



The Delinquency Disposition Report is designed to provide courts with comprehensive case information in a standardized format prior to a disposition hearing. This guide offers a clear, step-by-step framework along with key insights to support judges in reviewing the report and making informed decisions.

## 1. Review the Full Disposition Report

Take note of the youth's risk level and other relevant factors in relation to the recommendations provided. Thoroughly review "Section 4: Present Situation" and consider existing protective factors.

## 2. Interpret JCP Risk Level and Corresponding Best Practice (Section 3)

Use the chart provided below to gauge what response is appropriate:

Risk Level	Meaning	Best Practice
<b>Low (0-5)</b>	unlikely to reoffend even if courts/juvenile departments do nothing	do as little as possible – divert/handle informally
<b>Moderate (6-13)</b>	some likelihood of serious reoffending if courts/juvenile departments do nothing	risk factors should be matched to proper services; some monitoring
<b>High (14-39)</b>	likely to reoffend seriously if courts/juvenile departments do nothing	*high intensity services & management

*\*does not mean youth must be confined to protect public safety – depends on whether well-matched resources exist in community. Research indicates 50% of high risk cases can be effectively managed in the community.*

## 3. Interpret Disposition Recommendations (Section 6)

Determine whether the disposition recommendations:

- Match the intensity of the intervention with youth's level of risk for re-offending.
  - Target only dynamic or changeable risk factors.
  - Match the type and strategy for services/interventions with individual youth.
- If they do not, consider whether an override is appropriate. Otherwise, consider appropriate disposition options.



## 4. Disposition Hearing

- Confirm risk assessment was completed recently.
- Confirm all parties have reviewed the report and hear their positions on the recommendations.
- Considering all information provided, make final judgment on the record.

## 5. Judgment of Disposition with Written findings

- Complete the model Judgment of Jurisdiction and Disposition to reflect final disposition decision.
- Incorporate information from the report to make best interest findings, if required.
- Attach the model Probation Conditions form for youth on probation. Ensure appropriate duration is specified on the Judgment.

### **General Tips for Disposition:**

- Match service intensity and monitoring to each youth's risk level and criminogenic needs.
- Tailor dispositions to the specific risk areas identified in the JCP assessment.
- Avoid excessive system intervention, which can increase recidivism and deepen system involvement.
- Reserve formal probation for youth who pose a significant risk to public safety.
- Prioritize diversion and dismissal for low-risk youth whenever possible.
- High-risk status alone does not mean a youth cannot be safely managed in the community.
- Instead of removing youth due to service gaps, focus on expanding community-based resources to meet their needs.

### **These Common Missteps Deviate from Best Practice Standards:**

- Basing decisions primarily on juvenile records.
- Not completing risk/needs assessment before disposition.
- Focusing on mental health treatment while neglecting actual risk factors.
- Over-supervising and servicing low-risk youth.



## Definitions to Strengthen Understanding of Disposition Report

**Risk Assessments:** standardized process used to evaluate both risk and protective factors in order to estimate an individual's likelihood of reoffending. Use of standardized assessments supports informed decision-making by identifying the most appropriate and least restrictive interventions.

**The Juvenile Crime Prevention (JCP):** Oregon's standardized risk assessment instrument, used by all juvenile departments and federally recognized tribes across the state. It involves an interview process where a youth's responses generate a score ranging from 0 to 39. This score reflects risk and protective factors across six key domains:

1. School
2. Peers
3. Behavior
4. Family
5. Substance Use
6. Attitudes, Values & Beliefs

Use of the JCP varies by county, depending on local procedures. It is recommended that risk assessments be conducted as early as possible, with updated scores used to inform disposition recommendations. When judicial officers have access to current risk assessment information, they can make informed and confident disposition decisions.

*\*The JCP is not designed to measure risk of recidivism in sex offense cases.*

**Static Risk Factors:** aspects of a youth's history or experience associated with risk for reoffending or violence that do not change (i.e. juvenile record, incarcerated parent).

*Note: Overreliance on static risk factors can lead to racial inequity.*

**Dynamic Risk Factors:** factors associated with risk for reoffending or violence that are potentially changeable as a result of treatment or maturity. (i.e. drug use, negative peer influence).

**Protective Factors:** positive factors in youth's life that help buffer risk factors (i.e. problem-solving skills, positive peer influence, involvement in school activities)

**Override:** if the JCC believes a youth is at greater or lesser risk than the risk score indicates, they can recommend an override. This should be a small percentage of cases.