

United States Virgin Islands
Department of Human Services and the Juvenile & Family Court

***Guiding Principles for Serving Clients and their Families in the
Juvenile Justice System and the Child Welfare System***

In order to improve outcomes and maximize the efficient use of resources for youth and their families requiring services and programs, the Virgin Islands Department of Human Services and the Virgin Islands Superior Court, Family Division, District of St. Croix agree to the following guiding principles:.

1. Protocols for serving clients and their families shall promote administrative and service delivery cooperation and coordination for the benefit of children and their families jointly served by the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.
2. Protocols for serving clients and their families shall be based on the understanding that, to the extent allowable under federal and territorial laws, regulations and policies, the organizations will share pertinent and relevant information with regard to these clients.
3. Protocols for serving clients shall specifically delineate the roles and responsibilities of all parties participating in the assessment, case planning, disposition and case management for the client and family.
4. Protocols for serving clients shall establish details of how the Superior Court, Family Division, District of St. Croix and the Department of Human Services integrate services for children and youth who have entered the juvenile justice systems with a history of involvement in the child welfare system.
5. Protocols for serving clients shall be collaboratively developed by the staff from the Superior Court, Family Division, District of St. Croix, Department of Human Services, and representatives from appropriate and relevant public and private youth serving agencies and organizations.
6. Prior to their implementation, protocols for serving clients shall be reviewed and approved by the Chief Judge of the Superior Court, Family Division, District of St. Croix (or designee) and the Department of Human Services Commissioner (or designee).

By: _____

Chris E. Finch, Commissioner

By: _____

Judge Patricia Steele, Chief Judge

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Superior Court, Family Division
District of St. Croix

Date: _____

Date: _____