

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

Policy No.: 05-07

Effective Date: 05-07-09

Revision Date: 06-16-20

Subject: Use of Physical Intervention

I. Policy Statement

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

II. Rationale

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. Nothing in this policy is intended, or should be interpreted, as preventing staff from taking reasonable measures to protect themselves or to protect the lives of others.

III. Definitions

- A. "Physical Interventions" are a Division sanctioned set of skills designed to maximize safety for both staff and juveniles that are reasonable and necessary in response to behaviors by juveniles that present a threat to safety and security.
- B. "Planned Intervention" is a process of evaluating the juvenile's behavior to determine a reasonable response and maintain the safety, security of the facility/program. The type of planned intervention used will directly correlate to the type of behavior needing change.
- C. "Reactive Physical Intervention" is the use of reasonable force or physical interventions in an immediate response to behaviors by juveniles that present an imminent threat to safety and security.
- D. "Abscond" means to leave without authorization from a non-secure Division program or a sanctioned community activity.
- E. "Escape" means to leave without authorization from a secure Division facility/program, while in transit or during sanctioned activities from such a facility/program.
- F. "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.)
- G. "Direct Care Staff" have job responsibilities working directly with juveniles (includes intake and control staff).
- H. "Intervention Continuum" describes an escalating series of actions a staff may use to resolve a situation. The continuum has many levels and staff are instructed to respond with a level of intervention appropriate to the situation at hand.

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

Policy No.: 05-07

Effective Date: 05-07-09

Revision Date: 06-16-20

Subject: Use of Physical Intervention

IV. Procedures

- A. All direct-care staff shall complete the Division's mandatory crisis response training, in accordance with Division Mandatory 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. Intervention Continuum: All direct care staff shall use the least restrictive and most reasonable intervention necessary to de-escalate, maintain control of the juvenile and establish a safe and secure environment.
- D. Planned Intervention

In the event that a juvenile's behavior threatens the safety and security 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 and security of the facility/program. If there is no imminent risk to safety and security, allow additional time for the youth to comply by giving space and providing additional processing.
 - 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 Division Policy 05-15 (see Reference Guide).
 - 6. Reoccurring problematic behavior by juveniles may be subject to a Specialized Intervention Plan as per Division 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

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

Policy No.: 05-07

Effective Date: 05-07-09

Revision Date: 06-16-20

Subject: Use of Physical Intervention

more of the following reasons:

1. to protect self 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 up to and including dismissal from state employment:
1. Physical force used as coercion, punishment, or retaliation;
 2. Physical force applied **solely** for the purpose of inflicting physical pain or undue physical discomfort; and
 3. Techniques that restrict blood circulation or breathing including, but not limited to, choke holds or placing a knee on the head, neck, spine or diaphragm.
- G. Whenever physical intervention is used, staff who are involved shall complete accurate incident reports and notify a supervisor, parent/guardian, case manager (where applicable) and director, or designee in accordance with the Division Incident Reports 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?
 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

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

Policy No.: 05-07

Effective Date: 05-07-09

Revision Date: 06-16-20

Subject: Use of Physical Intervention

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 Division Policy 05-12.
- L. Staff are required to intervene and stop prohibited physical force used by other staff. Staff will use the statewide code word (e.g., time out) to notify staff they are using excessive or prohibited use of physical force and other staff will take command of the situation. Staff will report these incidents immediately to a supervisor.
- M. Staff who witness law enforcement use of excessive physical force are to report the incident immediately to a supervisor.
 1. The supervisor will notify the APD, who will staff the incident with their PD for possible action.

V. Continuous Renewal

This policy shall be reviewed every 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 Division of Juvenile Justice Services Executive Management Team, and is approved upon the signature of the Director.



Brett Peterson, Director
Division of Juvenile Justice Services

6-16-2020

Signature Date