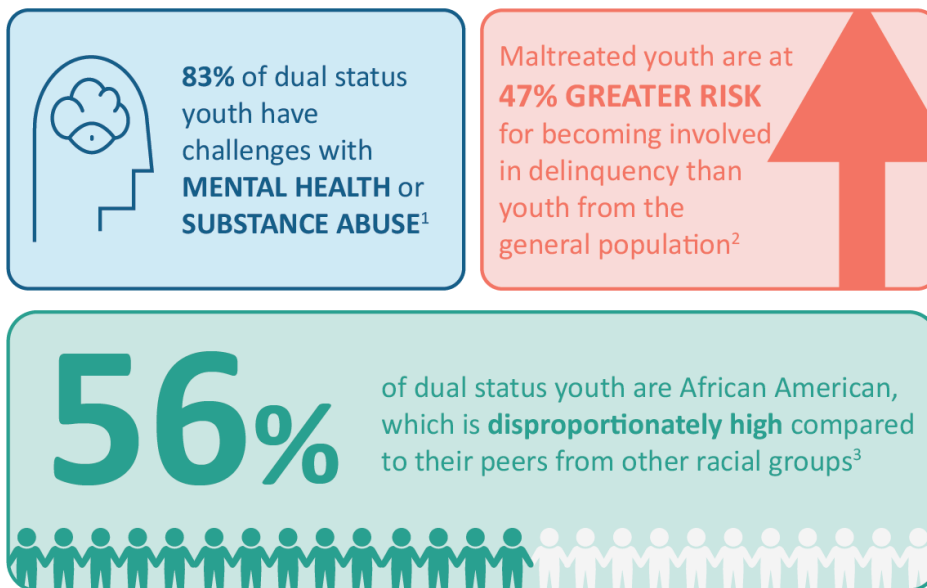
## SECTION 1: Why do we need dual status processes?

### Why Dual Status?

Any experienced juvenile court judge, case manager or probation officer can cite instances when the line between abuse and neglect (dependency cases) and juvenile delinquency cases becomes blurred. This population is frequently referred to as “crossover youth” or “dual status” to reflect their crossing from one system into the other creating dual system involvement. In Indiana these youth are referred to as “dual status”.

Focus on this vulnerable population has shown youth who have contact with both systems are more likely to suffer a host of problems - higher recidivism, higher rates of academic failure, mental health problems, and substance abuse.

We now know that in certain circumstances a youth and the family require a special level of focus and collaborative efforts of both systems. Over the years, caseworkers and probation officers have attempted, with limited anecdotal success, to bridge the gap. Most of the time, however, those efforts were blockaded by entrenched silo mentality.



Dual Status youth statistics<sup>1,2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. (2017)

<sup>2</sup> Haight, W., Bidwell, L., Choi, W.S., & Cho, M. (2016). An evaluation of the Crossover Youth Practice Model (CYPM): Recidivism outcomes for maltreated youth involved in the juvenile justice system. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 6, 578-85.

<sup>3</sup> The Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. (2017).

## SECTION 1: Why do we need dual status processes?

Although, case managers and probation officers serve different functions they have the shared goal of improving the lives of children and families. By working together to address identified needs and support the youth and families, both agencies can maximize the benefit of system involvement.

We also have learned that the failure of the two systems to meaningfully work together may negatively impact a youth's future and, ultimately, the safety of our community.

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Meaningful collaboration between both systems, grounded in the best interests of the child and family, has the potential to alter the youth's trajectory away from system involvement and ensure their needs are addressed through a coordinated, holistic approach.

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Indiana's Dual Status legislation ([Indiana Code Article 31-41](#)) was enacted in 2015 to address the specific needs of these youth by providing both the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system, tools to identify, communicate, and implement a coordinated plan that serves a youth's best interests and welfare.

Therefore, when a youth enters either the child welfare system or the juvenile justice system, the court and responding agencies must determine whether the youth is a dual status youth and proceed accordingly, see [Indiana Code § 31-34-7-1](#) (requiring dual status determination in preliminary inquiry of a child in need of services ("CHINS") allegation); [Indiana Code § 31-37-8-1](#) (requiring same in preliminary inquiry of a delinquency allegation).

**Compliance with the statute is required,  
but implementation is flexible.**



### DUAL STATUS DEFINITION

**Dually identified youth:** Youth who are currently involved with the juvenile justice system and have history in the child welfare system but no current involvement (or vice versa).

**Dually involved youth:** Youth who have concurrent involvement (diversionary, formal or a combination of the two) with both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

**Dually adjudicated youth:** Youth who are alleged to be or presently adjudicated in both the child welfare and juvenile justice systems (i.e. both dependent and delinquent).

**Special Indiana circumstances:**

A child who is eligible for release from the department of correction (DOC); whose parent, guardian, or custodian either cannot be located or is unwilling to take custody of the child; **and** for whom the department of correction is requesting a modification of the dispositional decree under IC 31-30-2-4 is also considered dual status.

### Anticipated Outcomes

- Increased cross-agency collaboration and communication
- Increased family engagement
- Increased timely identification of youth’s needs
- Increased identification of appropriate services and treatment
- Increased number of youth in appropriate placement settings

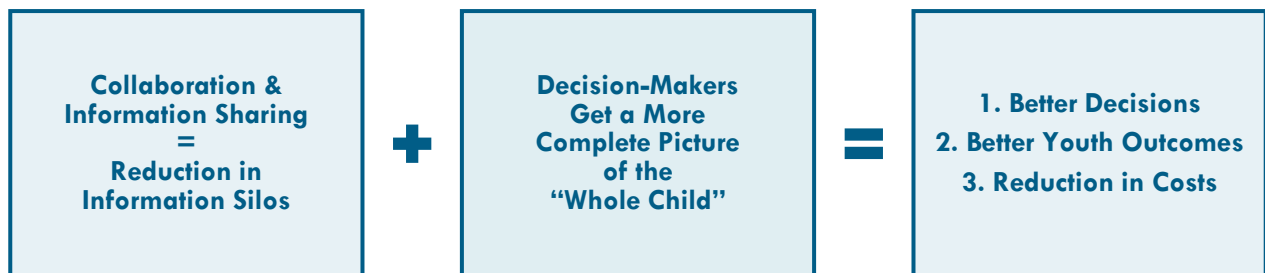


Figure copied from Wright et.al,2017b,3.

### Goals

- Reduction in the number of youth crossing over and becoming dually-involved
- Reduction in the number of youth placed in out-of-home care
- Reduction in the use of congregate care
- Reduction in the disproportionate representation of youth of color, particularly in the crossover population

## SECTION 1: Why do we need dual status processes?

*"In Madco, we have been really lucky to have a well oiled machine for dual status. We use it, tweaked it the tiniest bit to meet our needs, and it's awesome. It increases communication between probation and DCS. It helps keep us accountable to meeting and making plans together, using each others resources and knowledge. We still have times we do not agree, but we have always left with an understanding of one another and that has been so important to keeping things civil and solution focused."*

*~Amy Waltermire, Madison County DCS Local Office Director*

*"We were one of the Pilot counties for Dual Status when it started and we have continued to expand and tweak our procedures somewhat. We meet regularly on a monthly basis (and more often if needed) to discuss new, ongoing and potential cases. Our CASA Director convenes the meeting which has worked very well." "We all get along (we may not always agree) work closely on our cases and help each other as much as we can. We often have cases that are mental health and NOT delinquency or DCS and come together to assist the youth and family to access services."*

*~Susan Lightfoot, Henry County Chief Probation Officer*

*"I think one of the most important things with the dual status team is that we work pretty well together. Our local CPS office has done a fantastic job harboring a good relationship between our agencies. I think the main issues between CPS and probation is that we don't understand what each office does and what our legal boundaries are. They have done a great job of being understanding."*

