

Evaluations for Juvenile Court

Staff and consultants of the Juvenile Section of the Medical Services Division perform the following evaluations at Courthouse East/Suite 100. These court ordered evaluations for Children In Need of Assistance (CINA) and Delinquency are among the regular duties of the Medical Services Division / Juvenile Section.

For all these evaluations, it is requested that the judiciary indicate the specific questions to which the Court is seeking an answer. This allows a more specific, tailored report to be prepared by the clinician.

- 1) CINA Pre-adjudication Evaluation:**
This evaluation addresses whether the parent has a psychiatric disorder or severe dysfunction, as alleged in the CINA petition that compromises the parent's ability to provide the child with adequate protection, supervision, and nurturance.
- 2) CINA Pre-disposition Evaluation:**
This evaluation focuses on what treatment is necessary to address the child's or parent's mental illness, substance abuse, and/or psychological disorder, with the objective of minimizing risk to the child.
- 3) CINA Post-disposition Evaluation:**
This evaluation provides the Court with information on what additional services or treatment may be indicated.
- 4) CINA Child in Placement Review:**
This evaluation typically addresses whether there should be modifications of the current treatment plan for children who are in placements outside of the home. It also addresses the parent-child relationship and the parent's progress toward achieving Court ordered treatment goals.
- 5) CINA Guardianship/Termination of Parental Rights Review:**
The evaluation typically addresses whether a parent will ever be able to safely and appropriately resume custody of the child, or if the parent's rights should be terminated. The child's developmental level and needs are considered, as well as the parent's response to treatment.
- 6) Delinquency: Pre-adjudication Evaluation**
This evaluation addresses a child's competency to participate in Juvenile court proceedings. Evaluation of responsibility may be requested.
- 7) Delinquency: Waiver/Transfer of Jurisdiction Evaluation:** This evaluation will address waiver to Adult Court.

Referral process: Please send the court order, requesting court medical evaluation, a referral form, and any previous clinical evaluations to the Medical Services Division by interdepartmental mail. **These may also be hand delivered to the Medical Services office. Please do not fax these referrals.** Referrals must specifically state “Clinical Evaluation” and must include the specific legal question or concern that the Court is requesting the clinical evaluation to address. In the past these referrals from the Juvenile Court requested a “psychiatric” or “psychological” evaluation but were actually meant to capture a “Clinical Evaluation” of the juvenile or parent. The Director requests the Juvenile Court order a Clinical Evaluation and not a “psychiatric” or “psychological” evaluation and indicate specific questions that the court wishes addressed by the clinical evaluation. Questions concerning Juvenile Court referrals should be referred to Ms. Mary Yox, LCSW-C, Coordinator of Medical Services for Juvenile Court at 410-396-5070.