

**STANDARDS GOVERNING THE USE OF  
JUVENILE COURT MASTERS**

**I. In making the determination of whether to appoint a master for Juvenile Court, the judge shall be guided by the following principles:**

- A. The Juvenile Court Judge shall assume the primary responsibility for handling and deciding matters relating to delinquent and dependent children.

*Masters should only supplement the essential work of the Juvenile Court Judges; they are not a substitute for Juvenile Court Judges.*

- B. Masters should not be used to reduce substantially the time which the Juvenile Court Judges devote to juvenile matters.
- C. If the Juvenile Court Judges within a county are unable to give sufficient time and attention to all juvenile matters coming before the Court, Masters should be appointed to assist the Judges.

**II. It is an acceptable use of Juvenile Court Masters to assign them to hold detention hearings for juveniles who are not active with any Juvenile Court Judge.**

**III. The use of Masters is acceptable with reservation in the following situations:**

- A. Detention hearings for juveniles whose cases are active with a Juvenile Court Judge;
- B. Shelter hearings;
- C. Adjudication and disposition hearings for delinquent children in which no commitment or placement is anticipated;
- D. Adjudication and disposition hearings for dependent children in which no removal or placement is anticipated; and
- E. Disposition review hearings for children in placement.

**IV. The use of Masters in Juvenile Court is *not* acceptable in the following situations:**

- A. Adjudication hearings for delinquent and dependent children in which commitment, placement or removal is anticipated;
- B. Disposition hearings for delinquent and dependent children in which commitment, placement or removal is anticipated;
- C. Hearings to consider release from placement; and
- D. Hearings on a request to transfer an offense to the Criminal Court.