*~James Grizzel, Crawford County Chief Probation Officer*

*"The implementation of the Dual Status Team in our county has benefitted not just the youth and families but the agencies. In bridging the communication gap we are now sharing vital resources or information on community resources that the other agency may not be aware of just yet to ensure the youth in both systems are gaining access to the resources. We are able to "pick each other's brains" when there isn't a formal Dual Status order to help each other."*

*~Ashley Jones, DCS Assessment Supervisor*

*"I think in Clark County, we have a pretty good working relationship and communication between departments. I think that is the biggest success here, working collaboratively and being able to "think outside the box" with our youth and families. I've seen a number of youth cross between both systems, and I think having more eyes on a family and familiarity with our families in this county is a plus. We avoid duplicating services and can offer more voices and expertise when we work collaboratively to help our families."*

*~ Shannon Holt, CASA Triage Project Coordinator*

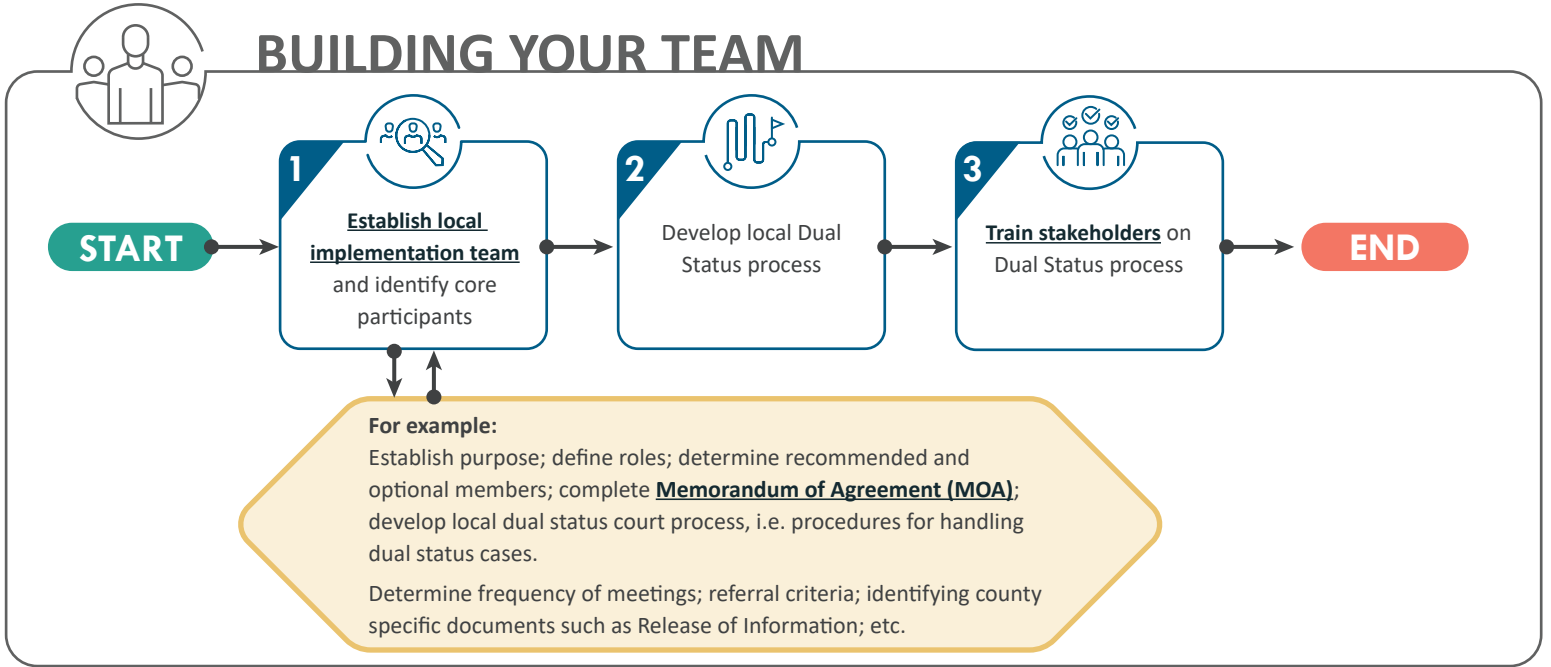
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A process that places a youth's well-being in the center of all we do without  
sacrificing accountability or community safety

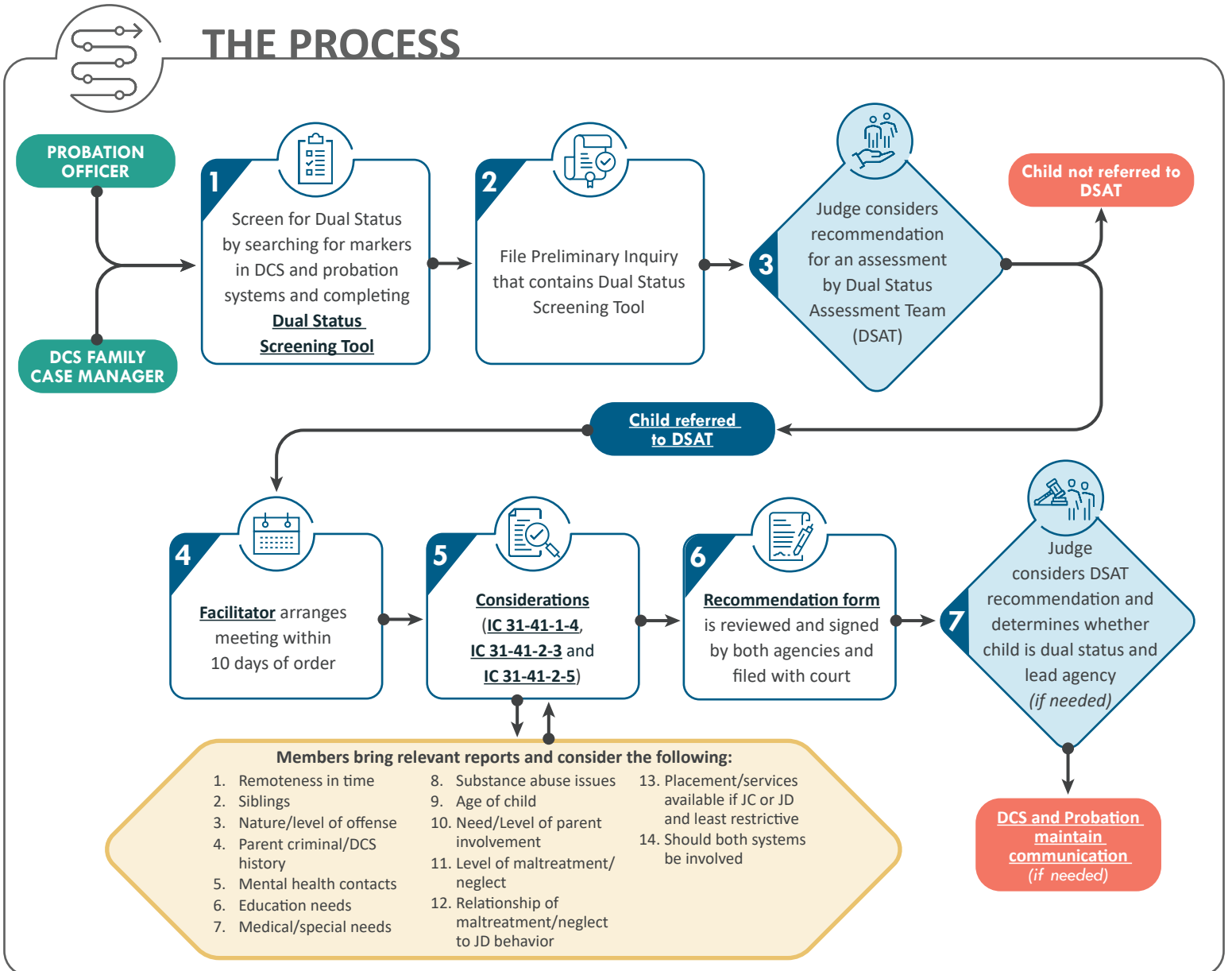
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# Dual Status Flow Chart

## BUILDING YOUR TEAM



## THE PROCESS



Click any underlined item to open the corresponding document.

