

Classification

942.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose is to establish and implement written policy and procedures regarding the classification of youth for the purpose of determining housing placement. This policy applies to all juvenile facility staff.

942.2 AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

- Board of State and Community Corrections Title 15 §§ 1352 & 1352.5;
- Juvenile Facility Services Policies: Youth Separation Policy; Discipline; & Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) of 2003;

942.3 POLICY

All youth shall be assessed to determine the most appropriate classification and housing assignment upon admittance into a juvenile facility. Facility populations and the physical design of the facility shall be considered when assigning youth to a living unit.

942.4 CLASSIFICATION ASSIGNMENT

All youth admitted to a Riverside County Probation juvenile facility shall be assessed to determine their classification and assignment to an appropriate living unit. This shall be determined by the detention control officer (DCO) and approved by the duty officer (DO).

Youth shall not be separated from the general population or assigned to a single occupancy room based solely on the youth's actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, behavioral or physical disability or HIV status. This section does not prohibit staff from placing a youth in a single occupancy room at the youth's specific request or in accordance with the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Title 15 regulations regarding separation.

Classification and housing assignment of youth shall be determined by considering the following and any other relevant factors:

- (a) Offense (alleged or adjudicated);
- (b) Legal status;
- (c) Age;
- (d) Gender and gender identity;
- (e) Sophistication;
- (f) Physical and emotional maturity;
- (g) Risk of self-injury or suicide;
- (h) Medical and behavioral health needs;

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- (i) Emotional stability and psychological factors;
- (j) Gang affiliation;
- (k) Potential for escape and/or violence;
- (l) Safety of the youth, other youth, facility staff, and the public;
- (m) Program needs;
- (n) Attitude and behavior during processing;
- (o) Prior behavior in the facility;
- (p) Separation of co-participants when appropriate and if possible;
- (q) The least restrictive housing and program setting;
- (r) The need for a single, double or dormitory assignment or location within the dormitory; and
- (s) PREA assessment results.

Facility staff shall not consider lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, or intersex identification or status as an indicator of likelihood of being sexually abusive.

Facility staff shall house youth in the unit or room that best meets their individual needs, and promotes their safety and well-being. Staff may not automatically house youth according to their external anatomy, and shall document the reasons for any decision to house youth in a unit that does not match their gender identity. In making a housing decision, staff shall consider the youth's preferences, as well as any recommendations from the youth's health or behavioral health provider.

Probation corrections officers (PCOs) may place youth on a more restrictive classification for the safety of the youth, other youth and facility staff, pending DO or unit supervising probation officer (SPO) review and approval.

942.4.1 DOCUMENTATION

A youth's classification shall be documented on a youth classification plan form, which is printed out from the Juvenile and Adult Management System (JAMS), and placed in the youth's unit file. Written records of any subsequent review and modifications shall also be included in the file.

942.4.2 REVIEW

The unit SPO or designee shall review each youth's classification on a periodic basis or as circumstances change (after court, adjudication, etc.), to determine the appropriateness of the classification and note the review on the youth classification plan form. The SPO shall also consider the level of supervision and the youth's behavior while in custody during their review.

942.5 CLASSIFICATION OPTIONS

- (a) Group (GRP): This is the normal classification for most youth. Youth on GRP status generally do not have restrictions and are considered a part of the general population.

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- (b) Security (SEC): Youth placed on SEC status are considered an escape risk. This may also include youth who pose a high potential for serious threats to the safety of others, either in the facility or in the community, such as those with cases where the youth has been found unfit for juvenile court, Section 707 (b) Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) offenses, Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) commitments, or parolees and those with a documented history of escape attempts or violent behavior. Each facility shall have an operational plan for managing youth on SEC status. Youth may be removed from SEC status with the approval of the DO or unit SPO.

Date last reviewed: 09/19/2019

Date(s) revised: 09/19/2019

12/07/2017

07/18/2016

06/22/2011

07/16/2010

10/01/2001

Created: 03/01/2000

Attachments: None