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Comment:

At what phase the court caseworker or intake worker would complete the risk and mental health screening tool for a consent calendar case? The proposed changes indicate that the court must consider these results before placing a case on the consent calendar. In our courts, often the juvenile caseworker has not met with the family prior to the inquiry hearing and the court relies on recommendations from the prosecutor on whether to place a case on consent calendar, and the majority of DL cases are placed on the consent calendar at the first hearing. Would the intake worker simply be reviewing the petition to complete these screening tools, or would the court have to order that the family meet with the intake worker or complete a questionnaire prior to the inquiry hearing? My hope is that any changes to these court rules will not cause us to have to delay resolving our less complex juvenile consent calendar cases.