

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE SERVICES
POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Policy No.: 05-07	Effective Date: 05/07/09	Revision Date: 09-28-16
Subject: Use of Physical Intervention		

I. Policy Statement

Maintaining a safe and secure environment is conducive to appropriate juvenile treatment, educational learning, and social skill development. The orderly operation of Division facilities/programs occasionally requires varying degrees of physical interventions in order to ensure the continued safety of juveniles and staff.

II. Rationale

- A. The purpose of this policy is to identify the conditions that may justify a reasonable use of physical intervention and define the type of intervention that is acceptable.
- B. Nothing in this policy is intended or should be interpreted as preventing staff from taking reasonable measures to protect him or herself and/or to protect the lives of others.

III. Definitions

“Physical Interventions” are a Division sanctioned set of skills designed to maximize safety for both staff and juveniles and are reasonable and necessary in response to behaviors by juveniles that present a threat to safety and security. (Graham v Connor – Reasonable, Tennessee v Garner – Necessary)

“Planned Intervention” is a process of evaluating the juvenile’s behavior to determine a reasonable response and maintain the safety, security and good order of the facility/program. The type of planned intervention used will directly correlate to the type of behavior needing change.

“Reactive Physical Intervention” is the use of reasonable force and/or physical interventions in an immediate response to behaviors by juveniles that present an imminent threat to safety and security.

“Absconded” means to leave without authorization from an Observation and Assessment Center, Receiving Center, Genesis or one of their sanctioned activities in the community.

“Escape” means to leave without authorization from a secure care facility, detention center, while in transit, or during sanctioned activities from such a facility.

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“Escort” is temporarily touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, or back for the purpose of inducing a juvenile who is acting out to walk to a safe location (This may include but is not limited to the “escort position” as described in crisis response training).

"Direct Care Staff" are staff, including intake and control staff, who have job responsibilities working directly with juveniles.

IV. Procedures

- A. All direct-care staff shall complete the Division's mandatory Crisis Response training, in accordance with JJS Annual Training policy 02-03.
- B. Division staff shall not demonstrate, practice, or teach crisis response training to juveniles in the care, custody, or control of the Division.
- C. All direct care staff shall use the least restrictive and most reasonable intervention necessary to maintain control of the juvenile, de-escalate, and establish a safe and secure environment.
- D. Planned Intervention

In the event that a juvenile’s behavior threatens the safety, security and good order of the facility/program and there is time for staff to organize a response, staff shall positively engage with the juvenile and initiate a planned intervention.

- 1. Excluding self defense and other imminent threats (refer to E. 1-5), direct care staff shall first initiate verbal de-escalation, give directions, set expectations, and state limits and consequences.
- 2. Prior to the use of physical intervention, direct care staff shall provide a juvenile with the opportunity to voluntarily comply with reasonable requests relevant to the safety, security and good order of the facility/program.
- 3. Whenever possible, direct care staff shall request assistance from other available direct care staff to facilitate de-escalation.
- 4. A planned intervention may result in a physical intervention response to remove the juvenile from the environment.
- 5. All physical interventions, including escorts will require an Incident Report in accordance with JJS policy 05-15 (see Reference Guide).

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6. Reoccurring problematic behavior by juveniles may be subject to a Specialized Intervention Plan as per JJS Policy 05-17.

E. Reactive Intervention

In the event that a juvenile presents an immediate or sudden threat to safety and security, reasonable physical intervention may be utilized and justified for one or more of the following reasons:

1. to protect yourself from harm;
2. to protect others from harm;
3. to prevent imminent and substantial destruction of property;
4. to prevent escape/absconding from a Division facility;
5. to protect a juvenile from immediate self-injury.

F. Use, or the threat of use, of the following types of physical force are prohibited and may result in staff discipline and/or termination:

1. Physical force used as coercion, punishment, or retaliation; and
2. Physical force, including but not limited to, techniques to restrict blood circulation or breathing that are applied **solely** for the purpose of inflicting physical pain or undue physical discomfort.

G. Whenever physical intervention is used, involved staff shall complete incident reports and notify a supervisor, parent/guardian, case manager (where applicable) and director, or designee in accordance with the JJS Incident Report policy 05-15.

H. Division facilities and programs with medical personnel shall promptly notify the appropriate medical staff (during regular business hours) for evaluation/consultation whenever physical intervention is used.

I. During evenings or weekend hours or when there is no medical personnel present;

1. Staff shall notify on-call medical personnel for consultation after a physical intervention is used if there is a visible injury or when a juvenile reports an injury.
2. Staff shall ask the juvenile 1) Are you hurt, and 2) Are you bleeding?

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- 3. If the answer is no to both questions, staff shall instruct the juvenile “If anything changes, let me know and I will call medical. Otherwise, I will put in a sick call for the nurse and you will be seen next time the nurse is here.
- 4. If the answer is yes to either or both questions, then staff shall contact on-call medical personnel for direction.
- J. In non-residential Division programs, without medical personnel, staff shall notify parents when there is a physical intervention. Staff shall follow the program Operations Manual if/when medical services are needed.
- K. In response to a physical intervention, facility/program administration shall initiate an “After Action Process” in accordance with JJS policy 05.12.

V. Continuous Renewal

This policy shall be reviewed three (3) years to determine its effectiveness and appropriateness. This policy may be reviewed before that time to reflect substantive change.

This policy has been reviewed by the Board of Juvenile Justice Services, and is approved upon the signature of the Director.



Russell K. Van Vleet, Chair
Board of Juvenile Justice Services

09-28-16

Signature Date



Susan V. Burke, Director
Division of Juvenile Justice Services

09-28-16

Signature Date