

# Crossover Court Guide

- **What is Crossover Court?**

*Crossover court is a court which hears Delinquency cases and Dependency and Neglect Cases involving the same juvenile or family. The Crossover Court hears cases in which a juvenile delinquency petition has been filed and Department of Human Services is involved with the family through a filed Dependency and Neglect case or a voluntary case with a child protection unit.*

- **Why was the crossover docket created?**

- I. *The crossover docket was created to avoid families needing to appear in two different courtrooms, once for the Delinquency case and then another time for the Dependency and Neglect case.*
- II. *The docket is designed so that one Magistrate hears all the issues involving the family and to insure that the rights services are available at the right time.*
- III. *The goal of the Crossover Court is to get everyone working together to achieve a successful outcome in all cases more timely*

- **Who will be involved in my Crossover case?**

**On the Delinquency case the following people may be involved in your case:**

- I. ***The District Attorney (DA)*** *represents the people of the State of Colorado and is involved in all criminal cases including Delinquency cases.*
- II. ***Defense Counsel:*** *If you apply and qualify, the public defender may be involved in your Delinquency case up until the case is resolved through a trial or plea disposition. It is the public defender's job to defend you on the criminal charges.*
- III. ***A Guardian Ad Litem (GAL)*** *may be appointed in your Delinquency case and must be appointed if a Dependency and Neglect case has been filed. The GAL is an attorney to investigate the case and make recommendations to the Court as to what the GAL believes is in the Juvenile's Best Interest. The GAL is an independent voice in the Courtroom who looks out for the child's best interest.*
- IV. ***If your child is released home, Senate Bill 94 (SB94)*** *may be ordered into place for pre-trial, or pre sentence services to ensure the safety of the community and that the juvenile makes their next court date. SB94 services may include any of the following services: Tracking, Drug and Alcohol testing, and Electronic Home Monitoring.*
- V. ***If your child is sentenced to Probation*** *then he/she will have a probation officer. It is the job of the probation officer to ensure that the Court orders are followed and to provide services to see that the juvenile is rehabilitated and does not participate in further delinquent activity.*

**On the Dependency and Neglect or Department of Human Services side the following people may be involved in your case:**

- I. **The County Attorney** represents the Larimer County Department of Human Services (LCDHS) in the case.
- II. **Whether or not a case is filed you will have a caseworker** from LCDHS. The caseworker works with the family to remedy the safety concerns in the home. This may include working with the family individually and in most cases also involves setting up services through other agencies to help the family and/or the juvenile.
- III. **Attorneys' for the parents.** If a Dependency and Neglect case is filed then the parents can apply for court appointed counsel. (Respondent Parent Counsel) The role of Respondent Parent Counsel is to advise and defend the parents in the Dependency and Neglect case.
- IV. **As set forth above, a GAL** is appointed in all Dependency and Neglect cases.

- **What will be expected of me?**

- I. **Working with professionals in your case** to develop a plan to complete your case. The treatment plan may include services for the parents and the children. These services are designed to reduce your son or daughter's participation in delinquent activity and/or to remedy safety concerns in the home. You know your family's needs better than anyone, so your input is essential.
- II. **Attendance at Court hearings**

- **What can I expect to happen?**

**Each Family and each case is unique but certain preliminary procedures will be followed in each case:**

- I. **All court cases** involving the family will be set in on a Monday afternoon.
- II. **If a Dependency and Neglect case** has already been filed in Courtroom 2A, Magistrate Pannell will transfer the case to Courtroom 4B.
- III. **In each Delinquency case the Court will order a Juvenile Assessment Screen (JAS).** The JAS is a strength and needs assessment designed to help us determine best services to meet the needs of the juvenile and family.
- IV. In certain cases where mental health issues appear significant, the court may also order a **mental health evaluation** be completed.
- V. **In most cases, a family meeting** will be set up prior to the first Monday court appearance. The meeting is the first opportunity to get services in place and start work on the treatment plan.

- **School District Involvement:**

*The Court routinely orders children attend school every day with no unexcused absents or disciplinary problems. The school district in which your child attends will be notified of this order. Your child's education is extremely important and the involvement of the school district in these crossover cases is essential.*