

JUVENILE DIVISION POLICY

Title: J-YMrP-13.004-2021 Restrictive Housing

Affected Agencies: DAJD, Juvenile Division

Keywords: General Youth Population, Restrictive Housing, Risk of Physical Harm

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King County

Date effective: 12/1/2021

I. Purpose

This policy provides that the Restrictive Housing of a youth is prohibited unless, based upon the youth's behavior, it is necessary to prevent imminent and significant physical harm to the youth or others, and there are no less restrictive alternatives. Restrictive Housing shall not be used for disciplinary purposes.

II. Applicability and Audience

King County Adult and Juvenile Detention, Juvenile Division

King County Adult and Juvenile Detention, Juvenile Division Contracted Partners

III. Definitions

Reintegration Plan – An individualized plan that includes the goals and objectives to be met in order to reintegrate the youth into the general population following a period of Restrictive Housing.

Restrictive Housing - The separation of a youth from the general youth population and placement of that youth in a locked room or cell, alone, with minimal or no contact with people other than detention staff or attorneys. Restrictive Housing does not include:

1. Placing a youth in an individual room or cell for a short period of time to address security, maintenance, or emergency issue (e.g., a flood, fire, riot) not based on the youth's behavior.
2. Placing a youth in an individual room or cell during ordinary sleeping or rest period (to include short breaks between programming), or when a youth chooses to remain in an individual room or cell to rest.
3. Placing a youth in the Health Clinic under Medical or Mental Health observation.
4. Quarantine, and removal from general youth population, of a youth for medical reasons to protect the health and safety of the facility and other youth.
5. Placing a youth in a single room or cell to maintain compliance with PREA during court breaks while at an adult facility or juvenile detention for the purpose of attending a trial or other court hearing.
6. Keeping youth detained under RCW Chapter 13.32A (the BECCA bill) or under a material witness warrant separated from youth detained on criminal charges.
7. The processing of youth through the booking, release, intake, or assessment process where they may be placed in a single cell or interview room while necessary paperwork, orientation, or assessment screening are completed.
8. A re-classification of a youth from one living hall to another living hall

Risk of Physical Harm - A youth poses a Risk of Physical Harm if the youth's behavior creates a risk of imminent and significant physical harm to the youth or others. Typical behaviors which may lead to a determination that a youth creates a Risk of Physical Harm include threats, assaultive, or physically aggressive behavior towards staff or others. A major destruction of property, facility disturbance, or escape attempt may create a Risk of Physical Harm if such behavior creates a risk of imminent and significant physical harm to the youth or others.

IV. Policy

- A. The placement of a youth into Restrictive Housing for punitive purposes is explicitly prohibited.
- B. The placement of a youth into Restrictive Housing is prohibited unless the youth poses a Risk of Physical Harm and there are no less restrictive alternatives available. While in Restrictive Housing, a youth will still be eligible for medical and mental health services, as well as programming that meets their specific needs, complies with legal requirements, and ensures safety and security.
- C. All youth held in Restrictive Housing must be afforded access to the following:
 - 1. Clothing
 - 2. A mattress and bedding;
 - 3. Medication under staff supervision;
 - 4. A toilet and sink at least hourly;
 - 5. A bath or shower at least daily;
 - 6. Necessary mental health services; and
 - 7. Reading material, paper, writing material, envelopes, and treatment material; unless the health clinic medical and mental health professionals in collaboration with detention supervisors has concerns of self-harm or the items would hinder staff efforts to resolve the problems that caused Restrictive Housing.
- D. The following information must be documented any time a youth is placed into Restrictive Housing and following every 4 hour assessment (as described below):
 - 1. The reason for the placement into, or ongoing use of, Restrictive Housing,
 - 2. The supervisory authorization provided every four hours,
 - 3. The date and time the youth was placed into, and released from, Restrictive Housing.
- E. Graduated behavioral interventions are to be used to prevent events of Restrictive Housing. Graduated behavioral interventions may include, but are not limited to, verbal de-escalation techniques, encouragement to follow a behavioral support plan, and advising youth on incentives and rewards.

