

Rule 61. Juvenile Re-Entry Court

(A) Establishment of the Juvenile Re-Entry Court Docket

The Juvenile Court Re-Entry Court was established in 2007. The goal of the Juvenile Re-Entry Court, which is voluntary, is to provide high risk youth who are released from the Department of Youth Services, with more intensive supervision for a successful transition into the community. The objective of the Juvenile Re-Entry Court program is to reduce recidivism and re-incarceration, provide an early release from parole and to prevent relapse into substance abuse and gang activity.

(B) Placement in the Juvenile Re-Entry Court Docket

The Juvenile Re-Entry Court target population is selected from youth who have been adjudicated delinquent of any felony offense and are committed to the Department of Youth Services. Additional criteria are specified upon release from the institution; the individual will reside in Cuyahoga County and be under the supervision of parole in the Cuyahoga County jurisdiction. Individuals with mental health, drug or alcohol issues are included in the target population provided they are competent to understand the criteria of the Juvenile Re-Entry Court because it is a voluntary program.

The targeted youth, while in the institution, are identified by Department of Youth Services staff and are engaged by trained case managers several months prior to their release from the institution. The parole officer and treatment team make the recommendation that the youth be considered for participation in the Juvenile Re-Entry Court. The Juvenile Re-Entry Court Jurist has final discretion whether to accept the individual into the program.

Official acceptance into the Juvenile Re-Entry Court occurs at the initial scheduled court review hearing within a month of release from the institution. The youth must voluntarily agree to participate in the Juvenile Re-Entry Court and the youth must sign an agreement to abide by the rules and conditions of both parole supervision and the Juvenile Re-Entry Court program.

(C) Case Assignment in Multi-Judge Courts

The Juvenile Re-Entry Court youth's parole case is transferred to the docket of the Juvenile Re-Entry Court jurist for the sole purpose of the Juvenile Re-Entry Court and the services provided. The case will remain the responsibility of the assigned jurist who will oversee any matters not related to the Juvenile Re-Entry Court.

(D) Juvenile Re-Entry Court Case Management

Each youth shall sign an agreement that states that he or she will comply with the rules of the Juvenile Re-Entry Court and that he or she has received a copy of the participant handbook. The handbook details the rights and responsibilities of the Juvenile Re-Entry Court youth, the benefits to participation in the Juvenile Re-Entry Court, the possible sanctions and incentives, and the requirements expected of the participant.

The Juvenile Re-Entry Court parole officer and treatment team will provide a range of supportive services including assessment, diagnosis, determination of appropriate

treatment intervention and level of care, intensive case management, urinalysis screens, follow-up and linkage with referring justice systems and to ancillary services such as educational support, vocational support, mentoring, transportation, respite, housing, electronic monitoring and other necessary interventions.

(E) Termination from the Juvenile Re-Entry Court Docket

A participant can be terminated from the Juvenile Re-Entry Court in one of three ways.

A successful termination occurs when the youth completes all directives and orders of the Juvenile Re-Entry Court program. Successful termination from the Juvenile Re-Entry Court is within the discretion of the Juvenile Re-Entry Court jurist, and typically will coincide with successful discharge from parole supervision.

An unsuccessful termination occurs when the youth is persistently noncompliant with the terms and conditions of the Juvenile Re-Entry Court program and parole, or a youth may be unsuccessfully discharged if convicted of a new serious criminal charge, or the youth is re-committed to the Department of Youth Services or adult jail. A youth who is unsuccessfully terminated from the Juvenile Re-Entry Court is continued under parole supervision, and is monitored by the assigned Juvenile Court jurist.

A neutral discharge can occur when a youth is no longer capable of engaging in the Juvenile Re-Entry Court due to mental health issues, hospitalization, relocation, or at the discretion of the treatment team, parole and the Re-Entry Court jurist. A youth who is neutrally discharged from the Juvenile Re-Entry Court is continued under parole supervision, and is monitored by the assigned juvenile court jurist.