## SECTION 3: How to implement Dual Status

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### Dual Status Implementation Team

Successful implementation requires Judicial leadership and an effective implementation team. Dual Status is not just a procedure but a process—the practice by which all involved can and should talk and communicate with regard to the youth’s best interest. System integration and coordination require the involvement of those in leadership positions, those who possess expertise in particular areas, those who work directly with Dual Status Youth on a regular basis, and those who share a passion for this population and can serve as champions for the effort.<sup>4</sup>

#### **Judicial leadership is necessary—Dual Status is a statute, not a suggestion**

Judicial officers should use their judicial authority to motivate and monitor progress and compliance with the process. The implementation team will determine the process and procedures by which the Dual Status legislation and procedures will be implemented in each county and should include leadership of participating agencies and other key stakeholders. At a minimum, the implementation team should include representatives from the court, probation, DCS, GAL/CASA, prosecutor and the public defender agency.

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Dual status is a process, not a program

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Stakeholders include but are not limited to:

#### **Core Team Members:**

- Juvenile Court Judge
- DCS Local Office Director
- Chief Juvenile Probation Officer
- Public Defender
- DCS Local Office Attorney
- Mental Health/Behavioral Health Representative
- Juvenile Prosecutor
- GAL/CASA Representative

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<sup>4</sup> John A. Tuell, Jessica K. Heldman, and Janet K. Wiig, (2013) Dual Status Youth—Technical Assistance Workbook

## SECTION 3: How to implement Dual Status

### Optional Team Members:

- Juvenile Probation Officer
- DCS Division Manager
- DCS FCM Supervisor
- DCS FCM
- Education System Representative
- Youth Representative
- Law Enforcement Representative
- Parent Representative
- School Resource Officer
- Service Providers

## Training plan for community stakeholders

Stakeholders are most engaged when included early in the process and when their time and talent contributions are valued. A comprehensive and collaborative approach helps ensure all partners receive a unified message. These cases are more complex and will require all agencies work together to create shared plans with joint resources to address their unique needs. Dual Status youth often enter into a system by accident of circumstances rather than by way of assessment and coordination; the Dual Status process is a way to focus resources from all agencies with the collective expertise of those involved in order to achieve better outcomes for the youth.

For Dual Status youth, success is not a destination but an ongoing journey.

### Multisystemic Partners:

- Child Welfare
- Juvenile Justice
- Law Enforcement
- Education
- Behavioral Health
- Courts

### Process:

- Coordinated Case Management
- Joint Assessment Process  
(multidisciplinary ie; DCS, Probation, Mental Health, Substance Abuse, Domestic Violence)
- Coordinated Case Plans
- Coordinated Supervision
- Coordinated Planning for Youth Permanency, Transition and Case Closure

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Strength-based focus that prioritizes family engagement  
and equitable treatment at every level

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- Train the child welfare stakeholders to understand the juvenile justice system
- Train the juvenile justice stakeholders to understand the child welfare system
- Recognize that youth and families have strengths and should be treated as unique
- Train stakeholders to utilize data to make all policy and practice decisions
- Analyze local resources and increase interagency resource sharing
- Strengthen workforce efficacy and provide appropriate (and ongoing) training for staff
- Integrate the use of best practices and evidence-based programs
- Require DCS Family Case Manager to attend delinquency court hearings and Probation Officer to attend CHINS hearings involving the youth

## Recommended Practices for Dual Status Youth<sup>5</sup>

### Practices:

- Develop individual outcomes for each youth focused on competencies and connections to family and community, recognizing that one size does not fit all
  - Drill down to the underlying problem (Is the youth running away because of abuse/neglect at home? Are they stealing because they don't have enough to eat at home? Are the parents ill-equipped to deal with a significantly mentally ill youth who is exhibiting delinquent behaviors?)
- Use validated screening and assessment instruments
  - Development and use of a joint assessment process or methodology across systems and in collaboration with the youth and family
  - All stakeholders are familiar with these tools and understand how to interpret them
- Identify and develop opportunities for alternatives to formal processing at key decision points
- Use structured process to consider diversion, early intervention, and alternatives to formal processing at the earliest possible opportunity

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<sup>5</sup> John A. Tuell, Jessica K. Heldman, and Janet K. Wiig, (2013) Dual Status Youth—Technical Assistance Workbook

## SECTION 3: How to implement Dual Status

- Develop procedures for routine, ongoing contact between probation officers and Family Case Managers over the life of each dual status case
- Share data and reports available from all our cross system agencies: schools, welfare, delinquency, criminal, therapists, and mental health
- Coordinate case planning, court hearings, and case management
- Think outside the box; these should be the hardest cases and require creativity
- Flexibility is necessary for these fluid cases
- Focus on family stability, placement stability, and community connections

\*DCS and Probation can complete their assessments and case plans collaboratively. This will facilitate increased communication and sharing of information as well as ease the burden on the families having to meet at different times with different agencies.

### **Products:**

- Memorandum of Agreement regarding information sharing
- List of desired system and youth and family outcomes
- Policy and procedure documentation
- Assessment and resource inventories

## SECTION 4: Dual Status Process

### Dual Status Screening Step by Step Process

- ❑ Check KidTraks (I-Kids)/Quest/Odyssey or call local DCS/Probation office to check history
- ❑ Complete Preliminary Inquiry and [Dual Status Screening Tool](#), noting whether or not youth is/is not Dual Status and if a referral for Dual Status assessment is recommended

- The Dual Status Screening Tool is the first indicator of dual status markers prepared in every CHINS or Delinquency case
- This is the best source of information regarding the dual status markers for every youth and family
- **This is not just extra paperwork**

*Remember to include your articulable facts if there is an alleged CHINS or delinquency. You should always include your reasons for recommending or not recommending the formation of a Dual Status Assessment Team.*

- ❑ Court response: The Court shall consider the Preliminary Inquiry and determine whether to make the referral to the Dual Status Assessment Team. The Court may exercise its discretion on whether to order the formation of a DSAT for the child. In making that decision, the court should consider the time lapse between any delinquent act and CHINS incident; if the Court refers the case for Dual Status Assessment the case should be reset for an additional initial hearing

*\*All children identified as a Dual Status child under IC 31-41-1-2(1) through IC 31-41-1-2(3), or IC 31-41-1-2(6), shall be referred to the Dual Status Assessment Team*

See: [Dual Status Assessment Team Referral Procedure](#)

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A note on “ALLEGED TO BE...”

You must be able to recite facts that support:

1. (If Probation) All of the elements of the appropriate statutory definition that a child is in need of services; or
2. (If DCS) Facts that support an allegation that the youth has committed a delinquent act.

In the Screening Tool those facts should be recited. If this is a new allegations of CHINS, the DCS Hotline should be contacted.

The Hotline should be advised of the facts supporting the allegation, that the youth has been identified as a Dual Status Child, and that the Court has made that designation and referred the case to an Assessment Team. The local office contact should also be notified.

