

Juvenile Detention Facility Assessment Standards Instrument: Room Confinement

1.	Written policies and procedures in the facility set forth the following principles for the use of room confinement.
a.	Staff only use room confinement as a temporary response to behavior that threatens immediate harm to the youth or others. Staff may use room confinement when a youth is engaging in property destruction that threatens immediate harm to the youth or others.
b.	Staff never use room confinement for discipline, punishment, administrative convenience, retaliation, staffing shortages, or reasons other than a temporary response to behavior that threatens immediate harm to a youth or others.
c.	Prior to using room confinement, staff use less restrictive techniques, including talking with youth to de-escalate the situation and bringing in staff, qualified mental health professionals, or other youth to talk with the youth. Prior to using room confinement or immediately after placing a youth in room confinement, staff explain to the youth the reasons for the room confinement and the fact that he or she will be released upon regaining self-control.
d.	Staff do not place youth in room confinement for fixed periods of time. Staff return youth to programming as soon as the youth has regained self-control and is no longer engaging in behavior that threatens immediate harm to the youth or others.
e.	During the time that a youth is in room confinement, staff engage in crisis intervention techniques and one-on-one observation.
f.	While youth are in room confinement, staff follow a protocol that;
f. (1)	Requires staff to secure the approval of a unit supervisor for the use of room confinement shortly after placing a child in room confinement.
f. (2)	Requires staff to secure the approval of increasingly senior administrators as the length of time in room confinement increases.
f. (3)	Clearly describes how and when to involve qualified medical and qualified mental health professionals.
f. (4)	Clearly describes the expectations for in-person visits of youth in room confinement by qualified medical and mental health professionals, supervisor and administrators.
f. (5)	Requires staff to develop a plan that will allow youth to leave room confinement and return to programming.
g.	Staff do not place youth in room confinement for longer than four hours. After four hours, staff return the youth to the general population, develop a special individualized programming for the youth, or consult with a qualified mental health professional about whether a youth's behavior requires that he or she be transported to a mental health facility.
h.	If at any time during room confinement, qualified medical or qualified mental health professionals believe the level of crisis service needed is not available in the current environment, the youth is transported to a location where those services can be obtained (e.g., medical unit of the facility, hospital).
i.	Youth in room confinement have reasonable access to water, toilet facilities and hygiene supplies.