

Medical Clearance/Intake Health Screening

997.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose is to establish and implement written policy and procedures defining when a health evaluation and/or treatment shall be obtained prior to acceptance for booking of youth admitted to Riverside County juvenile detention facilities. This policy applies to all juvenile facility staff.

997.1.1 DEFINITIONS

Definitions related to this policy include:

Intake health screening - A defined, systematic inquiry and observation of every youth booked into a juvenile facility, conducted at the time of booking by either on-site health care staff or trained youth supervision staff.

Medical clearance - Clearance obtained from on-site health care staff prior to booking any youth with known health problems (including a youth who is known or suspected of having ingested an intoxicating substance).

“Ok to book” - A written statement prepared by a physician verifying that a youth’s health status is satisfactory for detention. (Note: This document shall be obtained when on-site health care staff do not authorize a medical clearance for custody, as above).

997.2 AUTHORITY AND REFERENCES

- Board of State and Community Corrections Title 15 § 1430;
- Policy 998: Intoxicated Youth and Youth with a Substance Abuse Disorder;
- Policy 999: Health Assessment;
- Riverside County Correctional Healthcare Services Policy Y-112.

997.3 POLICY

A documented intake health screening shall be conducted at the time of booking for each youth admitted to a Riverside County juvenile detention facility. Youth who meet specified criteria shall not be accepted for booking without a medical clearance or an “ok to book” from a physician. The final authority for admission to Riverside County juvenile facilities rests with the facility manager(s) or designee.

997.4 OK TO BOOK REQUIRED

Youth supervision staff shall refuse to accept custody of a youth brought to a juvenile facility by a peace officer without a documented “ok to book” if the youth is:

- (a) Known or suspected of having Tuberculosis (TB);
- (b) Unconscious or semi-conscious;
- (c) Profusely bleeding;

Medical Clearance/Intake Health Screening

- (d) Severe disorientation;
- (e) Known to have ingested intoxicating or hazardous substances in accordance with Policy 998: Intoxicated Youth and Youth with a Substance Abuse Disorder;
- (f) Intoxicated to the extent that they are a threat to their own safety or the safety of others;
- (g) In alcohol or drug withdrawal;
- (h) Ill, injured, or otherwise urgently in need of medical attention; and/or
- (i) Known or suspected of being pregnant and not medically cleared by on-site health care staff.
- (j) Written documentation of the circumstances and reasons for requiring an “ok to book” is required whenever a youth is not accepted for booking. A written “ok to book” shall be received prior to accepting any youth referred for a pre-booking treatment and clearance.

997.5 INTAKE HEALTH SCREENING

The intake health screening shall consist of a defined, systematic inquiry and observation of every youth booked into the facility. The screening shall be conducted immediately upon entry to the facility and shall be performed by on-site health care staff.

The screening shall be administered in private to increase the chances of the youth notifying staff of any potential problems.

The screening procedures shall include, but not limited to:

- (a) Medical, dental, and behavioral/mental health concerns that may pose a hazard to the youth or others in the facility;
- (b) Health conditions that require treatment while the youth is in the facility; and
- (c) Identification of the need for accommodations, e.g., physical or developmental disabilities, gender identity or medical holds.

Procedures for health care shall be made in a timely manner commensurate with the nature of any problems or complaints identified during the screening process.

Any youth suspected of having a communicable disease that could pose a significant risk to others in the facility shall be separated from the general population pending the outcome of an evaluation by on-site health care staff.

Information shall be obtained from the youth as to whether they are emancipated or living with parent/legal guardian, or elsewhere. This information shall be included on the health chart where it is easily accessible in the event medical consents are needed.

Parents/legal guardians, when contacted, shall be asked for additional health information, status of immunizations and any known medication allergies.

Screening forms shall be maintained for future reference if the youth is readmitted, but the process itself shall be repeated every time the youth is re-booked.

Riverside County Probation Department

Policy Manual

Medical Clearance/Intake Health Screening

A new intake health screening is not required for youth transferred to other Riverside County juvenile facilities. However, a health care clearance is required and the health appraisal/medical examination shall be updated prior to transfer and forwarded to the receiving facility as indicated in Policy 999: Health Assessment. The receiving facility shall verify that the necessary medical clearance has been received and conduct an interview with the youth to verify and confirm key health-related information.

997.5.1 INTAKE HEALTH SCREENING CRITERIA

The screening inquiry shall include the following:

- (a) Current illnesses and health problems, including medical, dental, psychiatric history and communicable diseases;
- (b) Medications taken and special health requirements, including chronic medical conditions necessitating regular maintenance therapy;
- (c) Use of alcohol and other drugs, including types, methods, amounts, frequency, date or time of last use, and a history of complications related to usage;
- (d) History of suicide attempts and presence of current suicidal ideation;
- (e) History of developmental disability;
- (f) Physical or sexual abuse;
- (g) History of gynecological problems, possibility of current pregnancy, and present use of birth control; and
- (h) Specific inquiry about current symptoms suggesting communicable diseases, such as tuberculosis and sexually transmitted diseases.

997.5.2 STAFF OBSERVATIONS

Observations shall be made of the following:

- (a) Behavior, which includes state of consciousness, mental status, appearance, conduct, tremors and sweating;
- (b) Physical disabilities and ease of movement;
- (c) Condition of skin, including trauma markings, bruises, lesions, jaundice, rashes and evidence of infestations, needle marks or other indications of drug abuse; and
- (d) Slowness in speech or lack of comprehension of questions, suggesting developmental disabilities.

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Riverside County Probation Department

Policy Manual

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