## Dual Status Assessment Team Referral Procedure

The court will issue a referral to the Dual Status Assessment Team (DSAT) indicating who is to participate in the meeting and that it must be held within **ten (10) days** of the date of the referral. The referral will instruct each member of the DSAT to bring copies of all agency or other records possessed regarding and relevant to the youth:

- **Indiana Youth Assessment System (IYAS)** - used to measure a youth’s risk to re-offend
- **Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS)** - used to determine a child’s risk for future abuse, neglect or dependency
- **Detention Risk Assessment Instrument (DRAI)** - used to determine custody status of youth after being brought to detention
- **Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument – Version 2 (MAYSI-2)** - used to identify pressing behavioral health needs

## SECTION 4: Dual Status Process

- **Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory (SASSI)** - used to identify the probability and level of a substance abuse disorder and clinical insight into family and social risk factors
- **Individualized Education Plan (IEP)** or other educational records

### Dual Status Assessment Team (DSAT) Meeting/Facilitation

Mandatory members of the Dual Status Assessment Team:

1. If the youth has a department of child services case manager, the case manager
2. If the youth does not have a department of services case manager, a representative of the department of child services appointed by the local department of child services director
3. If the youth has a probation officer, that probation officer
4. If the youth does not have a probation officer, a probation officer appointed by the court; and
5. A meeting facilitator, who may be a member of the DSAT as listed above or may be a person appointed by the juvenile court.

The Court, in its discretion, selects the balance of the team and may include:

- The youth if the court deems the youth is age appropriate
- The youth's public defender or attorney
- The youth's parent, guardian or custodian
- The youth's parent's attorney
- A prosecuting attorney
- The attorney for the Department of Child Services
- A court appointed special advocate (CASA) or guardian ad litem (GAL)
- A representative from the department of correction
- A school representative
- An educator
- A therapist
- The youth's foster parent
- A service provider appointed by the team or the juvenile court

There should be a trained facilitator; if the facilitator is also the family case manager or probation officer for the youth, it is recommended that a supervisor also be present as a neutral party.

## SECTION 4: Dual Status Process

- This is not a duplicate of the CFTM
- The goal is not to achieve parent consensus (the presence of the parent is discretionary); however if the parent attends:
  - The parent should be present for the 1st part of meeting only;
  - The team should ensure that the parent is given an opportunity to express what they believe are the youth's strength and needs
- The recommendation of the team is *not* determinative of the result of the case
- Avoid using acronyms or jargon; not everyone will feel comfortable asking for clarification when a term is used that they do not understand

All statements communicated in a DSAT meeting are (1) not admissible as evidence against the youth in any judicial proceeding; and (2) not discoverable in any litigation

### Prior to Meeting:

- Facilitator sends out notice to schedule meeting (See [Marion County Example](#))
- Probation officer or FCM contacts family to explain the process, help answer any additional questions and obtain necessary signatures for a release of information ([DSAT Consent to Release and Exchange of Information](#))
- Parties gather records to present at meeting/facilitation

The Dual Status Assessment Team (DSAT) meeting should be given priority over other matters in order to be held within the required ten (10) days.

***Practice Hint:***

It is recommended that the meeting date be established in the Court's referral order

### DSAT Meeting/Facilitation:

- Consider the allegation(s) of abuse or neglect:
  - Most recent DCS allegation and start date
  - Any significant developments since the start date
  - DCS history of previous case(s), placements or removal episodes
  - Current and previous services provided and outcomes
- Consider the allegation(s) of delinquency:
  - Most recent referral, offense(s), and date(s)
  - Any significant developments since the most recent referral

## SECTION 4: Dual Status Process

- Current charges
- Delinquency history of previous referral(s)
- Current and previous services provided and outcomes
  - Youth's mental health
  - Youth's school records
  - Youth's statements
  - Statements of youth's parents
  - Impact of child's behavior on any victim
  - Safety of the community
  - Youth's needs, strengths and risks
  - The need for a parent participation plan
  - The efficacy/availability of services/community providers
  - Youth's placement needs
  - Restorative justice practices
- Whether appropriate supervision of the youth can be achieved by:
  - the dismissal of a delinquency adjudication in deference to a CHINS adjudication
  - combining a delinquency adjudication or informal adjustment with a CHINS petition
- Whether a CHINS petition or informal adjustment should be filed or dismissed
- Whether a delinquency petition or informal adjustment should be filed or dismissed
- The availability of coordinated services regardless of whether the youth is adjudicated a CHINS or delinquent
- Whether the team recommends the exercise of dual adjudication and the lead agency to provide supervision
- What services and/or programming will address the needs/risks, who should be responsible for what, and a reasonable timeline for completion
- Any other information considered appropriate by the team

### Multiple Sibling Cases

It is possible that only one of the siblings will be identified as a Dual Status Child. The team should follow the procedures as if the case only involved the identified youth; however, the Dual Status Assessment Team should consider the entire family dynamic.

Planning for case closure should begin as part of the DSAT meeting. Determine agreed upon outcomes that will be required in order for each agency to close out.

- Be familiar with the case history
  - Be prepared to talk about the referral history and findings along with the issues of concern. Be prepared to talk about the immediate dangers as well as risks
  - Identifying the family strengths and supports, as well as being familiar with the history of services offered to date, is critical to making the best and most informed plan
- Have an open discussion regarding any rules and boundaries of the DSAT
- Talk directly to the parents and other participants. Make eye contact
- Be encouraging; families are often in crisis at the time of the DSAT, under a great deal of stress and not at their best; by being respectful and encouraging you can help turn a crisis into an opportunity for positive change
- Use the parent and youth's name; using the term "the mother" or "the youth" implies they are not present or not a full participant in the meeting and could be off-putting
- Watch non-verbal behavior; this includes obvious things like sighing or rolling your eyes but also includes arriving late to the meeting or checking your cell phone. Keep in mind, when people are stressed, seemingly innocuous behaviors can take on a heightened meaning
- Present information clearly, fairly and completely; laying out all the facts in a complete and unbiased fashion will facilitate understanding and create credibility
- Avoid using acronyms or jargon; not everyone will ask questions or ask for clarification when a term is used that they do not understand
- Recognize strengths and commend the family's effort to make positive change; write out strengths and support of the family or youth for all participants to see throughout the meeting

Designate a member to prepare the [\*Recommendation of Dual Status Assessment Team\*](#), to be submitted to the Court at least (2) days prior to the next scheduled hearing date regarding a

## SECTION 4: Dual Status Process

course of action for the youth. This should be a comprehensive report and outline the agreed upon recommended services that are the best fit (including diverting the case to community based services if more appropriate) for the needs of the family regardless of which agency is determined to be the lead.

Should circumstances change prior to the court hearing, which may impact the agreed upon recommendation, it is recommended that the DSAT reconvene to draft a subsequent agreed upon recommendation.

The team will need to meet regularly throughout the life of the case and report to the court. e.g., [Marion County Report Template](#)

### **Dual Status Youth require rehabilitative guidance from juvenile probation and the protective care from DCS**

Court considers the DSAT recommendation:

The Court considers:

- The youth's social and family situation
- The youth's experiences with DCS
- The youth's prior delinquency adjudications
- The recommendations of the Dual Status Assessment Team
- Needs, strengths and risks of the youth

The Court then finds and orders:

- Court adopts the recommendations of the Dual Status Assessment Team

or

- Court orders as follows:

The Court orders the following lead agency to supervise the child:

- Department of Child Services
- Probation Department

The Court orders the Department of Child Services and the Probation Department to coordinate in the supervision of the child and for purposes of filing any pleadings necessary to effectuate the order.

