

JUVENILE DEPENDENCY PROCEEDINGS

This section, Juvenile Dependency Proceedings, covers the reporting do's and don'ts that should be followed when completing the juvenile dependency portion of the monthly Juvenile SRS form. For ease of following the SRS form, this section is divided into the major sections indicated on the form. The juvenile SRS reporting form is located in the section entitled, SRS Forms. Each **U** and **Y** indicates guidelines and directions that should be followed when completing the specific section of the SRS form.

Note: The section entitled, Category Definitions, provides casetype and category definitions.

Number of Petitions Filed

Please refer to the section of the SRS form that reports information associated with the number of dependency petitions filed during the specified reporting period.

- U** Report the number of **dependency petitions** filed during the reporting period pursuant to Section 39.404, Florida Statutes.
- U** Report petitions for children in need of services as provided under Section 39.436, Florida Statutes.
- U** Report petitions to remove the disabilities of non-age minors as provided under Section 743.015, Florida Statutes.
- U** Report **one filing** when multiple juveniles are named on one petition. The number of **petitions** filed should be reported, not the number of juveniles.
- U** Report petitions for dependency transferred to the reporting court from another court or jurisdiction. Report the number of **petitions** not the number of juveniles named on the petition.
- U** Report petitions for dependency transferred to the reporting court from another court or jurisdiction for supervision purposes.

The following items identify common reporting mistakes. Please check these items to ensure that the SRS report **does not** include these same reporting errors.

- Y** **DO NOT** report the number of children listed on a dependency petition. Report only the number of dependency petitions filed during the specified reporting period.

DEPENDENCY

- Y **DO NOT** include petitions filed related to the status of a child voluntarily placed with a licensed child placing agency, i.e., Florida Sheriffs' Boys Ranch, pursuant to Subsection 39.453 (3)(f), Florida Statutes. (See Number of Judicial Review Hearings, page 7-4.)
- Y **DO NOT** include juveniles with cases previously reported as disposed that are resubmitted to the court. (See Number of Reopened Cases, page 7-3.)

Number of Petitions Disposed

Please refer to the section of the SRS form that reports information associated with the number of dependency petitions disposed during the specified reporting period. For reporting purposes, petitions are to be reported as disposed after the final judicial decision which terminates a juvenile dependency proceeding by either an adjudication or dismissal.

Contested

The following guidelines refer to dispositions that occur after a evidentiary hearing is held.

- U Report the number of dependency petitions disposed of where **an evidentiary hearing is held**.
- U Report only one disposition when multiple juveniles are named on one petition.
- U Report juveniles whose petitions are consolidated.

The following item is a common reporting mistake. Please check this item to ensure that the SRS report does not include the same reporting error.

- Y **DO NOT** include the dispositions of reopened cases. (See Number of Reopened Cases, page 7-3.)

DEPENDENCY

Uncontested

The following guidelines refer to dispositions that occur prior to an evidentiary hearing.

- U Report the number of dependency petitions disposed of where **an evidentiary hearing is not held**.
- U Report one disposition when multiple juveniles are named on one petition.
- U Report juveniles whose petitions are consolidated.

The following item is a common reporting mistake. Please check this item to ensure that the SRS report does not include the same reporting error.

- Y **DO NOT** report the dispositions of reopened cases. (See Number of Reopened Cases, page 7-3.)

Total Number of Petitions Disposed

Please refer to the section of the SRS form that reports information associated with the number of dependency petitions disposed during the specified reporting period.

- U Report the total number of contested and uncontested dependency petitions disposed in this section.

As a reminder, please verify that this section reflects the sum of contested and uncontested petitions disposed.

Number of Reopened Cases

Please refer to the section of the SRS form that reports information associated with the number of reopened cases during the specified reporting period.

- U Report the number of petitions reported as disposed that are reactivated or resubmitted to the court **where judicial action will be involved**.

DEPENDENCY

- U Report each motion or petition filed subsequent to the close of the case and goes before the court.

- U Some examples include but are not limited to petitions or motions for:
 - C termination of parental rights;
 - C extraordinary relief;
 - C rehearings;
 - C medical or psychiatric treatment;
 - C change of custody;
 - C order to show cause;
 - C transfer of jurisdiction;
 - C attorney's fees; and
 - C non-fulfillment of performance agreement.

- U If several motions or petitions are filed on the same day for the same case then report one reopening. However, if several motions are filed during the reporting period on different days then each motion or petition is reported as a reopened case.

Number of Judicial Review Hearings

Please refer to the section of the SRS form that reports information associated with the number of judicial review hearings held during the specified reporting period.

- U Report the number of hearings before a judge whose purpose is to determine the status of juveniles continuously in foster care or any status of a child pursuant to Section 39.453, Florida Statutes.

Number of Shelter Hearings

Please refer to the section of the SRS form that reports information associated with the number of shelter hearings held during the specified reporting period.

- U Report the number of juveniles for whom a hearing is held to determine whether the juvenile is to be detained, continued to be detained or released while proceedings are pending in the case pursuant to Section 39.402, Florida Statutes.