
Disposition Matrix

615.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines on the use of the Disposition Matrix tool to assist Youth Development and Community Support Services' (YDCSS) probation officers with matching youth to the optimal level of supervision and intervention services.

615.2 POLICY

The disposition matrix will be used by officers when submitting disposition recommendations for new offenses. It will be utilized at disposition to match youth to the programs and services needed for success while reducing disparities. The tool is designed to guide officers in determining the optimal intervention for each youth, while maximizing staff and resources.

Recommendations are based on the risk-needs-responsivity (RNR) Framework.

- Low-risk youth remain in the community with minimal supervision.
- Medium-risk youth are typically linked with more structured community-based programs coupled with probation supervision.
- High-risk youth receive the highest level of supervision after community-based interventions have been exhausted.

The overarching goal is to develop a continuum of care that provides the most successful, efficient, and cost-effective interventions in the least restrictive environment.

615.3 DETERMINING RECOMMENDATIONS

The disposition recommendation is based on the youth's assessed risk level (as determined by the San Diego Risk and Resiliency Checkup-II) and the most serious presenting offense or true finding.

Officers shall begin with the least restrictive option within the recommended range. If a previous intervention option has proven unsuccessful, the officer may select the next option within the recommended range. Youth who successfully complete a previous intervention or supervision level may receive the same or an enhanced version of the service. Instances may occur in which officers may deem it appropriate to submit a recommendation that is outside the recommended cell range (i.e., matrix deviation). In those cases, the officer will follow the procedures for approval.

615.4 SUBMITTING RECOMMENDATIONS

The matrix will be used when submitting disposition recommendations to the Court for new offenses. In instances where the youth has multiple true findings, the most serious count will be used to determine the optimal recommendation. In instances where the youth has multiple pending allegations (i.e., Fast Track Readiness cases) the officer will submit a recommendation for each offense classification.

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615.5 QUALITY ASSURANCE

The Business Intelligence Unit will track data related to youth outcomes (e.g., success versus recidivism), officer's adherence to the matrix and court adherence to recommendations. Collected data will be used periodically to determine if there is a need to make modifications to the matrix.

615.6 DEFINITIONS

Disposition Matrix is an evidence-based decision-making tool to assist officers with matching youth to the optimal level of supervision and interventions.

Optimal Recommendation is the least restrictive disposition within the recommended cell that has not previously been attempted with that youth.

Appropriate Recommendation is not considered the optimal recommendation, rather, it is any other intervention within the recommended cell range.

Matrix Deviations are instances where a recommendation other than the optimal or appropriate (either a more or less restrictive) recommendation is submitted to the Court.

Above Guidelines are instances where a recommendation is submitted that goes above the recommended cell guidelines.

Below Guidelines are instances where a recommendation is submitted that is below the recommended cell guidelines.

San Diego Risk and Resiliency Checkup II (SDRRC II)

615.7 REFERENCES

See the Matrix Procedure for further guidance.