

*Youth Justice Policy Determination 4.5:
Supporting Girls and Young Women in Detention*

REFERENCE	61:F2018/286-17	
POLICY APPROVER	Name Title	Jeanette Kerr Deputy Chief Executive Officer Operations
	Date	29 December 2017
POLICY OWNER	Executive Director Youth Justice	
POLICY RESPONSIBILITY	Senior Director Youth Justice Programs	
IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITY	Manager Youth Programs - Superintendent	

Document Control

VERSION HISTORY	EFFECTIVE DATE	REASON FOR UPDATE
Version 1.01	January 2018	Update to position titles and policy determination references
Version 1.0	8 January 2018	Deputy Chief Executive Officer Operations approval

NEXT REVIEW DATE	January 2020, or as directed prior to the scheduled review date.
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Policy Purpose

To establish clear principles for the care and protection of girls and young women accommodated in a youth detention centre.

Authority / Responsibility

The Manager Youth Programs - Superintendent has responsibility for ensuring that supervisors and employees understand and comply with this policy.

This policy applies to all staff, visitors, contractors and young people admitted to a youth detention centre.

Policy Statement

The *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice* (the Beijing Rules) acknowledges that young females deserve fair treatment in youth detention centres.

Girls and young women are particularly vulnerable in a detention centre and it is important that female and male young people are accommodated separately in a detention centre. Due to the small numbers of females in detention, it is common for girls and young people to experience less access to programs and support services, including education and recreation.

It is imperative to address the specific requirements of girls and young women in detention so that equal access to all programs and support services are assured.

Youth Justice Officers

Youth Justice Officers should actively utilise all opportunities to model prosocial and appropriate interactions between males and females.

The Manager Youth Programs - Superintendent is to appoint a female 'Girls Officer'. The purpose of this position is to ensure that female young people have equitable access to all services available, and to champion the rights of female young people in the centre.

Admission and Induction

The standard admissions and induction process should be used for girls and young women being admitted into a youth detention centre. The admission and induction procedures for a female young person should be undertaken by a female Youth Justice Officer. Refer to [Youth Justice Policy Determination 4.0: Admissions, Warrants and Release](#).

Case Management

In assigning girls and young women to a case manager, consideration should be given to their needs and personal preferences. Case managers must acknowledge the unique case management requirements of girls and young women.

Girls and young women must be provided with programs and services designed specifically to address their behaviour and meet their individual needs.

Refer to [Youth Justice Policy Determination 4.1: Case Management, Assessment and Throughcare Services](#).

Communication

Girls and young women in detention must be supported to maintain connection with their family, social and cultural networks. Girls and young women should be afforded equitable access to visits and the telephone system to maintain these connections.

Accommodation

In accordance with United Nations human rights rules, girls and young women must be accommodated separately from male young people in detention to ensure the safety and protection of all young people. Refer to [Youth Justice Policy Determination 4.2: Accommodation of Young People](#).

Supervision of Girls and Young Women

The youth detention centre must ensure that a minimum of one female Youth Justice Officer is rostered on at all times, to ensure that girls and young women in detention have access to a female Officer for supervision purposes.

SEARCHES

Under no circumstances are male Youth Justice Officers to directly participate in pat downs of a female young person in detention.

A male Youth Justice Officer may be present during a pat down only as a witness to the procedure conducted by a female Youth Justice Officer.

ESCORTS

Girls and young women should be accompanied by at least one female staff member during escorts.

Any restraints should be applied by a female Youth Justice Officer.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

Only female Youth Justice Officers may supervise female hygiene activities. Male Youth Justice Officers must not enter a female bathroom unless an emergency situation exists.

Behaviour Support

Youth Justice Officers should employ the behaviour support framework for female young people, in the same way as it is employed for males in detention. Refer to [Youth Justice Policy Determination 4.8: Positive Behaviour Support](#).

Girls and young women must have access to the Incentives and Earned Privileges scheme. Refer to [Youth Justice Policy Determination 4.6: Incentives and Earned Privileges](#).

Structured Day

Girls and young women must have equitable access to participate in a structured day. This includes equitable access to:

- Education;
- Interventions and therapeutic programs;
- Case management and throughcare services;
- Structured and unstructured recreation activities;
- Cultural and religious activities;
- Health care services; and
- Hygiene facilities.

Refer to [Youth Justice Policy Determination 4.3: Structured Day](#).

Interaction between Male and Female Young People

The United Nations human rights instruments provide for separation between the genders in a youth detention centre. However, competent management of interactions may assist to provide a normalised environment. The Manager Youth Programs - Superintendent may determine appropriate co-participation in structured day activities. Where there are safety or security concerns regarding particular young people or specific activities, the Manager Youth Programs - Superintendent may restrict interactions between male and female young people.

Health Care Services

Female young people must have equitable access to all health care services. The Manager Youth Programs - Superintendent, in conjunction with the Primary Health Care Provider, must ensure that female young people have any identified medical needs addressed, including gynaecological needs. Refer to [Youth Justice Policy Determination 5.0: Health Services](#).