

Baldwin County Regional Juvenile Detention Center

Introduction

You are now a resident of the Baldwin County Regional Juvenile Detention Center. We understand that you may not be happy about being here, and our major concern is your care and welfare while you are with us. We cannot change your situation. Whether you are guilty, or innocent is a matter to be determined by the court. Please remember everyone leaves here sooner or later. The staff is here to help you, keep you safe and encourage positive outcomes and choices. A positive attitude leads to good behavior, cooperation, and improvements. A negative attitude leads to poor behavior and might make the situation worse.

This is a guide for you to live by while at the juvenile detention center. You must make an effort to follow all the rules. When you are in doubt about whether something is right or wrong, stop, think, or ask a staff member. Continue to read this handbook, which may answer some of your questions and will give you an outline of what you can and cannot do while you are here.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How long will I be here? We don't know, each case is different.
2. Why did the judge commit me to D.Y.S.? The judge considers many things when sentencing a juvenile: your past court involvement, your attitude while detained, your school records and what would be the best option to improve your situation.
3. Why can't I bail out or just do my time here instead of DYS? The juvenile system does not operate like the adult system. There is no bail or bond option. DYS and other programs are based off progress, not the number of days detained.

Your rights, while at the JDC

1. You have the right not to be subjected to discrimination, based on race, religion, national origin, sex or physical handicap.
2. You have the right to submit a written grievance concerning any complaint. You have the right to request a hearing for any major rule violation.
3. You have the right to have access to the court and legal counsel.
4. You have the right to access medical care and proper hygiene practices.
5. You have the right to be protected from harm, abuse, disease, or harassment.

Staff have the right to:

1. Use conservative judgment and make minor adjustments to the daily schedule in order to maintain safety.
2. Physically intervene if the physical safety of anyone is at risk.
3. Notify the staff, your JPO, Director, Asst. Director or medical/mental staff if a resident is harassing or threatening the physical or emotional safety of staff, themselves, the facility, or other residents.
4. MUST report any abuse that they have become aware of to DHR and the Director.

Security and Searches

We will conduct scheduled and unscheduled searches and security checks of the building, your room, and your person while you are here. We are sorry for the inconvenience, but the searches and security checks are required for security, fire safety and health reasons.

Behavior Management System

Each day you will receive points based on your behavior. You can up to 24 points per shift. You will receive points in four areas: Following Staff Instructions, Obeying Written Rules, Room and Hygiene. To receive the maximum 6 points, you will need to have a positive attitude and complete your tasks in a pleasant manner. Residents who receive 40 points per day will be allowed to remain up until 6:00PM – 6:45PM depending on facility needs.

Residents who engage in misbehavior will receive an SP or time out in their room. SP stands for suspended privileges, and you can be given one for a variety of offenses. SPs are totaled by the night shift. The day a resident is on SP will be the day following the offense. While on SP you will not earn points. All residents on SP will be locked down at supper.

Residents can reach privilege status on their 13th day at the facility. You lose your privileged status if you are placed on isolation. When you receive isolation, you go back to non-privileged status and must start your daily count over. On the 13th day after you are off isolation and have not gotten into any trouble you will be considered privileged again.

SP 1

- Name calling directed toward staff or other residents
- Cursing directed toward staff or other residents
- Refusing to obey a direct staff request
- Unauthorized items in room, gym, classroom or dayroom
- Notes and/or letters (written, passed or received between two detention residents)
- Arguing, back-talking or belligerence
- Being put out of school for the day
- Being in an unauthorized area without permission
- Refusal to participate in school

SP 3 (24 to 72 hour isolation)

- Defacing one's self

- Contraband
- Stealing
- Trading food
- Gambling
- Abusing or defacing county property (writing on walls etc.)

SP 10

(5 day isolation)

- Sexual harassment, exposure, or sexually acting
- Forced sexual act
- Assault using an object
- Escape or escape attempt
- Possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia
- Possession of any tobacco product
- Destruction of county property (breaking or damaging property)
- Possession of any weapon (including shanks)
- Threats of intimidation directed toward staff
- Any gang activity
- Fighting (whoever swings)

Medical Care

When you arrived, staff completed a medical questionnaire. Staff notified the nurse about any medical problems you may have. The nurse is available for sick call daily. If you feel you need to see the nurse, please notify a staff member and fill out a sick call form. Staff are trained to identify emergencies and will respond quickly. Medication will be administered as prescribed.

Hygiene

You are expected to shower daily. You will be given clean clothes daily. All linens and blankets are washed on Saturday. We do not permit you to keep your hygiene bag in your room. All hygiene bags should be given to the staff member in charge of your pod after use.

Phone calls

You have the right to make one phone call per week to your legal guardian. All calls are limited to 5 minutes. Any resident who has reached privileged status will be given the opportunity to make an additional phone call on their PODS assigned day. This phone call will last 15 minutes.

You may call outside victim advocate groups such as RAPE Crisis for emotional support related to sexual abuse at any time. Your call will be monitored visually but all calls will be confidential and private. Reports of abuse will be forwarded to authorities in accordance with mandatory reporting laws.

Visitation

All residents who are not on isolation are eligible to visit with their legal guardians. Residents who are not privileged receive a 15-minute non-contact visit. Residents who are privileged can have a 30-minute contact visit with their legal guardian.

Education

The Baldwin County Board of Education operates the school at the JDC. All residents must attend school. All grades from the schoolwork you complete at JDC transfer to your home school. This is a good time to work hard and raise your grades or finish early. Failure to go to school and actively participate will result in loss of all room materials until the end of the school day.

Meals

You will be served three meals a day and two snacks. Our meals are similar to what you eat at school and are well balanced to provide you with the nutrients you need. If you need a special diet for medical or religious reasons, we will arrange this. To prevent the spread of disease you are not permitted to give or exchange food.

Mail

You may write and receive mail from parents, legal guardians, step-parents, and grandparents. Your probation officer may restrict those who are allowed to write to you.

Grievances

All residents have the right to write a grievance. The grievance request will be placed in the black box on the hallway in front of control. The grievance box is checked daily by the administration team. The Detention Coordinator or Director will meet with you to address your concerns.

PREA

You have the right to be free from sexual harassment or abuse by residents for adults at the facility. You also have the right to be free from retaliation for reporting sexual abuse or harassment to a staff member. Report any incidents to a trusted staff member, member of administration or place a report in the grievance box. Incidents will be addressed immediately.