

Juvenile Detention Family Visitation Policy

Policy

A child's stay in the Center may temporarily disrupt family interaction and activity. Moreover, the negative circumstances surrounding a referral to detention may deprive a child of family support systems at a very critical time. We realize the value to the child of ongoing contact, and strongly encourage regular family visits.

Unless specifically regulated by the court, visitation shall be allowed with members of the child's immediate family. When limitations on visits are indicated, they shall be determined with the participation *or* knowledge of the child, family or guardian, and the referring worker.

Visitors

Immediate family is interpreted as parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents or legally appointed guardian. Grandparents and siblings will be allowed to visit only when accompanied by the resident's parent.

Security Upon Arrival

Before visitors are allowed entry to the Center, the receptionist will ask whom they are here to see and what their relationship is to that particular resident. The receptionist can verify this information with the Visiting Schedule that is updated daily.

Once inside the building visitors must successfully pass through the metal detector—*NO VISITOR MAY BYPASS THIS PROCEDURE*. If an alarm is triggered upon passage, the visitor should be instructed to place any metal items on the side table and reenter the metal detector. If someone cannot successfully pass through, the floater should be called for assistance, using the portable detection wand if necessary. Large parcels brought in for the resident, such as backpacks, suitcases or bags of clothing, should also be scanned by the metal detector, then left at the front desk for the floater to place in the personals basket. Wrapped gifts for holidays and birthdays should pass through the metal detector. Glass items (including pop bottles), knives, cell phones, or any item which the receptionist deems a security risk, may not be taken into a visit and can be picked up as the visitor leaves the building. Coats must be placed in a locker, car or left in the reception area during visits. Prescription medication for the resident must be left at the desk and given to the floater. Visitors will be asked to sign in on the Visiting Log, and anyone over the age of 14 will be expected to submit a photo I.D. Once an I.D. has been checked, visitors with purses must secure them in a locker or return them to their car. Approved visitors can be confirmed with the computerized resident casefile, or with the Care Plan in the pod. Persons not listed must remain in the reception area until the floater can resolve the issue. Unauthorized visitors will be asked to wait outside the building; either in their car or to leave and return when the visit is over.

Items in Visits

Anything brought to the Center for the resident must be turned over to staff—not given directly to the resident by the visitor. In most cases the only items that can be taken into visits are food, soft drinks and games. The floater will charge the resident points for food and drinks; guidelines for points charged are posted on the bulletin board in visiting. Visitors must take leftover food items with them at the end of the visit.

Visitors with very young children may take diaper bags into visits, after the bag has passed through the metal detector and has been visually searched.

Because of security concerns, haircuts will not be allowed during regular visitation. In certain cases, such as a resident who is here for a lengthy stay, special arrangements may be made to accommodate this, outside of normal visiting times.