

**POLICY**

Residential juvenile justice programs must be structured and supervised so that public safety is not compromised. Escapes must be reported to law enforcement and notification of the escape must be provided to victims upon their written request.

**PURPOSE**

To ensure the protection of the community and the victims of crime by focusing on the immediate return of an escaped youth to custody.

**DEFINITIONS**

See JRG, JJ Residential Glossary.

**RESPONSIBLE  
STAFF**

All facility staff.

**PROCEDURE**

Each facility must develop and implement written procedures for escape response. The procedures must contain the following requirements:

**Staff Response**

Any staff who determines that a youth has escaped must:

- Ensure remaining youths are supervised.
- Ensure remaining youths do not physically pursue an escaping youth.
- Physically pursue and apprehend the escaping youth only when it is safe to accomplish.
- Notify facility management when:
  - Staff cannot immediately apprehend the youth.
  - It is unsafe to pursue the youth.
  - The pursuit is unsuccessful.
  - The youth fails to return from an approved leave of absence.

**Note:** DHS policy requires notification to law enforcement within one hour of an unauthorized absence.

- If more than one staff member is present, staff supervising the remaining youths must contact the facility as soon as feasible.
- Complete an incident report documenting the escape prior to leaving work for the day.

### Immediate Facility Response

Facility staff receiving a report of escape must document the following:

- Name of the escaped youth.
- Time of the escape.
- Youth's clothing description.
- Youth's direction and method of travel.
- Names of anyone pursuing the youth.
- Staff's location.
- Telephone number from which the call was made.

Facility staff must notify the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Facility staff must provide the information documented above and identifying information contained in the youth's data file or the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS) to the local law enforcement agency if the escape is from facility grounds or the local community.

**Note:** If the escape occurred where the appropriate law enforcement jurisdiction is unknown, contact the county sheriff's office where the escape occurred.

Facility staff must access the youth data file or JJIS to determine if victim notification is required. If victim notification is required, staff must:

- Make the contacts required in the victim notification policy; see JR5 502, Victim Notification.
- Log all telephone calls made pursuant to the victim notification procedure. Log entries must include:
  - Date of escape.
  - Time of escape.

- Name of the person contacted.

**Note:** Messages left on voice mail, e-mail, fax, or telephone answering machines do not meet notification criteria for purposes of this procedure.

- Notify the facility director or designee of the escape and whether or not victim notification is required and accomplished.

### **Immediate Facility Director or Designee Response**

The facility director or designee must ensure all of the following:

- Organize the search for the escaping youth.
- Verify that information on the youth is placed in the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN). A copy of the LEIN number must be kept on file.
- Complete and fax the Unauthorized Absence Report (DHS-3198) for Wayne County youths to the Wayne County Warrant Enforcement Bureau (313-297-5240).
- Report the escape on the DHS Alert system.
- Complete a notice of escape and incident report in the JJIS. Notify the escaped youth's JJS (or supervisor), case management organization (CMO) worker, or probation officer of the escape as soon as possible.
- Notify the local law enforcement agency in the youth's home community of the escape.
- Notify the youth's parent/guardian.

### **Apprehension or Return of Youth**

Upon the apprehension or return of an escaped youth, the facility director or designee must:

- Cancel the LEIN message.

- Notify DHS administration through the DHS Alert system.
- Notify the youth's JJS, CMO worker or probation officer.
- Notify the youth's parent/guardian.
- Ensure the victim and court of commitment are notified of the apprehension/return of the youth.
- Complete the apprehension section on the JJIS notice of escape.

### **Escape Attempt**

Any offenses occurring during an escape or escape attempt, including the escape or escape attempt, must be reported to local law enforcement.

### **AUTHORITY**

Crime Victim's Rights Act, 1985 PA 87, as amended, MCL 780.751 et seq.

Michigan Penal Code, 1931 PA 328, as amended, MCL 750.186a

Social Welfare Act, 1939 PA 280, as amended, MCL 400.115a(1)(I)

Youth Rehabilitation Services Act, 1974 PA 150, as amended, MCL 803.306a