- F. A youth must be removed from Restrictive Housing when one of the requirements is met:
1. The purpose of the confinement is met;
 2. The desired behavior is evident; or
 3. The youth has been evaluated by health clinic medical and mental health professionals in collaboration with detention supervisors who has determined the youth is no longer an imminent risk to self, staff, or the general population. If agreement is not achieved to remove youth from Restrictive Housing, Chief of Operations will be consulted to determine continued need for Restrictive Housing (Officer of the Day (OD) will be consulted after business hours).
- G. Whenever a youth is placed in Restrictive Housing, staff must provide the youth with the goals and objectives the youth must achieve in order to be released from restrictive housing.
- H. A safety and security check shall be performed on every youth housed in Restrictive Housing every fifteen minutes. During each check, staff shall attend to the needs of the youth and attempt to communicate with an awake youth to evaluate and encourage the youth on the goals and objectives the youth must achieve in order to be released from Restrictive Housing.
- I. If a youth has not already been reintegrated into the general population after 2-hours in Restrictive Housing, a Supervisor and JDO shall meet with the youth in order to determine whether the youth continues to pose a significant Risk of imminent Physical Harm. The Supervisor shall document the basis for continued placement in Restrictive Housing.
- J. In the following two (2) hours after the initial placement into Restrictive Housing, the Supervisor and JDO must again review whether the youth poses a Risk of Physical Harm. Such assessment must subsequently be performed every four (4) hours except during ordinary sleeping periods (between 2000 and 0800 hours). If a youth continues to be held in Restrictive Housing, each assessment shall include documentation of the reasons for such decision.
- K. If a youth remains in Restrictive Housing exceeding four (4) total hours, including all instances of room confinement occurring within a twenty-four (24) hour period, staff must establish a Reintegration Plan and share it with the youth.
- L. Where needed, a Medical Professional (doctor, nurse, or nurse practitioner) must assess or evaluate any youth in restrictive housing as soon as possible. A Medical Professional must assess or evaluate any youth prior to six (6) hours in Restrictive Housing, or immediately prior to an ordinary sleep period. If a youth is kept in Restrictive Housing for longer than twenty-four (24) hours (including rest periods), a Medical Professional shall assess the well-being of the youth at least once a day for as long as the youth remains in Restrictive Housing.

- M. A qualified Mental Health Professional (MHP) must evaluate and develop a care plan to prevent self harm as soon as possible after a youth is placed on Restrictive Housing, but no longer than four (4) hours after placement. The MHP must assess whether continued use of Restrictive Housing is detrimental to the youth's mental health. If no MHP is on duty at that time, the assessment must be completed by a detention psychiatric nurse or a nurse in consultation with an MHP. If deemed appropriate, the MHP or nursing staff member may direct that the youth be transferred from Restrictive Housing to the infirmary for medical or mental health observation. A MHP must subsequently assess a youth in accordance with the care plan but no less than immediately prior to an ordinary sleep period. A MHP must conduct another evaluation of the youth every five (5) days that the youth remains in Restrictive Housing.
- N. The placement of any youth in Restrictive Housing must be reviewed at the daily meetings that include youth detention staff, supervisors, and mental health providers.
- O. If a youth is held in Restrictive Housing for longer than ten (10) consecutive hours, a supervisor must make a good faith effort to call the parent or legal guardian of the youth and inform them that the youth has been placed in Restrictive Housing.
- P. The decision to keep a youth in Restrictive Housing beyond twenty-four (24) hours (including rest periods) must be reviewed and approved by the Juvenile Division Director or designee. Such review and approval must be documented every twenty-four (24) hours.
- Q. If a youth who is held in Restrictive Housing makes a reasonable request to speak with a parent or legal guardian, a JDO or supervisor will make reasonable efforts to give the youth the opportunity to speak with a parents or legal guardian at no cost to the youth at least once per day.

V. Implementation Plan

This policy becomes effective for the DAJD Juvenile Division, after the policy is signed by the Department Director or designee and distributed. The DAJD Juvenile Division is responsible for implementation of this policy.

The DAJD Juvenile Division is responsible for communicating this policy to the management and staff structure within the Juvenile Division, contracted medical and mental health partners, and other appropriate parties.

VI. Maintenance

This policy will be maintained by the Juvenile Division Director, Department Director or its successor agency.

This policy will be maintained pursuant to Department Policy 1.01.010 Policy Management.

VII. Consequences for Noncompliance

Consequences for noncompliance are outlined in Collective Bargaining Agreements, King County code of Conduct, King County Personnel Guidelines.

VIII. References:

King County Ordinance 18637, December 21, 2017

RCW Chapter 13.32A Family Reconciliation Act

RCW 28A.225 BECCA Truancy Proceedings

RCW 13.32A.140 Child in Need Of Services

RCW 13.32A.191 At Risk Youth

6.4 Investigations, Incident and Preliminary Reports

Supervision and Safety of Youth J-CP-9.006-2020 Policy

J-YMrF-13.004.10 Restrictive Housing Assessment Checklist