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**TO: Assignment Judges
Trial Court Administrators**

FROM: Michael J. Blee, J.A.D. *myb*

**SUBJ: Family – Children in Court (CIC)/Juvenile – Court Review of
Youth Involved with the Division of Child Protection and
Permanency (DCPP) and Youth Justice Commission (YJC)
(Co-Occurring CIC and FJ/FF Matters)**

DATE: September 21, 2026

DIRECTIVE # 12-26

(Supersedes Directive #02-17)

Questions may be directed to the Family
Practice Division at (609) 815-2900, Ext. 55350

This superseding directive approved by the Judicial Council re-issues the procedures set forth in Directive #02-17 relating to co-occurring matters with the Division of Child Protection and Permanency (DCPP) (FC docket) and juvenile delinquency (FJ docket) or family crisis (FF docket) matters. The case processing procedures remain the same as promulgated under Directive #02-17, and this superseding directive now also provides that the permanency hearings are conducted by the CIC judge in the FC docket. This conforms to the current practice.

The courts, child welfare stakeholders and youth justice stakeholders must ensure a child's safety, permanency and well-being as required by federal law. As such, the courts must be vigilant in monitoring those young people who are involved in these co-occurring matters.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 30:4C-61.2(a)(2), when a child is in an out-of-home placement, the court must conduct a permanency hearing to review and approve DCPP's permanency plan for a child no later than twelve (12) months after the child is placed out of the home. Subsequent permanency hearings must be held at least every twelve (12) months thereafter until the child achieves permanency. If

the court determines that reasonable efforts to return the child home are not necessary, a permanency hearing must be held within 30 days of that determination pursuant to the federal Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA). See also N.J.S.A. 30:4C-61.2(a)(1).

DCPP Placement Prior to Youth Justice Commission (YJC) Placement (Active FC Docket)

- (1) When the court is advised of a DCPP youth's placement in a Youth Justice Commission (YJC) facility in a FJ case, the court shall issue an order in the FJ docket stating that: (a) DCPP was the legal guardian of the youth prior to placement in the YJC facility, and (b) 30 days prior to the youth's release from the YJC facility, the YJC shall advise both the court (referencing both the FC and the FJ docket numbers) and DCPP of the youth's impending release from that facility. When court staff receive a Notice of Change (NOC) from DCPP advising that it will close its case because a youth has been placed in a YJC facility, that NOC will not be processed and the FC case will remain open for court monitoring.
- (2) Summary hearings and permanency hearings shall be conducted under the FC docket. The CIC judge and juvenile judge should consult to make decisions in the best interest of the youth.
- (3) The FC case should be reviewed on a periodic basis. The court shall conduct a review every 60 to 90 days, unless the court, in its discretion, determines a different review interval to be appropriate.
- (4) If an FJ case is waived to the Criminal Part, resulting in the youth's incarceration, the FC case shall nonetheless remain open for ongoing court monitoring.
- (5) If court staff receive an NOC from DCPP advising that it is closing its case based on the youth reaching 21 years of age, that NOC may be accepted in the court's discretion and the FC case can be closed on the basis of the youth's age.
- (6) Immediately upon being notified of an impending date of release from a YJC facility, the CIC judge will schedule an emergent summary hearing to determine the youth's placement, which may include resuming placement with DCPP.

FJ/FF Placement With No Prior DCPD Involvement

- (1) When a youth is the subject of a juvenile delinquency complaint (FJ docket) or a family crisis petition (FF docket), with no prior DCPD involvement:
 - a. If the FJ or FF disposition results in a DCPD placement, a child placement case (FC docket) is established to monitor the youth's placement.
 - b. If the FJ or FF disposition results in placement in a YJC facility or other non-DCPD residential placement and the youth will be released to a DCPD placement, a child placement case (FC docket) is established upon release to monitor the youth's placement.
- (2) Summary hearings every 60 to 90 days and annual permanency hearings shall be conducted under the FC docket. The CIC judge and juvenile judge should consult to make decisions in the best interest of the youth.

The [CIC Operations Manual](#), section 1107, has been revised to incorporate the changes outlined in this directive.

cc: Chief Justice Stuart Rabner
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