## SECTION 4: Dual Status Process

### Order on Recommendation of Dual Status Assessment Team

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Dual Status allows the judicial system and community partners to address the youth and family needs quicker with a collaborative approach

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**The welfare and delinquency systems combined  
are a powerful force!**

## Ongoing Communication

### Dual Status Cases After the DSAT

- New petitions and modifications may be filed during the life of the case and need to be disseminated among both agencies
- Counties have shared that regularly scheduled standing meetings are a great way to check the status for ongoing Dual Status cases and work through any identified barriers to services being provided or to provide recognition and encouragement where things are going well
- Gather success stories to share back with the front-line staff and encourage them to continue with initiative
- Share feedback from stakeholders on how the process is going, changes that may need made
- Share feedback from the youth and families on how the process is going, changes that may need made
- In 2017, little more than a year after full implementation of the new Dual Status law, 54% of probation officers reported that they often and regularly communicated with DCS regarding youth under their supervision, according to a survey conducted in Allen County<sup>6</sup>

### Closing Out

- For best outcomes, planning for closing of the case starts at the beginning

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<sup>6</sup> Indiana Court Times A Cultural Shift; Hon. Vicki Carmichael\Judge, Clark Circuit Court #4 and Hon. Charles F. Pratt\ Judge, Allen Superior Court

## SECTION 4: Dual Status Process

- During the DSAT identify what outcomes are necessary for each agency to close out of the case
- Review and revisit outcomes, as a team, when circumstances change over the life of the case
- After one agency closes out, each agency continues to provide beneficial input on the case

*"As the Dual Status legislation has rolled out a common misconception has been repeated. Oft times it is assumed that once a lead agency is determined, the other agency is released from the Dual Status case. Because the Dual Status child has a complicated history and thus more significant challenges and needs, it is essential that DCS and probation continue to collaborate and communicate, even if one agency no longer has the case. "*<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> Indiana Court Times *A Cultural Shift*; Hon. Vicki Carmichael\Judge, Clark Circuit Court #4 and Hon. Charles F. Pratt\Judge, Allen Superior Court

## Role Clarification

### DCS Process

#### Reports

- Hotline receives reports and makes a recommendation to the local office to screen in for an assessment or screen out

#### Assessments

- Upon receiving a report the local office has the following timeframes to initiate an assessment:
  - 2 hour–imminent danger of serious bodily harm
  - 24 Hour–abuse
  - 5 day–neglect (dirty house, education)
- [DCS Family Functioning Assessment](#): The family assessment process is initiated when someone calls in a report to the DCS hotline indicating there is a child in need of mental health services and the family is struggling to provide or access them. The hotline refers the information to the local office, and the local office responds to the family to help them get those services for the child
- Interview/Investigation
  - FCM interviews the victim, parents, report source, schools, law enforcement, collateral contacts, perpetrator

#### Outcome

- Substantiate the report
- Un-substantiate the report

In order to substantiate, the investigation must show by a preponderance of the evidence that the abuse or neglect occurred and that the child needs care, treatment or rehabilitation that the child is not receiving and is unlikely to be provided without the coercive intervention of the court.

#### Recommendations

- FCM recommends an Informal Adjustment or the formal filing of a Petition Alleging Abuse or Neglect (The distinction between an IA versus formal petition is the need or lack thereof for the coercive intervention of the court and there is no removal on an IA)

## SECTION 4: Dual Status Process

When a child is removed from their home they are placed in the least restrictive setting available that ensures the child's safety and wellbeing:

- Non-custodial parents
- Relatives
- Kinship Care
- Foster Care
- Therapeutic Foster Care
- Emergency Shelter Care/Residential Care

### Timelines when a child is removed from their home

The decision for removal can be made at any point during the investigation based on a continued threat of injury/harm, parents' inability to care for the child(ren), primary consideration, SAFETY of the CHILD(REN).

- **Detention Hearing:** 48 hours excluding weekends/holidays
- **Initial Hearing:** 10 days after filing of the petition (an additional initial hearing may be scheduled, if necessary, no more than 30 days after the first initial hearing)
- **Fact Finding Hearing:** 60 days after the filing of the petition (unless all parties agree to extension of up to an additional 60 days)
- **Disposition Hearing:** not more than 30 days after adjudication

### Court Disposition

If consistent with the safety of the community and the best interest of the child, the juvenile court shall enter a dispositional decree that:

1. is:
  - in the least restrictive (most family like) and most appropriate setting available;
  - and
  - close to the parents' home, consistent with the best interest and special needs of the child;
2. least interferes with family autonomy;
3. is least disruptive of family life;
4. imposes the least restraint on the freedom of the child's parent, guardian, or custodian; and
5. provides a reasonable opportunity for participation by the child's parent, guardian, or custodian.

## SECTION 4: Dual Status Process

Indiana Code Article 31-41 was enacted in 2015 to address the specific needs of these children by providing both the child welfare system and the juvenile justice system “tools to identify, communicate, and implement a coordinated plan that serves the child’s best interests and welfare”

### Probation Process

#### Referrals

Probation departments receive referrals from: Law enforcement, Prosecutor, Schools, and Parents.

#### Intake/Investigation

Probation receives a probable cause affidavit alleging the commission of a delinquent act and schedules a preliminary inquiry with the youth, parents/guardians/custodians, and any attorney representing the youth.

#### Recommendations

- file a formal petition
- informal adjustment
- diversion
- dismiss
- transfer to another agency
- file a formal petition with a Dual Status Assessment Team
- informal adjustment with a Dual Status Assessment Team

The juvenile court shall consider the preliminary inquiry and the evidence of probable cause to believe that the child is a delinquent child, and it is in the best interest of the child or the public that the petition is filed.

Depending on the county’s process, detention is generally considered upon the youth being taken into custody by law enforcement. Per statute, once the youth has been taken into custody, a probation officer has the authority to authorize a youth to be detained or released with conditions.

#### Reasons for detention

- Youth is unlikely to appear for subsequent proceedings
- Youth has committed an act that would be a Level 1, Level 2, Level 3, or Level 4 Felony if committed by an adult
- Detention is essential to protect the youth or the community

## SECTION 4: Dual Status Process

- The parent/guardian or custodian cannot be located or is unable or unwilling to take custody of the youth
- The youth has a reasonable basis for requesting that the youth not be released

### Types of detention

- Secure detention
- Shelter care
- Electronic monitoring
- Home detention/monitoring
- Other conditions

### Timelines if a youth remains in detention

- Detention Hearing: 48 hours
- Petition alleging delinquency: within 7 days
- Fact finding hearing: no later than 20 days after the petition is filed

### Timelines if a youth is not in detention or is released from detention

- Fact finding hearing: no later than 60 days after the petition is filed

*All timelines referenced above exclude weekends/holidays*

### Court Disposition

If consistent with the safety of the community and the best interest of the youth, the juvenile court shall enter a dispositional decree that:

1. is:
  - in the least restrictive (most family like) and most appropriate setting available;
  - and
  - close to the parents' home, consistent with the best interest and special needs of the youth;
2. least interferes with family autonomy;
3. is least disruptive of family life;
4. imposes the least restraint on the freedom of the youth's parent, guardian, or custodian; and
5. provides a reasonable opportunity for participation by the youth's parent, guardian, or custodian.

## SECTION 4: Dual Status Process

The juvenile court's dispositional decree is to be accompanied by written findings and conclusions including a specific finding as to whether the child is a dual status child. [\*Indiana Code § 31-37-18- 9\(a\)\(6\)\*](#)

New petitions and modifications may be filed during the life of the case and need to be disseminated among both agencies.

