



Practice Points

Court Ordered Investigations

The purpose of this Practice Point is to provide guidance to staff when ordered to complete investigations by the court. This may include completing investigations for child orders of protection or divorce proceedings.

Efforts should be made in advance to talk to the court about directing all court ordered investigation requests to the county juvenile officer or other competent person in accordance with [Section 452.390, RSMo](#). If a court ordered investigation is received staff should send the court order and a referral to Division of Legal Services (DLS) to determine if other arrangements can be made for completion of the investigation. If no such arrangements can be made by the court, CD must follow the court order.

[Section 3.11.1 Court Ordered Divorce Custody Studies](#) of the Child Welfare Manual has been updated to remove the requirements of Children's Division staff completing court ordered investigations.

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