

Careline Protocol for Child Arrested by Police

Revised November 1, 2017

In the event that a child is arrested by a police officer and the person responsible for the child's health, welfare or care cannot be located, is unavailable or unwilling to take custody of the child, the officer determines that releasing the child to the child's own custody is not appropriate AND, the officer determines that the grounds for an Order to Detain, as set forth in CGS §46b-133(c) as amended by PA 16-147(1)(c), do not apply OR a Judge of the Superior Court declined to issue an Order to Detain the child in a juvenile detention center, the following protocol will apply:

1. A representative of the police department may call the DCF Careline (1-860-550-6550) after the police have made good faith efforts to locate a responsible caregiver.
2. In order to begin planning for the child, the DCF Careline will obtain information from the police department regarding the child's current charges, the situation that led to his or her arrest and the efforts the police made to release the child. The DCF Careline will also obtain resource information for the child, including, but not limited to, parent/guardian information and any other pertinent information.
3. DCF Careline will conduct an electronic record review and search, dispatch a primary investigator or on-call social worker to respond to the child's home/caretaker's residence and then to the police department or other location where the child is being held. The social worker will review the good faith efforts made by the police to locate a responsible adult and offer assistance as needed. Every effort will be made to assist the police within the six hour time limit for holding a child in secure custody at the police station.
4. If appropriate, the case will be assigned to an Area Office for investigation and referral to services. Examples of appropriate assignments for investigation and referral include: inability to locate parents or alternate caregiver, parents/caregivers are located but may not be able to immediately resume care of the child, or any circumstance/s that leaves the child with no one to immediately care for them.
5. If no responsible caregiver or other responsible adult is located by DCF Careline to care for the child, and after all other efforts have been exhausted, the Careline Manager will invoke a 96-hour hold.

If a 96-hour hold is invoked, Area Office investigations staff will be responsible for preparing the Order of Temporary Custody and neglect petition. Careline staff will be responsible for providing an affidavit to the Area Office and, if necessary, to appear in court.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Conn. Gen. Stat. § 46b-133