

**UTAH DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

Policy: 01-14

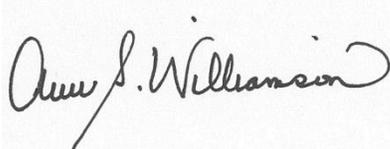
Effective Date: November 1, 2016

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DHS CUSTODY MINOR

RATIONALE: The Department of Human Services (DHS) is motivated by the best outcomes for children and families receiving services throughout the Department. In order to best meet the needs of minors in our custody we believe a collaborative team approach is critical with all participants in the team having clear roles and responsibilities based on their strengths and ability to provide supports.

1. The Department of Human Services is committed to providing Utahns assistance to live safe, healthy and successful lives, by providing children, youth, families and adults care, services, and treatment to thrive in their homes, schools, and communities.
2. When necessary, based on the needs, risks, and actions leading to DHS and Juvenile Court involvement, the Juvenile Court has the statutory authority, [U.C. 78A-6-117\(2\)\(c\)](#) , to vest legal custody of minors to:
 - A. Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS),
 - B. Juvenile Justice Services (JJS),
 - C. Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health (DSAMH), or
 - D. Department of Human Service (DHS)
3. Minors have historically been ordered into the custody of the DHS for the purpose of cost-sharing among the Divisions when the needs of a minor exceeded a Division/Office/Institutions mission and scope.
4. DHS is able to facilitate necessary cost-sharing to fund services for minors without requiring custody to be with DHS. The Department has the ability to transfer funds between Divisions when the minor is in the physical and/or legal custody of the Division of Child and Family Services or the Division of Juvenile Justice Services.
5. Placement into the custody of DHS should not increase the likelihood of a minor's acceptance into the Utah State Hospital. Utah State Hospital admission criteria is based on clinical need, statute, The Joint Commission, and Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) requirements.
6. Minors are better served when a custodial entity of DHS with the organizational capacity, direct service infrastructure and experience, specifically DCFS or DJJS, is identified and an interagency team is built around the child and family to meet additional needs.
7. If a family is in greater need of services and supports outside of the interagency team and the custodial division's ability to provide, assigned staff to that case may refer the case to the Department's High Level Staffing Committee as the mechanism to request cost-sharing and/or additional services and supports.



Ann Silverberg Williamson, Executive Director
Department of Human Services

DATE: November 2, 2016