

SUICIDE PREVENTION

AUTHORITY

Title 15 Regulations:

- Section 1322 Child Supervision Staff Orientation and Training
- Section 1329 Suicide Prevention Program

Related JDF Procedure:

- J6 Mental Health/Crisis Services

OFFICER TRAINING

Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF) officers receive four hours of mandatory Suicide Prevention Training annually. Prior to assuming responsibility for the supervision of youth, each officer receives orientation specific to suicide prevention, response to suicide attempts, crisis intervention, mental health referrals, and mental health services.

Officers are required to complete the Intake Health Screening (form #528N) with each youth at intake, prior to housing assignment. Youth expressing current/previous suicidal ideations or history of suicide attempt(s) will be referred to a Mental Health Provider.

The intake officer will use professional judgement whether the referral to Mental Health is urgent or non-urgent. Communication with the arresting officer, facility officers, family members, medical, and Mental Health will be facilitated in relation to the youth's suicide risk. If an urgent mental health evaluation is needed and no Mental Health Clinicians are on duty, review the circumstances with the shift supervisor and refer to JDF Procedure L6, Mental Health/Crisis Services.

Classification and housing decisions will be made based on information provided during intake, previous known information on the youth, and the evaluation from mental health.

Mental Health Referrals (form #563N) are appropriate at any time, including the following but not limited to:

- A youth requests to speak with a counselor.
- An officer or staff feels the youth should speak with a clinician.
- It is a youth's first time in custody.
- A youth is expressing outward emotional behavior.
- A youth is withdrawn or behaving uncharacteristically.
- A traumatic life event occurs affecting the youth.
- A youth is expressing suicidal ideations or actions.
- A youth engages in self-harming behavior.

SUICIDE WATCH (SW)

SW is a classification used when a youth expresses a desire to commit suicide, has a previous history of suicidal behavior/attempts, or is believed to be a current danger to self by any officer or staff member. As soon as an officer develops concern for a youth's safety, the youth shall remain under constant direct visual supervision until staffed with the shift supervisor.

Youth on SW:

- Will be issued Suicide Prevention Garments and alternative bedding at shift supervisor discretion.
- 5 minute or less Room Safety Checks will be completed for the first hour or until cleared for 10 minute or less Room Safety Checks.
- May be given facility issued clothing when out of the sleeping room if approved by the shift supervisor after consult with Mental Health or On-call Manager.
- Will not have any additional items in their sleeping room. One reading book or bible may be given to the SW youth at the discretion of the shift supervisor (having the youth outside of their sleeping room to read is preferred).
- Will be kept in program and activities when able to be safely accommodated.
- Will eat meals with the group if it can be safely accommodated. Youth on a Security Risk may have Meals in Room (MIR); MIR will be served on a paper tray with no utensils.
- Will be evaluated by a Mental Health Clinician as soon as can be accommodated or within 24 hours. If youth is on SW for more than 24 hours, the youth will be evaluated by a Mental Health Clinician every 24 hours or once per day.
- Will be housed priority in a holding cell at Juvenile Hall or an observation room (B-01, B-2, B-03, A-01, A-02, or A-03) at the Juvenile Treatment Center, pending availability.

SW Criteria:

- SW is generally for a 24 hour period, but may be reviewed/reclassified prior if approved by the shift supervisor and the Mental Health Clinician.
- For a youth to be removed from SW, consensus has to be reached between the shift supervisor and the Mental Health Clinician.
- Room Safety Checks will be completed at varying intervals not to exceed 10 minutes, notations will be written on an observation log posted outside of the observation room/sleeping room.
- If officers or the shift supervisor believe additional safety precautions shall be taken, frequency of room checks can be increased, one-on-one staffing can be maintained, or another alternative safety measure may be used.

SUICIDE PREVENTION (SP)

SP is a classification used for a youth with a history of suicidal ideation, who expresses a risk for suicidal behavior, a previous suicide attempt but may not be currently suicidal. When a youth is removed from SW, the youth will be classified as SP until further review of the classification.

Youth on SP:

- May be housed in an observation room as listed above.
- May be housed with a roommate if an appropriate one is available.
- Will receive weekly individual counseling from a Mental Health Clinician.
- Will attend regular programs and activities.

CLOSE WATCH (CW)

CW is a classification for youth with a history of suicidal ideation, self-harm, or attempts. This classification is the lowest level of risk in the suicide prevention classifications. Each time a youth is rebooked into the JDF with a previous history of suicide risk, they will be classified as at least SP until reviewed/reclassified as CW.

Youth on CW:

- May be housed with a roommate.
- May have an individualized counseling treatment plan if appropriate.
- Will attend regular programs and activities.

Decreasing a youth's level of suicide risk classification takes consensus between Mental Health representatives and facility Supervisor(s).

Officers should be aware this procedure is a guideline for maintaining the safety of youth with suicide risk. Circumstances can change rapidly in a JDF and officers must respond accordingly.