

Level of Care - Case Scenarios

Probation Intervention Issue:

Marcus (now 16) was arrested at age 14 after he was caught showing a firearm to students on his school campus and stating that another student was “gonna get his”. He was declared a ward after he was adjudicated for possessing a firearm on school property and criminal threats. He sustained a probation violation for failure to attend a court-ordered community program, truancy, marijuana use, and fighting at school, and was then ordered placed in a group home facility to receive treatment which he did in June the previous year. He graduated from his current group home program on 8/25/17, and has moved in with his maternal aunt while his mother is transient and unable to provide a stable residence.

Information about Marcus:

Marcus began associating with a known criminal street gang when he was about 11, and reports he became a member of the gang when he was 13 years old. Marcus has an extensive history of suspensions and truancy from school, prior to his group home placement. Marcus was originally placed at a facility in state, but after several incidents, including two AWOLs, three positive drug tests for marijuana, and three fights with other youth, he was placed in an out-of-state facility. Since his placement in the out-of-state treatment facility, Marcus has not had any serious incidents. At his current group home he has been earning credits with a school credit recovery program, yet he is still one grade level behind in English. Marcus reports difficulty concentrating when there is a lot of noise and disruption around him and takes several hours on homework assignments. Marcus has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) meeting pending to identify ways to help him in school. Marcus completed anger management and gang intervention programs while at his current group home, and participated in individual and family therapy. Marcus’s aunt says he is usually withdrawn, but sometimes gets “jumpy”. Marcus has been diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder due to violence exposure while active in the criminal street gang. He has been prescribed Prozac (taken daily) to assist with his anxiety. Marcus attends therapy sessions weekly, with an additional family therapy session occurring monthly.

Permanent Plan:

Marcus’s mother is currently working towards obtaining an apartment where she and Marcus may live.

Relevant Probation Conditions:

- Do not associate with any known members of a criminal street gang.

- Random weekly drug testing.
- Monthly check-ins with his Probation Officer.
- Participate in therapy as directed by his therapist.

Marcus has additionally requested to be able to visit with his grandmother, who lives about one hour away, on a regular basis.

Probation Intervention Issue:

Simon (15) was arrested after he was found trespassing at the age of 14. He had 1 gram of methamphetamine on his person. He was originally granted probation under 725(a) WIC (formal, non-wardship probation), but was declared a ward after violating probation by running away from home and testing positive for methamphetamine. After several more probation violations for failing to participate in a court-ordered drug program, testing positive for methamphetamines, and running away, he was placed in a group home to receive treatment. Simon graduated from group home placement on 8/1/16 but his family has been unwilling to have him return home, instead he was sent to live with his paternal grandmother.

Information about Simon:

Simon is biologically male, but presents and identifies as female. Simon's family struggles with her gender orientation and refuses to call her by her chosen name of Reena, or refer to her with feminine pronouns. Reena's father has stated he won't allow her to reside in the home if she continues to identify as a female. While in therapy at the group home, Reena disclosed two prior suicide attempts which occurred a year prior. She has been identified as a victim of commercial sexual exploitation after disclosing incidents where she offered sexual acts in order to obtain shelter, drugs, and money on several occasions. She began using alcohol and marijuana at age 11, and progressed to using methamphetamine at the age of 14. Reena has a significant history of suspensions from school for drugs and fighting, and a history of truancy prior to her group home placement. While at the group home, Reena has been stable without concern for drug or alcohol use. She and her family began family therapy sessions, which continue on a bi-weekly basis, with individual therapy occurring weekly.

Permanent Plan:

Reena and her family will continue family therapy until such time as Reena and her family have established a plan on her returning to the family home.

Relevant Probation Conditions:

- Random weekly drug testing.
- Monthly check-ins with his Probation Officer.
- Participate in therapy as directed by her therapist.

Probation Intervention Issue:

Theodore (15) was arrested after his two younger sisters (6 and 9) disclosed several incidents of molestation, including genital touching and oral copulation over a two year span towards both siblings. Theodore has been declared a ward of the court and ordered to live with his maternal aunt and uncle, who have no other children in the home, as he may not reside with the victims.

Information about Theodore:

Theodore is an excellent student with a GPA of 3.5 and no known learning disabilities. He is described by his aunt and uncle as very respectful and extremely quiet. He is currently enrolled in a juvenile sex-offender program which he attends weekly, and includes group and individual therapy. Theodore recently disclosed molestation he experienced at the hands of a family friend when he was about the age of 6. Since his disclosure, Theodore has been more withdrawn.

Permanent Plan:

Theodore's parents and aunt have discussed the aunt becoming Theodore's legal guardian, but she has been hesitant to begin the process. Theodore and his parent continue to participate in family therapy in the hopes he may eventually come home one day.

Relevant Probation Conditions:

- No contact with any child under the age of 14 without supervision and Parental or Probation Officer permission
- Monthly check-ins with his Probation Officer.
- Participate in therapy as directed by his therapist.