

Safe Harbor Procedure

*ORC 2152.021 (F)

Refer



A referral of a youth is made to the court by **ANY** party, including the judge.

- Standard: “reason to believe” - LOW THRESHOLD.
- Purpose: to intervene, protect and provide services immediately.

Appoint GAL

The court will immediately appoint a guardian ad litem (GAL), **separate** from the child’s attorney.



- Court sets the next hearing.
- Informs all parties of child’s possible Safe Harbor status.
- GAL will begin an investigation.

Investigate



Child **IS** charged with loitering, solicitation, or prostitution: Child automatically qualifies for Safe Harbor Status (SHS) and the charge is directly related to SHS.

Child is charged with **ANY** offense that is **NOT** loitering, solicitation, or prostitution: Is there reason to believe the charges are related to the child’s victimization?

(See reverse)

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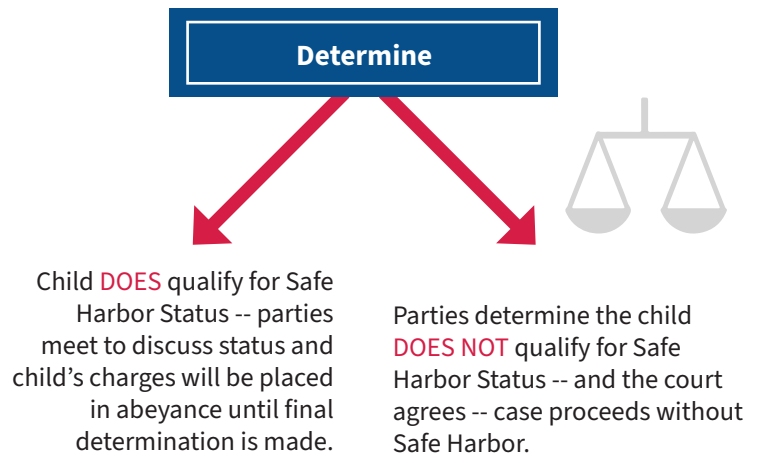
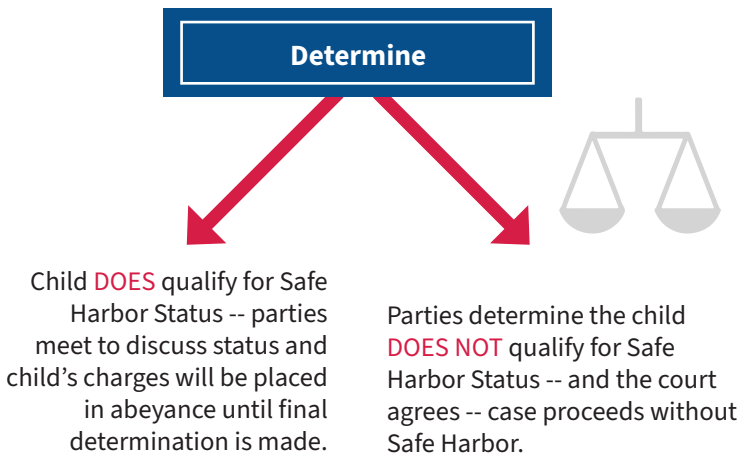
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After 90 days, the court can dismiss charges if the child completes diversion to the court's satisfaction or renew diversion for an additional 90 days (can be renewed twice).

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For resources and additional technical assistance, please contact the Ohio Governor's Human Trafficking Task Force at AHT@dps.ohio.gov

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