Young Serious Offender (YSO)

Youth Justice Coordinator's role in YSO

PRE CONVENING, (BEFORE THE CLOCK STARTS)

Responsibilities:

- Complete mandatory consultation with Enforcement Agency with every direction or referral to FGC and **obtain written documentation on YSO eligibility**
- Ensure the YJC must **receive a quality referral from the Enforcement Agency**
- Ensure all relevant Oranga Tamariki professionals are informed; prepare thoroughly with Supervisor and YJSW before Offending Profile consult
- Organise and arrange a **pre-FGC consult** (with TL, YSO PL, and other professionals)
- Update case notes, attach the YSO eligibility form received from the enforcement agency and indicate YSO criteria in **CYRAS**

Remember!

- Be confident and respectfully discuss with Police if there are gaps or missing information

CONVENING, ASSESSING & INTERIM PLANNING

Responsibilities:

- Clearly explain YSO implications to whānau
- Ensure a **whānau hui** is held within 7 days to support their preparation and response
- **Lead the convening process** (s255) by collecting relevant information (Health, AoD, Parenting, Education)
- Identify and address any care and protection concerns that arise during convening
- Understand who forms part of a **Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)** where needed
- Ensure YJSW shares their assessment with you before the FGC to avoid surprises & enable informed discussion
- Ensure the **Youth Justice Social Worker is formally invited** as an entitled conference member (s320H(2))
- Consider delaying the FGC if YSO possibility is highlighted at late notice
- Consider using statutory timeframes to your advantage to reach the best outcome

Remember!

- Contribute your own assessment as YJC to build a deeper, shared understanding of the young person and their whānau
- Keep accurate records of your convening

HOLDING OF FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE (FGC)

Responsibilities:

- Ensure Police inform about the YSO eligibility if the charges are proven in court
- Guide the FGC to consider how the court might respond if a YSO declaration is made, including possible orders and implications
- Support the FGC to discuss and, where possible, agree on matters such as:
  - Support plans for the young person and whānau
  - Restorative justice actions
  - Bail and custody
  - Alternative ways of addressing offending (in/out of court)
  - Accountability measures
  - Types, lengths, and conditions of any orders
- Record clear and concise decisions and intended plans from the FGC

Remember!

- The FGC doesn't determine YSO eligibility, but can explore potential plans if YSO isn't an option
- Manage YSO conversations carefully with all participants; **discuss only current offending relevant to this FGC**
- The FGC does not need to agree on every issue—it can "agree to disagree"—but **only agreements can be recorded**
- Do not record individual dissenting views to comply with s37 & s38 restrictions
- Ensure records are accurate, concise, and reflect only what was agreed
- Be confident to adjourn the FGC if further legal or practice advice is required

YOUTH COURT

Responsibilities (with Youth Justice Social Worker & Court Officer):

- Be available to speak to the FGC plan if your local court expects your presence
- **Keep Court Officer informed of plans**, especially if Police are applying for YSO declaration
- Prepare clear, funded, **evidence-based plans** (may require 2+ plans)
- Complete **FGC review screens** (if applicable)

MONITORING, SUPPORT & TRANSITION

Responsibilities:

- If a YSO declaration is not made and FGC plan is accepted, then continue with your BAU review process
- Ensure the **victims are kept informed** of the progress of the FGC plan

Flip this to young person's perspective

- convening
- holding of FGC