

Room Confinement

1053.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose is to establish and implement written policy and procedures for the use of room confinement, to promote a positive rehabilitative environment, and to preserve the safety and security of staff and youth in the care and custody of the Riverside County Probation Department.

1053.1.1 DEFINITION

Definition related to this policy includes:

Room Confinement – the placement of a youth in a locked room with minimal or no contact with persons other than correctional facility staff and attorneys. Room confinement does not include confinement of a youth in a locked single person room for brief periods as may be necessary for required institutional operations.

1053.2 AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

- Board of State and Community Corrections Title 15 §§ 1354, 1390, and 1391;
- Juvenile Facility Services Policy: Classification; Orientation; & Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003;
- Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 208.3, 209, 210, and 885.

1053.3 POLICY

Room confinement may be utilized to preserve the safety and security of the staff and youth in the custody and care of the Riverside County Probation Department. The goal is to have the youth rejoin the group in the shortest duration possible.

Room confinement shall not be used before other, less restrictive options have been attempted and exhausted, unless attempting those options poses a threat to the safety or security of any youth or staff. Room confinement shall not be used for the purposes of punishment, coercion, convenience, or retaliation by staff. Room confinement shall not be used to the extent that it compromises the mental and physical health of the youth. De-escalation should not occur in a locked room unless it is a safety and security issue.

This policy is not intended to limit the use of single-person rooms or cells for the housing of youth in juvenile facilities and does not apply to normal sleeping hours. This policy does not apply to youth or wards in court holding facilities or adult facilities. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to conflict with any law providing greater or additional protections to youth.

This section does not apply during an extraordinary emergency circumstance that requires a significant departure from normal institutional operations, including a natural disaster or facility-wide threat that poses an imminent and substantial risk of harm to multiple staff or youth. This exception shall apply for the shortest amount of time needed to address this imminent and substantial risk of harm.

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This policy does not apply when a youth is placed in a locked cell or sleeping room to treat and protect against the spread of a communicable disease for the shortest amount of time required to reduce the risk of infection, with the written approval of a licensed physician or nurse practitioner, when the youth is not required to be in an infirmary for an illness. Additionally, this section does not apply when a youth is placed in a locked cell or sleeping room for required extended care after medical treatment with the written approval of a licensed physician or nurse practitioner, when the youth is not required to be in an infirmary for illness.

1053.4 USE OF ROOM CONFINEMENT

Room confinement may be appropriate for behavior or actions by youth that pose a threat to the safety or security of any youth or staff. Prior to placing youth on room confinement, staff shall obtain duty officer (DO) approval. The goal shall be to have the youth rejoin the group in the shortest duration possible. If room confinement must be extended beyond 4 hours, staff shall:

- (a) Document the reasons for room confinement and the basis for the extension.
- (b) Consult with behavioral health or correctional health.
- (c) Develop an individualized plan that includes the goals and objectives to be met in order for the youth to rejoin the group.
- (d) Obtain documented authorization from the DO every 4 hours thereafter.

For process steps, staff shall refer to Standard Work.

1053.5 DOCUMENTATION

Any imposed room confinement requires documentation (i.e. DO electronic signature for approval, incident report, detention contact in the JAMS, unit daily log, room confinement report forms, and/or any additional paperwork required for removal or filing of new charges). Staff shall complete a new incident report and room confinement report form each time room confinement is imposed.

When imposing room confinement, staff's documented circumstances shall include:

- (a) The less restrictive options attempted and exhausted by staff prior to imposing room confinement, if applicable.
- (b) The actual behaviors or actions by youth that created/caused a threat to the safety or security to youth or staff.

While a youth is on room confinement, staff shall counsel the youth a minimum of once hourly in an effort to have the youth rejoin the group in the shortest duration possible. Staff shall document these counseling efforts. Staff's documented counseling efforts shall include:

- (a) Verbal attempts and/or encouragement to have the youth rejoin the group.
- (b) Any language or actions by the youth that justifies a youth remaining on room confinement due to the youth continuing to pose a safety and security threat.
- (c) The DO counseling efforts/review prior to each extension beyond 4 hours.

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In addition to the documentation described above, SPOs, SPCOs, and PCOs shall refer to Standard Work for specific documentation requirements and responsibilities while a youth is on room confinement.

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Attachments:

1. [SW Room Confinement Line Staff](#)
2. [SW Room Confinement Duty Officer](#)
3. [SW Room Confinement Clerical Staff](#)