Modification of dispositional decree in delinquency cases ([\*K.S. v State | Indiana Ct App. 2018\*](#))

- Probation must complete a modification report
- Probation must complete Dual Status Screening Tool
- Court must include finding as to whether the youth is a Dual Status child in the modification order

### Guardian ad Litem (GAL)/ Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA)

Represents the best interests of the child

- Confers with all parties
- Monitors all proceedings and providing input as appropriate
- Review reports from all agencies, and working with the child to ensure compliance with all court orders, and terms of probation (if applicable)
- Visit with child and get to know their needs and wishes and communicate these to the Court
- Helps the child understand the process and provide support and encouragement
- Advocates for safe, permanent and stable living environment for the child

### Attorney for the Child or Child's Public Defender

Represents the youth; advocates for the child's expressed interests

- Confers with the child
- Protects the child's constitutional rights
- Understands child and adolescent development to be able to communicate effectively with the youth, and to evaluate the youth's level of maturity and competency and its relevancy to the delinquency case
- Enlists the client's parent or guardian as an ally without compromising the attorney-client relationship
- Reviews reports from juvenile probation, DCS and service providers to assist in representation of the youth

## SECTION 4: Dual Status Process

### Prosecuting Attorney

Represents the People of the State of Indiana

- Always a government attorney who focuses on the public safety interests of the State
- Confers with victims and/or police officers and helps them understand the court process
- Investigates crime and when appropriate files charges in court against alleged offenders
- Makes recommendations regarding release, detention and release conditions
- Reviews reports from juvenile probation officers to assist in making recommendations to the court
- At trial, tries to prove the alleged offender is guilty, or found “true”, beyond a reasonable doubt, by presenting evidence
- Argues petitions to modify (probation violations) on behalf of probation
- Can make a request to “waive” a youth to adult criminal court

### Parent, Guardian or Custodian

Supports, encourages and engages

- Confers with the youth
- Cooperates with the Probation Officer/Family Case Manager to provide information during the Preliminary Inquiry
- Appears with the youth for all required hearings, meetings and programming
- Shares with Probation Officer, Family Case Manager and Court their understanding of the youth’s needs
- Actively engages with all parties to assist in understanding of the youth and family circumstances
- Provides any requested documents or information with regard to the youth and family (IEP, Psychological/Psychiatric evaluation, medical records, etc.)
- Provides insight into the youth and family relationship; strengths and needs
- Supports and assists the youth in completing any recommended services or treatment. Understands the expectations for the themselves and youth, and asks questions when expectations are unclear

## SECTION 4: Dual Status Process

### School

Advocates for the youth's educational needs

- Confers with the youth
- Provides information and documentation of the youth's educational status and needs
- Provides any educational testing and guidance for meeting the youth's educational needs
- Works with the Parent, Probation Officer and/or Family Case Manager to ensure the youth has what is needed to keep on track for their educational goals
- Keeps the parties apprised of educational progress or any concerns as they arise

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Dual Status is a multi-system partnership with one vision  
for youth and families

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## SECTION 5: Appendix

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### Essential Documents

- [Memorandum of Agreement](#)
- [Dual Status Screening Tool Report](#)
- [Referral to Dual Status Assessment Team](#)
- [Recommendation of Dual Status Assessment Team](#)
- [Order on Recommendation of Dual Status Assessment Team](#)

### Helpful Quick Links

- [CHINS Preliminary Inquiry Statute](#)
- [Delinquency Preliminary Inquiry Statute](#)
- [Adjudication Screening Statute](#)
- [Dual Status Assessment Team Statute](#)
- [Dual Status Assessment Team Meeting Statute](#)
- [Dual Status Assessment Team Report Statute](#)
- [Dual Status Lead Agency and Adjudication Statute](#)
- [DCS Parenting/Family Functioning Assessment Service Standard](#)
- [CJJR crossover youth practice model](#)
- [CJJR YouTube video on Dual Status](#)
- [RFK Dual Status Youth–Technical Assistance Workbook, Updated Edition](#)
- [RFK Guidebook, 3rd edition](#)
- [RFK Building a Brighter Future for Youth with Dual Status](#)

### Reusable Templates & Tools

- [Sample Facilitation Checklist–North Dakota DSY](#)
- [Sample Outline for Facilitation–North Dakota DSY](#)
- [Sample Facilitation Agenda–North Dakota DSY](#)
- [Tips for Facilitation–North Dakota DSY](#)
- [Email Invite Template–Marion County](#)
- [DSAT Recommendation Template–Marion County](#)
- [Parenting/Family Functioning Assessment–Ireland Homebased Services](#)
- [Family Brochure Template](#)

## Dual Status Assessment Team (DSAT) Facilitator Checklist

Once the Court has ordered the DSAT to convene, the Probation Officer (PO) and Family Case Manager (FCM) should go through the following tasks and identify who will complete them. Place the name of the person who will be responsible for completing each task in the line provided so there is not confusion. Ensure that each task is assigned prior to the meeting.

### Before the meeting

- Identify DSAT facilitator: \_\_\_\_\_ (best practice is to use a neutral 3rd party)
- DSAT facilitator will follow up with PO/FCM and ask for any additional clarification or information if needed: \_\_\_\_\_
- The DSAT facilitator and PO/FCM will be in contact during the pre-meeting preparation. The facilitator will ask questions to ensure clarity regarding the purpose, expectations and decisions that need to be made. The facilitator may also inquire about the information or concerns the PO/FCM has with any potential conflicts, safety, and the non-negotiables for the meeting. In rare circumstances, a meeting location change may be necessary to ensure safety of the attendees.
- Confirm the meeting date and time: \_\_\_\_\_
- Visit with parent/caregivers to review process, purpose and invite list: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Contact people on the invite list to prepare them for the DSAT meeting. In talking with potential attendees, the DSAT facilitator discusses:
    - why they are calling
    - the purpose of the DSAT
    - their role as a neutral facilitator the agenda for the meeting
    - whether they have any concerns about participating
    - if a family member identifies someone for the meeting who the parent has not listed on the referral form, the DSAT facilitator will re-contact the parent/caregiver to secure their consent: \_\_\_\_\_
- Arrange for any security needs, language access, and disability access: \_\_\_\_\_
- The DSAT facilitator will pre-staff with PO/FCM to inform her/him of all participants invited and prep the referral worker with any information they may need to be productive in the meeting. The facilitator may share with the referral worker their perception of the family's feelings about participating in the DSAT meeting: \_\_\_\_\_
- Check in with child/youth as appropriate: \_\_\_\_\_

**During the Meeting**

- Introduction: \_\_\_\_\_
- Review purpose and ground rules: \_\_\_\_\_
- Focused and diligent on ensuring the safety concerns for the child/youth are fully addressed:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Keep meeting on track by redirecting participants as needed: \_\_\_\_\_
- Encourage meeting participants to share any strengths, supports concerns and ideas:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Utilize group process for consensus agreement: \_\_\_\_\_
- Document discussion and action/safety plan and make copies for all participants:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**After the Meeting**

- Complete the Recommendation of Dual Status Assessment Team report:  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Submit the Recommendation of Dual Status Assessment Team report to the Court at least (2) days prior to the next scheduled hearing date regarding a course of action for the child/youth:  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Outline for Facilitation

- A. Greeting and introduce yourself
- B. The court has ordered this team to convene to determine a course of action for the youth that best addresses their needs
  - 1. The focus of this team is the youth's best interests, and each person here wants what is best for the youth
  - 2. Our task is to come up with a consensus recommendation of a plan for the youth that is best suited to their particular situation
  - 3. The various members of the team have interacted with the youth in different ways, and the point of using a Dual Status team is to collaborate and obtain the benefit of all those different viewpoints before making a plan for the youth
- C. Ground Rules
  - 1. Remember that each person here wants what's best for the youth - therefore, treat each team member with respect
  - 2. In order to get the best result, everyone's collaboration and attention is imperative - if you have information to share, please do so. Please also offer any ideas you have, even if they seem difficult or you can think of immediate obstacles - sometimes, with the combination of people in the room, we have access to solutions you might not know of or might not be able to achieve on your own. Likewise, please bring to the attention of the group any problems you see with plans we discuss, so that we can be sure to cover our bases
  - 3. When we are done, we must reach some recommendation to deliver back to the court. We need to recommend what kind of case or cases the youth needs to be successful and what sorts of services are best suited to the their issues. The court will then consider our recommendation and make a decision based on the information we provide and other information presented in court
  - 4. The information discussed in today's meeting may only be used to develop our recommendation today - it cannot be used as evidence in any hearing against the youth or anyone else
  - 5. I will guide today's discussion and attempt to keep us on track, as I know everyone's time is valuable
- D. Introduction of Team Members - name, title, how you know the youth
- E. Facilitation
  - 1. Identify primary concerns with the youth
    - i. Running away/incorrigibility
    - ii. Drug offenses of possession (possession of what? How many?)
    - iii. Mental health issues (Diagnoses? Prior exposure to treatment?)
  - 2. Identify the youth and their family's past and current interactions with courts and services
    - i. Past and current CHINS cases
    - ii. Delinquency actions

iii. Services the youth and their family have received

3. What does the youth need?

i. Substance abuse assessment and subsequent treatment

ii. Mental health evaluation and assessment

iii. Stable home life?

