

Intoxicated Youth and Youth With a Substance Abuse Disorder

998.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose is to establish and implement written policy and procedures that address the identification and management of alcohol and other substance intoxication, withdrawal, and treatment of substance use disorder. This policy applies to all juvenile facility staff.

998.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Medical clearance – Clearance obtained from on-site health care staff prior to booking any youth with known health problems including a youth who is known or suspected of having ingested an intoxicating substance.

“Ok to book” – A written statement prepared by a physician verifying a youth’s health status is satisfactory for detention. This document shall be obtained when on-site health care staff does not authorize a medical clearance for custody.

998.2 AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

- Board of State and Community Corrections Title 15 §§ 1355, 1413, 1430 & 1431;
- Juvenile Facility Services Policies; Admittance Procedures & Safety Checks.

998.3 POLICY

All Riverside County juvenile facilities shall take appropriate steps to identify youth who are intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol or other substances in accordance with Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) Title 15 Section 1430.

998.4 STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

Staff shall be trained on symptoms which prompt immediate referral for medical evaluation and treatment. Staff shall inquire from the youth and arresting agency of any known history of ingestion or withdrawal requiring immediate referral for medical evaluation and treatment.

A medical clearance or an “ok to book” shall be obtained prior to booking any youth who is intoxicated to the extent that they are a threat to their own safety or the safety of others. Refer to Juvenile Facility Services Policy; Admittance Procedures.

Youth identified as intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol or other drugs shall be housed in a protected environment where they can be observed by staff. Supervision of intoxicated youth who are cleared to be booked into a facility shall include monitoring by personal observation no less than once every 15 minutes. These observations shall be documented in accordance with Juvenile Facility Services Policy; Safety Checks.

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Staff shall notify behavioral health services in cases of substance-abusing youth with known or suspected mental illness.

998.5 ON-SITE HEALTH CARE STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES

When a youth is intoxicated, experiencing progressive or severe intoxication or withdrawal, they shall be medically evaluated immediately.

On-site health care staff shall conduct a medical evaluation for all youth whose intoxicated behavior persists beyond four hours from the time of admission.

On-site health care staff shall provide information for determining when a youth is no longer considered intoxicated and documenting when the monitoring requirements are discontinued.

On-site health care staff shall respond to a youth experiencing intoxication or withdrawal reactions. If on-site health care staff are not available, the duty officer (DO) shall assess the situation and determine whether or not to send the youth to a medical facility.

On-site health care staff shall make specific provisions for the management of pregnant youth who use alcohol or other substances and will communicate appropriate information to juvenile facility staff.

Substance abuse counseling and/or treatment shall be initiated during the period of confinement and arrangements made for its continuation upon release into the community consistent with BSCC Title 15 Sections 1355 and 1413.

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