

Request for Psychological Evaluation of Youth

511.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To set forth the guidelines and procedures for requesting a psychological evaluation for juveniles. This policy applies to all probation officers.

511.2 AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

- 741 Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC).

511.3 POLICY

Requests for psychological evaluations may be submitted by a probation officer when a youth has exhibited extremely unusual, violent, bizarre, suicidal or deviant sexual behavior and/or history of trauma, and the evaluation will contribute to the appropriate disposition and/or placement of that youth. Psychological evaluations may also be ordered by the court.

511.4 PROCEDURE

(a) Authorization/Order

1. If the court has authorized or ordered a psychological evaluation, attach a copy of the court order to the referral.
2. A request for a psychological evaluation may be requested by a probation officer at any time. If approved, attach the signed order to the referral.

(b) Referral for Psychological Evaluation

1. After receiving approval from the supervisor, the assigned probation officer completes the referral form, located in the client management system, and submits the form to the division secretary. Include sufficient information so the reader will clearly understand why an evaluation is requested, ex. the specific behaviors being exhibited leading to the request. Each division shall process the referral directly with the approved local Psychologist.
2. The referral shall include the following:
 - i. A brief description of the current offense, current court status or disposition, or if the youth is under supervision in the community.
 - ii. In the second paragraph, describe the offense or behavior that prompts the request for the evaluation. Some placement facilities require a psychological evaluation for screening. If that is the reason for the request, a statement to that effect shall be made.
 - iii. List and describe any specific concerns the probation officer wants addressed in the third paragraph. This can include, but is not limited to, potential for violence, danger to the public, suitability for community-based treatment, placement outside of the home, and intellectual function and ability. If placement is indicated, the psychologist shall make an

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assessment as to services the youth needs and the likelihood that the youth may re-offend due to an emotional or mental problem.

- iv. Include a brief description of any significant behavior problems, the family social history, school information, and behavior in Juvenile Hall.
 - v. A current court report, if available.
3. Mental Health Evaluation
- i. If the youth is a ward of the court and placement has been ordered, the following statement will be made on the referral: "Authorized by Mental Health Testing Order of the Court filed 1/30/88."

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