

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Safety

59-3

Policy

The Department of Children and Families recognizes that the nature of the mandate of the Juvenile Justice Office requires performing activities that may expose juveniles and staff to risk. DCF is committed to minimizing those risks.

Risk management and workplace safety shall be accorded high priority. Good risk management and safety practices require that all employees be responsible for adhering to safety measures, practices and rules and that they conduct themselves in a manner that shall minimize risk to themselves and others.

Related ACA Standards: Administration, Organization and Management; Supervision.

Physical Restraints

DCF Juvenile Justice Social Workers may, under certain circumstances, employ the use of physical restraint, including mechanical restraints, as a means of providing security and safety to the community, the juvenile and DCF staff.

Physical restraint may be used only as an emergency intervention to prevent immediate or imminent injury to the juvenile or to others, including Juvenile Justice staff, or when the need for physical restraint has been previously documented in the juvenile's case plan.

Physical restraint may not be used for discipline or convenience and shall not be used as a substitute for a less-restrictive alternative.

Each decision to use physical restraint shall take into account the juvenile's history, including history related to trauma and abuse, as well as current risk and needs.

Each use of physical restraint shall be documented in the juvenile's medical record and case plan.

Cross reference: DCF Policy [19-21](#), "Restraint of Clients."

Legal reference: Conn. Gen. Stat. [§46a-150 through §46a-154](#).

Related ACA Standards: Supervision.

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Transportation Transportation of juveniles shall always be conducted with the safety and security of the juvenile, the staff and the community as the primary concerns.

All juveniles being transported by Juvenile Justice staff shall be transported in state vehicles.

Juvenile Justice Social Workers shall be assigned state vehicles for the performance of their job duties.

Related ACA Standards: Supervision.

Searches When returning a juvenile into custody, Juvenile Justice Social Workers shall conduct a search of the juvenile using universal precautions.

Two Juvenile Justice staff members shall be present during a search. If a person of the same sex is not available to conduct the search, or if only one person is available, transport shall be delayed until a search is completed.

Each decision to search shall take into account the juvenile's history, including that related to trauma and abuse, as well as current risk and needs.

Weapons and illegal substances shall be secured and turned over to the CJTS Police or the police in the town of jurisdiction.

Other property belonging to the juvenile that the Juvenile Justice Social Worker deems necessary to confiscate shall be secured for safekeeping and returned to the juvenile at the appropriate time.

Related ACA Standards: Supervision.

Self-Protection Devices

DCF promotes the use of self-protection devices (*e.g., body armor, bullet-proof vest*) as a means of providing security and safety to Juvenile Justice Social Workers. Self-protection devices shall be provided as a precaution to prevent injury and, therefore, shall be worn at all times while performing field work.

Only self-protection devices issued by the State of Connecticut shall be used by Juvenile Justice Social Workers.

Related ACA Standards: Administration, Organization and Management.

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Equipment

DCF shall ensure that Juvenile Justice Social Workers have proper equipment to perform their duties.

Juvenile Justice Social Workers shall be responsible for maintaining assigned equipment in good working order and to immediately report any lost, stolen or damaged equipment. If the equipment is found not to be in good working order, the Juvenile Justice Social Worker shall submit a request for equipment replacement.

Related ACA Standards: Administration, Organization and Management; Training and Staff Development.
