

 <p><b>SUMMIT COUNTY JUVENILE COURT</b> JUDGE LINDA TUCCI TEODOSIO</p> <p><i>Turning lives around one child at a time.</i></p>	<p><b>Policy Number</b></p> <p>10.7</p>	<p><b>Page</b></p> <p>1 of 3</p>
<p><b>Chapter:</b> General Provisions</p> <p><b>Topic:</b> Human Trafficking - Identification, Assessment, and Response to Victims</p>	<p><b>Status</b></p> <p>New</p>	<p><b>Effective Date</b> 6/17/13</p> <p><b>Revised Date</b> 7/30/14</p>
<p><b>Approved:</b></p> 	<p>Standards:</p>	

**Policy**

Summit County Juvenile Court will identify potential human trafficking victims, refer for assessment, and respond with appropriate referrals to law enforcement, child welfare, and treatment providers as necessary. The Court will implement a diversion program to address delinquency charges of juvenile human trafficking victims.

**Procedures**

1. Juvenile Court has developed a Human Trafficking Committee comprised of representatives from all Court departments (CASA, Detention, Family Resource Center, Intake, Judicial Law, and Probation) to meet on a quarterly basis to address issues related to the prevention, assessment, and response to potential victims of human trafficking.
  - a. Representatives from these departments will be trained on identifying risk factors of human trafficking and the use of screening tools.
  - b. Representatives will work with the Human Trafficking Coordinator, who will be appointed by the Judge, to staff individual cases where human trafficking is suspected.
  - c. Representatives will discuss preventative measures that can be effective in responding to at-risk youth (i.e., Girls Circle, Smart Girls).
  
2. When a youth has been identified by a Committee Representative as a potential victim of human trafficking, a referral will be made to the Detention Mental Health Social Worker or Family Resource Center Social Worker.
  - a. The Representative will contact the designated Social Worker with the name of the juvenile identified as a victim. Juveniles in detention will be referred to the Detention Mental Health Social Worker. Juveniles who are not in detention will be referred to a Family Resource Center Social Worker.
  - b. The Social Worker will schedule a date and time with the juvenile to complete a full assessment utilizing the Tier II Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking Intake Tool.
  
3. Based on the assessment, the Social Worker will complete mandatory reporting obligations.
  - a. Reports will be made to the following as applicable:
    - i. Local law enforcement, including the FBI.
    - ii. Summit County Children Services

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- iii. Akron Children’s Hospital
    - iv. Human Trafficking Resource Center at Victim Assistance Program
    - v. Court Worker
    - vi. Juvenile Court Human Trafficking Coordinator
  - b. If a report is made to Summit County Children Services or local law enforcement, the juvenile will be identified as a victim of human trafficking in the Court’s electronic case management system
- 4. If a local law enforcement agency transports a juvenile to the detention facility with information identifying the juvenile as a potential victim, detention staff will notify the Detention Mental Health Social Worker.
  - a. The Detention Mental Health Social Worker will assess and respond to the emotional and psychological needs of any suspected human trafficking victim detained in the facility.
  - b. The Detention Mental Health Social Worker will notify the Human Trafficking Coordinator of the admitted juvenile and the date and time of the detention hearing for purposes of scheduling a staffing.
  - c. If the juvenile is determined to be a victim, but also has unresolved unrelated charge(s), outstanding warrant(s), etc. that would otherwise require the court to maintain custody of the juvenile, standard holding procedures will be followed.
  - d. If the juvenile is to be released from the detention facility under standard protocol, the juvenile will not be held on the basis of his/her status as a human trafficking victim.
- 5. Prior to the next hearing:
  - a. A brief staffing will be held for the purpose of ensuring that the juvenile is identified as a potential victim and that proper referrals will be made. The staffing will include the following parties:
    - i. Committee Representatives involved with the potential victim
    - ii. Representative from the Prosecutor’s Office
    - iii. Defense Counsel, if applicable
    - iv. GAL, if applicable
    - v. Human Trafficking Coordinator
    - vi. Other assigned Court personnel
  - b. The Juvenile Division Judge or Magistrate shall be advised of the juvenile’s status as a potential victim.
- 6. Law Enforcement Interview:
  - a. If a juvenile wishes to be interviewed by law enforcement, the juvenile’s attorney or guardian ad litem shall accompany the juvenile to such interview.
    - i. The Human Trafficking Coordinator will communicate with law enforcement and the juvenile’s attorney and guardian ad litem to schedule the interview.
    - ii. The Detention Mental Health Social Worker will be made available for support or intervention upon request.
    - iii. The interview will be held in a designated office in the court.

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7. Safe Harbor Diversion:

- a. If a juvenile is brought in on a solicitation, loitering to solicit, or prostitution charge, or if the court has reason to believe the juvenile is a victim of human trafficking and the charge is related to his/her victimization the juvenile qualifies for a Safe Harbor hearing.
  - i. Cases involving juvenile human trafficking victims will be transferred to the Judge's docket.
  - ii. The court will appoint a guardian ad litem for the juvenile. The juvenile's attorney cannot serve as the guardian ad litem.
  - iii. The court will hold a hearing prior to adjudication to determine whether to hold the complaint in abeyance pending the juvenile's completion of the diversion program, if the juvenile agrees to the hearing.
  - iv. If the court decides to hold the complaint in abeyance, the court may make any orders regarding placement, services, supervision, diversion actions, and conditions of abeyance, including, but not limited to, engagement in trauma-based behavioral health services or education activities, that the court considers appropriate and in the best interest of the juvenile.
  - v. The juvenile will be assigned a case manager from the Family Resource Center who will help develop a diversion plan, make referrals for services, maintain contact with the juvenile for the duration of the case, and report the juvenile's progress to the court.
  - vi. If the juvenile successfully completes the diversion program, the complaint will be dismissed and the court will order that the records pertaining to the case be immediately expunged.
  - vii. If the juvenile fails to complete the diversion program to the court's satisfaction, the court will proceed on the complaint.

8. Cases outside the Safe Harbor docket:

- a. If the court has reason to believe that a juvenile is a victim of human trafficking, regardless of his/her participation in Safe Harbor Diversion, case management and referrals for services will be offered to the juvenile.
- b. If a juvenile's status as a human trafficking victim comes to the attention of the Court post adjudication, the Court may utilize any applicable legal remedies to address the matter and/or provide case management and referrals for services to the juvenile.

Reviewed By:

  
 Compliance Officer

Date:

10-24-14