



**STATE OF FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE**

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 18, 2009 PCI-09-001

TO: Chief Probation Officers
Regional Directors, Residential and Probation

FROM: Rex Uberman, Assistant Secretary Probation & Community Intervention
Darryl Olson, Assistant Secretary Residential Services

SUBJECT: Policy Clarification for Commitment Staffings & Comprehensive Evaluations

On January 27, 2009 we issued a memorandum requesting that probation and residential staff work together to focus our comprehensive evaluation policy on youth who were being recommended or considered for placement. Since that time many of you have reported very successful meetings with your stakeholders on this issue.

We want to clarify one part of the memorandum that may have been unclear. Under no circumstances is the 01-27-09 memorandum meant to allow staff to contravene an order of the court. We will at all times comply with FS 985.185(1). In situations where we conduct a commitment staffing a comprehensive evaluation should be done.

The key is for each Chief Juvenile Probation Officer to meet and discuss this process with local judges and stakeholders particularly if significant numbers of comprehensive evaluations are being conducted for youth who are not being considered for placement. The judicial branch is well aware of the budget reductions the state is experiencing. Having their input in the responsible management of our budget for comprehensive evaluations can be an important step in living within our resources. We need to accomplish our goal of purchasing comprehensive evaluations only when placement is contemplated while preventing unintended delays in the judicial process. Maybe we can be more successful by inviting the judiciary to become part of the solution.

Please advise if you have any questions or need more information. Keep us updated on how implementation is going in your Region or Circuit.

RU/DO/ja

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Charlie Crist, Governor

Frank Peterman, Jr., Secretary

The mission of the Department of Juvenile Justice is to increase public safety by reducing juvenile delinquency through effective prevention, intervention, and treatment services that strengthen families and turn around the lives of troubled youth.