1. Parenting assessments for parents (if DCS hasn't conducted them already) to determine whether the youth's parents are lacking necessary skills

2. Exploration of relative options for placement if assessments show parents incapable or unwilling to provide stability and care

iv. What's the best way to get the youth what they need?

1. What are terms of current IA - do they cover the youth's needs?

(a) Is CHINS necessary?

v. Which agency is most involved with the youth currently?

1. IA

2. Probation cases and corresponding referrals, if any

vi. Is there a need for both?

F. Develop Recommendation

1. Which case(s)?

2. Which services?

3. Which lead agency?

4. Minority recommendations (if necessary, and won't suggest unless needed to complete session)

## Meeting Agenda

Total time: 1.5–2.0 hours

### **Opening (approximately 15-20 minutes)**

- Introductions/welcome
- Sign-in
- Meetings guidelines, rules, and boundaries
- Identify situation—Why are we here? (presented by PO and FCM)
- Purpose/goal of the meeting

### **Discussion (approximately 30 minutes)**

- Strengths and supports
- Safety, needs and concerns
- Trauma history, impact and relevant services
- Ideas
- Non-negotiables

### **Creating a Plan (approximately 15-20 minutes)**

- Family time

### **Wrap up (approximately 15 minutes)**

- Plan presentation and clarification
- Plan acceptance
- Satisfaction survey/data collection, if applicable

## Tips for making the most of the Dual Status Assessment Team Process

- Be familiar with the case history
  - Be prepared to talk about the referral history and findings along with the issues of concern. Be prepared to talk about the immediate dangers as well as the risks. Identifying the family strengths and supports and being familiar with the history and services offered to date is critical to making the best and most informed plan.
  - Assure case is reviewed from a trauma-informed perspective and services and supports address any trauma-related responses/behaviors.
- Do your best to assure youth and family feel safe by outlining the agenda for the meeting, orienting them to the physical space, offering choices when possible, and asking them if there is anything that can be done to make them feel comfortable or psychologically safe during the meeting.
- Have an open discussion regarding any rules and boundaries of the DSAT.
  - These rules may need to be written down where everyone can see them throughout the meeting
- Talk directly to the parents and other participants. Make eye contact.
  - Do your best to refrain from addressing all your comments to the facilitator
- Be encouraging.
  - Keep in mind that families are frequently in crisis at the time of the DSAT. They are under a great deal of stress and are often not at their best. By being respectful and encouraging you can help turn a crisis into an opportunity for positive change.
- Use the parent and child's name. Refrain from using words like "the mother" or "the youth".
  - This implies the person in question isn't present or that they are not a full participant in the meeting and could be off-putting. Remember one of the keys of the DSAT is to create a "team" out of the group of individuals at the meeting.
- Watch your nonverbal behavior.
  - This includes obvious things like sighing or rolling your eyes but also includes arriving late to the meeting or checking your cell phone. Keep in mind, when people are stressed, seemingly innocuous behaviors can take on a heightened meaning.
- Present information clearly, fairly and completely.
  - Laying out all the facts in a complete and unbiased fashion will facilitate understanding and create credibility.
- Avoid using acronyms or jargon.
  - Not everyone will ask questions or ask for clarification when a term is used that they do not understand. To make people feel a part of the "team" remember to use language that everyone can understand.
- Recognize strengths and commend the family's efforts to make positive changes.
  - Successes are built on small accomplishments. Families need to have even the smallest step in the right direction acknowledged, amplified and celebrated by the department as well as themselves.
  - Write out strengths and supports of the family or youth for all participants to see throughout the meeting
- If the facilitator is also the FCM or PO for the youth and family, it is recommended that a supervisor also be present, as the supervisor may need to assist in facilitating the meeting as a neutral party.

## Dual Status Assessment Team Meeting Email Invite

Subject: DSAT Meeting-*SG (#123456)*

Good afternoon everyone,

We recently received a referral for a Dual Status youth; *SG (#123456)*. SG's next hearing is scheduled for *January 1, 2026* so we will need to meet this coming *Monday, December 8, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.* The meeting will take place at *the Juvenile Center on the detention side in the Muster Room* OR *via Zoom (instructions below)*. Please advise if you will not be in attendance. Thanks in advance and see you all on Monday!

Best regards,

Stephen

## STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF MARION MARION SUPERIOR COURT JUVENILE DIVISION

CAUSE NO.  
\_\_\_\_\_

In the Matter of: \_\_\_\_\_

### RECOMMENDATION OF DUAL STATUS ASSESSMENT TEAM

Pursuant to IC 31-41, the following members of the Dual Status Assessment Team met on:

\_\_\_\_\_.

The Dual Status Assessment Team has considered the following allegation(s) of abuse or neglect suffered by the child:

- *Most recent DCS case and when case started*
- *Major developments since case first started*
- *DCS historical factors (i.e. previous case(s), previous removals, foster care and residential history, parental involvement or lack thereof)*

The Dual Status Assessment Team has considered the following allegation(s) the child is a delinquent child:

- *Date of alleged incident(s)*
- *Current charges*
- *History with Probation*
- *Previous Placements*

The Dual Status Assessment Team has considered the child's best interests and well-being of the child

1) Child's mental health:

- *Diagnosis*
- *Current or previous services*
- *Medication*
- *Psych eval and other clinical assessments*
- *Acute hospitalizations*
- *Substance abuse concerns*

2) Child's School Records, including attendance and achievement level:

- *Grade and current school*
- *Attendance and Grade History; are they where they should be*
- *IEP or 504 plans*
- *Current services (tutoring, life skills, modified school day, etc.)*

3) Child's Statements:

- *What they said about the incident(s) in question*
- *Where they want to be placed*
- *Thoughts about school*
- *Plans for the future*

4) Statements of child's parent(s), guardian(s), custodian(s):

- *Parent/Guardian's response to incident(s)*
- *Thoughts about placement and/or services*
- *Perception of engagement from DCS/PO/GAL*

5) Impact of child's behavior on any victim:

- *Who is the identified victim, and have they given a formal statement?*
- *Are there court orders limiting their interaction from the youth?*
- *Is the State pressing charges?*

6) Safety of the community:

- *Does the youth's action(s) pose a threat to the greater community*
- *Was this an isolated incident in the home environment*
- *Is this the first incident of its kind*

7) Child's needs, strength and risk:

**Strengths:** *positives about youth in school, home, placement; positives about their interactions with family; future orientation that team can build on (i.e. good relationship with mom, wants to go to college, gets along with foster parents, etc.)*

**Needs:** *what behaviors are familial, academic, and/or social issues to be addressed (i.e. needs stable housing, needs to address substance abuse, needs to get back in school, etc.)*

**Risks:** *what are they in danger of (i.e. human trafficking, substance abuse, being uneducated, suicidality, etc.)*

8) Need for parental participation plan:

