

It's important to know that youth run from or to something. Data shows most youth run to friends, family, or the streets. It is important to know WHO and HOW to contact their friends or family. It is also important to know the youth's hangouts or local programs designed to help street youth.

CA Staff must follow Children's Administration Policy 4550. The policy provides guidance for:

- Reporting and notifications
- Debriefing procedures
- Prevention and intervention efforts
- Documentation requirements

When A Youth Returns From A Run

Engaging a youth is essential when they return. It's Important for youth to feel welcome, supported and cared about. Their immediate needs should be met. Always talk to the youth about the run episode. The main focus is to determine if the youth is ok and to gather enough information to develop a plan to help the youth not want to run in the future. Remember to focus on a solution and be nurturing.

Some questions you can ask during debriefing:

- Are you ok?
- Do you need any support, services, medical attention?
- What do you need right now to feel safe?
- Who should I contact to let them know you are safe?
- Is there anything I can do to make it easier to stay?
- Was there anything that would have changed your mind?
- What did you hope would happen when you left?
- Did you have a plan on how to take care of yourself and did it work out? This can help lead to:
 - ➔ Where they ran to
 - ➔ What they did
 - ➔ Who they contacted
 - ➔ What happened to them while on the run
- What made you decide to return?
- What are your plans for the near future?
- What do you want to see happen in next 3 months?

It is important to use the information obtained in the debriefing to prevent a future run. Based on the information gathered you can help develop targeted interventions. For further details, see the "Run Prevention" Tip Sheet for staff. An example would be:

- If a youth runs to see biological family, look at current safety issues, and if possible place with family or increase family visits.