



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**  
1500 Jefferson Street, SE ● P.O. Box 40975 ● Olympia WA 98504-0975

DATE: December 10, 2024

To: Juvenile Court Administrators,

The purpose of this correspondence is to follow up on the conversations we held in 2022-2023 regarding an MOU between the juvenile courts and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF). DCYF would like to establish formal partnerships between child welfare and the juvenile courts to facilitate a collaborative response for youth who are experiencing challenges with their return home at their release from juvenile court.

The vehicle for partnership is the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (attached), with opportunities to negotiate roles and responsibilities. The goal and purpose of the MOU is to clearly define roles and responsibilities and to streamline partnership and collaboration between agencies, as well as to establish more consistency in the process statewide.

The benefit of engaging in the MOU is that it explains the expectations for DCYF to partner with juvenile courts around youth who are in the Department's care and custody. It also provides information and instructions on how to engage with DCYF when the child is not in the Department's DCYF care and custody; so that voluntary services can be offered to the family (Voluntary services may include paying concrete expenses or searching for relative who will support the family or assume care of the child.)

**To discuss questions or request a MOU with DCYF, please contact Jennifer Personius, Systems of Care Administrator.** She can be reached by phone at 425-691-0323 or via email at [jennifer.personius@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:jennifer.personius@dcyf.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Jennifer Personius  
Systems of Care Administrator