

# DSY FAQ

1. The person listed as the case manager never worked as a county worker in our county. Why are they listed in the FRAME file?  
**Answer:** *Older cases in FRAME had the option of adding the partnership worker as case manager. If you notice this in a case we send you, please let us know so we can work with IT to remove that case from our data pull.*
2. The person listed as the case worker no longer works for the county agency. Why are they listed in the data pull?  
**Answer:** *The data pull from FRAME references the case worker who last worked with the youth. If it is an Identified youth with an older history in child welfare, the case worker may no longer work for the county. In this instance please work with the county to discuss history of the youth*
3. I was sent a case cited in my district, but they do not reside here. They are listed in CMS as residing in a different county.  
**Answer:** *The case was likely cited in your district even though they reside in a different district. We suggest you contact the last JCO who worked with the case to discuss how to move forward and what makes most sense as to which district proceeds with the case call.*
4. I received DSY notification on a case that was never cited in my area and does not reside here. How should I proceed?  
**Answer:** *The youth may have been last involved on the social services side in a different county. The youth may have moved from one county to the one he was cited in. The data is pulled first from the child welfare side and since that data goes back to 2009, it is likely the youth is no longer residing in your county. Contact the JCO for the county of his/her residence as listed in CMS.*
5. Will the MDT post meeting report survey replace the FCE meeting survey that Village Family Services has each parent/guardian complete?  
**Answer:** *No. The MDT meeting survey will not replace the FCE meeting survey. It may seem redundant to have the family complete two surveys, but it is important information to have during the initial 6-month evaluation phase.*
6. I received approval to terminate a CPS assessment just prior to the child's court involvement, do we still have to hold an MDT or FCE meeting?  
**Answer:** *Any time the child/family was involved with CPS and JC simultaneously –even if a prior assessment was terminated, an MDT/FCE meeting should be held. It may bring up additional information that may be useful in helping that child/family.*

7. What do I put in the Initial Contact field of the test screen?  
**Answer:** *The date of initial contact would be the first time Courts and CPS connected regarding the case.*
8. What should I put in the Was Information Shared field of the test screen?  
**Answer:** *This is asking whether information was shared between parties to discuss whether or not to hold an MDT and any other information sharing between Courts and CPS.*
9. What does Was Information Useful in Making a Decision mean in the test screen?  
**Answer:** *Was shared information between Courts and CPS useful in making a decision to hold an MDT, how to move forward if it is an identified youth, or helpful in addressing the case.*
10. When do we use the test screen?  
**Answer:** *The test screen is to be used for both identified and involved youth even if they have not had an MDT. It is important to capture data from both groups during the evaluation period.*
11. If a child is under the custody of social services, in placement, and they get a new Juvenile Court referral/citation, do we still hold an MDT?  
**Answer:** *If it may be of any benefit to the youth, yes. An MDT should be held if the court is having a hearing on the changes or if any party thinks it would be helpful.*
12. Can an initial Child and Family Team meeting be used in place of an MDT if held within proper timelines (7-12 days) similar to that of an FCE?  
**Answer:** *Possibly. When a formal FCE is not available or the MDT is considered duplication, a Child and Family Team (CFT) meeting could be used so long as all stakeholders are engaged and present. We caution against simply replacing the MDT meeting with CFTM in certain instances as the family may not want all the players in both meetings.*
13. In one place I read MDT applies to Foster Care, but to the contrary in the power point.  
**Answer:** *An FCE cannot be used for kids currently in foster care so areas with FCE would use MDT for kids already in foster care that become dually involved. The FCE model is diversion, so if a foster youth is charged on your caseload, an FCE is not an option. However, an MDT would circle up to address the new concern.*
14. What happens when both myself (JCO) and the child welfare rep are both out of town and therefore unable to conduct an MDT within the timeframe?  
**Answer:** *Ensure a backup/co-worker is available to cover this responsibility.*

15. Some families will refuse an MDT if both social services and juvenile justice have to be present. How do we proceed?

**Answer:** *If holding an MDT without one party is the only way to hold it, do so. It is still better than not holding one at all.*

16. The state's attorneys cannot see the dual status flag in Odyssey. Their view is restricted. How will they know their client is dual status?

**Answer:** *It is the responsibility of the JCOs to brief the attorneys as much as possible prior to any hearing. Communication is key!*

17. At times there is a data entry lag (FRAME can be behind as much as 60 days) on the social services end so that when the child is identified as involved, the case has already been closed. Is an MDT needed in those instances?

**Answer:** *It is important to realize that the youth WAS involved in both systems at one time and an MDT would likely still be beneficial.*

18. Do I still have to hold an MDT on an involved youth if the case was diverted on the court side before I received the notification?

**Answer:** *Connect with Social Services. An MDT may not be necessary.*

19. Do we uncheck the "Active" box for a child marked Dual Status Youth in the Officer Safety screen if they really are not "involved?"

**Answer:** *No. Leave the checking/unchecking up to Jennifer/Heather. Typically a child will remain marked as involved even after the case closed.*

20. We really would find FCEs beneficial in this area. How do we go about getting this service?

**Answer:** *We are working with Human Services to see if/when we can get FCEs implemented across the state.*

21. So we held an MDT. Now what?

**Answer:** *Make sure you have a solid plan in place. It is good practice to follow up with the family.*

22. I contacted the family and they refused to meet. Now what?

**Answer:** *You can certainly hold an MDT meeting without the family and send them a recommended plan of action afterward.*

23. What happens if a child is found unruly/delinquent on the court side and delinquent on the social services side with no open case for abuse/neglect?

**Answer:** *No. A youth must have both an "open" abuse/neglect case and delinquent/unruly case in order to qualify as dual status. Contact Jennifer at [jskjod@ndcourts.gov](mailto:jskjod@ndcourts.gov) about those instances and she will remove them from the database.*

24. At times I will contact my social services rep and he/she will be reluctant to share any information about the youth –citing privacy issues. How do I get the information I need to make a decision?

**Answer:** *Juvenile Court and Child Welfare share a Memorandum of Understanding that allows for free exchange of information in dual status cases. Please contact Jennifer with any questions regarding this or if it continues to be an issue.*

25. What happens if the victim is in the courtroom when the dual status information is shared with the judge? Should they stay or leave?

**Answer:** *In the interest of privacy, the victim would step outside the courtroom for that line of questioning and would be welcome to come back in after.*

26. We have FCEs in our area. When or why would we even need to hold an MDT?

**Answer:** *FCEs currently are limited to 1) cases prior to placement, and 2) can only be held once. There are times another meeting may be beneficial after an FCE was held and also times when a child is in placement but could still benefit from another meeting. Those are instances when an MDT should be utilized.*

The **Dual Status Youth Initiative web page** is now live!

Please bookmark <https://www.ndcourts.gov/dual-status-youth-initiative>.