- *Is there a plan in place?*
- *If so, through which court/case?*
- *Does a PPO need to be issued?*
- *Issues preventing parent/guardian from participating in services*

9) Efficacy and availability of services and community providers:

- *Current services in place*
  - *For youth*

- *For parent/guardian*
- *Are services effective*
  - *Why or why not*
- *What services were (recently) court-ordered?*
  - *Have these services been referred or already in place?*
- *What services do the DSAT think should be added/adjusted?*

10) Whether appropriate supervision of child can be achieved by dismissal of delinquency adjudication in deference to CHINS adjudication:

- *Should the delinquency case be dropped, why or why not*
  - *Under Advisement?*
  - *Informal Adjustment?*

11) Whether appropriate supervision of child can be achieved by combining delinquency adjudication or informal adjustment with CHINS petition:

- *Should delinquency and CHINS be combined?*
- *What is the benefit of combining the cases?*
- *How will supervision and/or youth and family engagement be improved*

12) Child's placement needs:

- *Where is the youth currently placed?*
- *What is the permanency plan?*
- *Does permanency plan need to be changed (i.e. from reunification to APPLA);*
  - *Has this been discussed in a CFTM?*
    - *Is youth and parent on board with potential change in permanency plan?*
  - *Has this been recommended to the court?*
  - *When will it be recommended to the court?*

13) Restorative justice practices that may be appropriate:

- *What are the appropriate options (i.e. apology letter, community service, teen court, etc.)?*

14) Whether CHINS petitions or informal adjustment should be filed or dismissed:

- *Is DCS planning to move forward in court or drop their case*

15) Whether delinquency petition or informal adjustment should be filed or dismissed:

- *Is Prosecutor planning to move forward in court or drop their case*
- *Should case be taken Under Advisement?*
- *Should youth be put on Informal Adjustment?*

16) Availability of coordinated services regardless of whether child is adjudicated CHINS or delinquent:

- *Can/will DCS and Probation work together*

17) Whether the team recommends exercise of dual adjudication and the lead agency to provide services:

- *If the youth will be on Dual Status, who will be the lead agency: DCS or Probation?*

18) Any other information considered appropriate by the team:

- *Additional info any team member wants to note for the record*

**The undersigned designated members submit this written report on behalf of the Dual Status Assessment Team.**

The Dual Status Assessment Team submits the following recommendations:

- The court should proceed with an additional initial hearing regarding the petition alleging the child is in need of services and *dismiss a pending delinquency petition* or informal adjustment at the conclusion of a child in need of services adjudication.
- The court should proceed with an additional initial hearing regarding a petition alleging that the child is a delinquent child under IC 31-37-1 and *dismiss a pending child in need of services petition* or informal adjustment upon conclusion of the delinquency adjudication.
- The court should *proceed with an additional initial hearing* and adjudication or informal adjustment *concerning a child in need of services petition and a delinquency petition* under IC 31-37-1.
- The following agency should be *the lead agency* in a child’s supervision: *DCS or Probation*
- The following services should be included in a dispositional decree:

*Refer to question 9*

- *What services are already in place?*
- *What services are being recommended?*
- *Additional recommendations (i.e. parent to sign ROI for mental health docs; DCS to re-staff for RTC placement;)*

Submitted this: \_\_\_\_\_ *Quest currently asks when the document is submitted (needs to be 2 days prior to the next scheduled court hearing at the latest)*

Name:  
Department of Child Services  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name:  
Probation Department  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name:  
Choices DSAT Facilitator  
\_\_\_\_\_

## DCS FAMILY FUNCTIONING ASSESSMENT

Parenting/Family functioning assessment is an in-home evaluation which includes standardized test instrument(s) to identify strengths and needs of the family. The service is most appropriately used when the needs of the family are so complex that a traditional assessment completed by a Family Case Manager cannot determine the services necessary to improve the family's functioning.

### Assessment includes:

- An interview with the adults and children being assessed
- Completion by adults of the Parenting Stress Index. Additionally, the Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory would be administered if substance abuse is indicated and if approved by the family case manager
- Observations of the parent's relationship with the children noting any needs or challenges
- Tour of the proposed home noting any environmental concerns
- Review of other information and sources to verify family's reported history (i.e. previous DCS history, collateral contacts)

### The written report will include:

- Identifying information
- History of significant events, medical history, history of the children (including educational history)
- Family socio-economic situation, including income information of the parents and children
- Family composition, structure, and relationships
- Family strengths and skills
- Description of home environment
- Summary of testing completed
- Summary of collateral contacts
- Assessment of relationship between parents and children
- Assessor's assessment of the client's ability to safely parent the children
- Client's understanding of the current situation

# Family Brochure

## **Instructions for Printing the Parent Brochure**

To print the parent brochure, print pages 41-42 using the following settings:

- **Print on both sides**
- **Flip on short edge**

You may add your local office's contact information using a label or stamp.



## STATE OF INDIANA

### Why do we have a specific process for Dual Status?

In 2015 legislation was passed in Indiana that included requirements for identifying youth who are both in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems and coordinating services with a lead agency to serve these children and families more efficiently.

### Local Office Contact Information

# INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

## Dual Status



### Who are Dual Status Youth?

Dual Status Youth are those children who have involvement in both the child welfare system and the juvenile delinquency system either simultaneously or at different points in their development.

These are children most in need of services and delinquent youth who are most at risk. Many have been branded as “troublemakers” rather than being served and provided with the help they need to succeed.

Regardless of the door they come through, every child who enters the juvenile system—whether as a delinquent or as a Child in Need of Services (CHINS)—must be screened at the initial assessment to determine whether they are a Dual Status Youth.

## Dual Status Youth:



Are at increased risk for mental health problems including PTSD and suicide attempts



Often demonstrate reduced intellectual functioning including lower reading ability



If exposed to traumatizing events, may externalize aggression or defiant behaviors

# What happens next?

Once the youth has been identified as Dual Status the Probation Officer or Family Case Manager will recommend to the Court whether to convene a Dual Status Assessment Team.



## What is a Dual Status Assessment Team (DSAT)?

This team will include, at a minimum:

- A representative from the Department of Child Services, a Juvenile Probation Officer, and a facilitator.

It may also include:

- The child, if the juvenile court deems the child is age appropriate
- The child's public defender or attorney
- The child's parent, guardian or custodian
- The child's parent's attorney
- A prosecuting attorney
- The attorney for the Department of Child Services
- A court appointed special advocate (CASA) or guardian ad litem (GAL)
- A representative from the Department of Correction
- A school representative
- An educator
- A therapist
- The child's foster parent
- A service provider appointed by the team or the juvenile court



## What does the DSAT do?

The DSAT will meet to consider the child's current status, best interests, need for services and level of needs, strengths, and risk of the child and provide a written recommendation to the court. The recommendation will include the following:

- Which case(s) will proceed and in what format (informal diversion/adjustment, or formal charges)
- Which services are determined to be most appropriate for the child and family
- Which agency (DCS or Probation) should be the lead agency in providing supervision for the child
- Any other recommendations relevant to the child's best interest



## What is the role of the child and/or parent, guardian or custodian?

- Appear for all required hearings, meetings and programming
- Provide insight to child and family relationships, strengths and needs
- Provide any requested documents or information with regard to the child and family (IEP, Psychological/Psychiatric evaluation, medical records, etc.)
- Make sure to understand what is expected; ask questions if unsure

## How do we get better outcomes?

A child is a sum of their experiences. Abuse, poverty, neglect, lack of quality education and families with substance abuse and mental health histories—all of these experiences lead to poor outcomes. By emphasizing a spirit of collaboration and teamwork, dual status legislation aims to open communication among child welfare and judicial professionals to better understand the youth and family struggles. Dual Status legislation is not about excusing bad behavior. It's about developing the most effective response tailored to each family.