

Screener Override of DRAI Recommendation

Purpose:

There may be times when the Screener has information that they believe makes the DRAI recommendation inappropriate. In these cases the Screener may “override” the tool, providing a clear rationale for their decision. Overrides should be used sparingly and *only* in cases when the information available to the screener is not covered as part of the DRAI tool.

The Screener may override the DRAI recommendation up (more restrictive placement) or down (less restrictive placement) and may recommend “Release”, “ASD Eligible”, or “Secure Detention.” Always choose the least restrictive appropriate placement recommendation, keeping in mind that ASD staff will screen “ASD Eligible” youth prior to placement. The specific reason for the override **MUST** be clearly stated.

Secure Detention/ASD Referral:

Overrides recommending detention (either secure or ASD) may be made when the screener has information not captured on the DRAI that indicates the youth is a “danger to community” or is very likely to “fail to appear” and the DRAI recommendation is “release.” Examples of appropriate overrides include:

- **Patterns of escalating behavior.** Within the last 30 days youth has three or more filed on offenses or was presented on person offenses twice in the last 30 days AND from the nature of the offenses the Screener believes the youth is presently a danger to the community.
- **Criminal history in another jurisdiction.** The Screener has credible information that the youth has significant criminal history in another jurisdiction AND from the timing and type of offense(s) the Screener believes the youth is presently a danger to the community.
- **Victim/witness fears for their safety.** The Screener receives credible information that the youth constitutes a threat if returned to their household/environment.
- **Incorrigible – failure to appear risk.** The youth has three ARY, CHINS, Truancy, or dependency warrants issued in the last 90 days and/or the parent/guardian indicates that the youth has been absent from the home for at least 72 hours without parental consent and/or the youth is beyond the control of his/her parent such that the youth’s behavior endangers his/her health, safety, or welfare or that of another person AND the Screener believes the youth is a significant risk for failure to appear at subsequent hearings. (**Note:** Specifics must be documented in the narrative and/or reason for override.)
- **Severity of Charge/Offense Unclear.** In the case where the law enforcement report does not specify a degree of severity (for example: Arrested on Investigation of Assault) and the Screener is unclear what the degree should be AND believes the youth may be a danger to the community based on the nature of the offense.

Release:

Overrides recommending release may be made when the youth is perceived as unlikely to fail to appear or re-offend prior to adjudication and the DRAI recommends “secure detention” or “ASD referral”. For example:

- **Presenting offense drives recommendation.** If the presenting offense is driving the DRAI recommendation and the Screener has credible information indicating sufficient family support/supervision for youth AND the Screener believes the youth unlikely to miss court hearings or re-offend prior to adjudication.