

Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF)

Parent Handbook



Introduction.....	3
The SYTF Process.....	3
A. SYTF Staff	4
B. Your Child’s Admission Into SYTF.....	5
SYTF Partner Agencies.....	5
A. Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)	5
B. Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)	5
C. Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE).....	6
Multi-Disciplinary Meetings (MDTs).....	7
Visiting at SYTF	7
A. Special Visits	8
B. Visiting Hours and Instructions.....	8
C. Visiting Requirements.....	8
D. Additional Visiting Requirements	9
E. Dress Code.....	10
F. Items Not Allowed During Visitation.....	10
Programs and Activities.....	10
Daily Schedule	11
Religious Services.....	11
Ombudsman/Concerns by Parents and Legal Guardians	12
Federal Legislation: Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA).....	12
How to Obtain Medical Services/Medication for your Child Upon Release.....	13
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ’s).....	14

Introduction

This handbook is intended to provide you with information regarding your youth/young adult's SYTF order. This handbook will hopefully answer a variety of questions frequently asked by parents or guardians.

Your child has been ordered Secure Youth Treatment Facility ...what's next? Whom should I call? What should I do?

SYTF Facilities**Barry J. Nidorf – SYTF Campus**

16350 Filbert St.
Sylmar, CA 91342
(818) 364 – 2011

Campus Kilpatrick – Step Down Facility

427 S. Encinal Canyon Rd.
Malibu, CA 90265
(818) 889 - 1353

Secure Youth Treatment Facility – Dorothy Kirby Center

1500 S. McDonnell Ave.
Commerce, CA 90040
(323) 981 - 4301

The SYTF Process**Youth is assessed for SYTF**

Once your child has been ordered by the court to complete a Secure Youth Treatment Facility commitment, the Assessment Unit will conduct an assessment to determine the appropriate placement. Your child will undergo an intensive, individualized assessment process to ensure they are placed in the facility that will best address their needs. They are assessed based on multiple criteria, including age, gender, program length, medical and mental health needs, educational services, substance recovery programs and services, and their interests. After a thorough assessment is completed by the Assessment Deputy Probation Officer (DPO), the youth must await clearance from Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS) and Department of Mental Health (DMH). Once clearance is obtained, the youth is scheduled for movement to SYTF.

Youth's SYTF Program

Upon arrival to SYTF, your child will meet with medical, mental health and school staff. The facility provide youth with education, medical, and mental health services. Youth will participate in skills building programs, such as, Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), that

teaches skills to help the youth communicate and manage their emotions. Youth also have access to structured work experiences, vocational training, specialized tutoring, athletic activities, counseling services and various types of social enrichment programs. Additional programming is provided by Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and varies by each facility as they are tailored to its population and purpose. The overall goal of the SYTF program is to reunify the youth with their family, reintegrate the youth into the community, stabilize behavior and assist the youth in developing the social skills and behavior management skills needed to successfully return home.

Each youth will be assigned a probation officer/caseworker, who will serve as a mentor to assist your child in meeting their goals. In addition, the youth will be assigned an aftercare/field probation officer who may visit your home and work with you prior to your child's return home. An Initial Multi-Disciplinary Team (IMDT) meeting will be conducted and will include the youth, their parents/guardians, the SYTF DPO, Aftercare/Field DPO, Mental Health assigned clinician, SYTF Medical staff, and the school counselor/liaison.

Youth is Released from SYTF

Prior to release from SYTF, a Transitional Multi- Disciplinary Team (TMDT) meeting will be held to discuss and finalize your child's transition from the SYTF Program back to your home.

If the youth does not have a home to return to, or if the youth's home is deemed unsuitable, the Probation Officer must find the youth a place to live after the completion of his/her SYTF program.

SYTF Staff

SYTF facilities are staffed to ensure your child resides in a safe and secure environment. Youth will have interactions with the following staff during their SYTF program:

CVK and DKC

Group Supervisor Nights (GSN): This probation employee is assigned to work 10:00PM to 6:00AM. This employee cares for your child in the living unit during the night.

Deputy Probation Officers (DPO I and DPO II): This probation employee cares for your child in the living unit during the day and evening. Youth have assigned DPOs, who are responsible for submitting court reports, transitional paperwork and are also responsible for tracking and reporting the youth's progress to both the Probation Department and the parents. DPO IIs are assigned as the lead persons in the residential unit and provide guidance to the DPO I's.

Supervising Deputy Probation Officer (SDPO): This probation staff is assigned to supervise the GSNs, DPOs assigned to your child's living unit. SDPO's or their designees are always on duty and are the leading deputy at the facility; you can speak to them if you

are unable to contact your child's Probation Officer/Caseworker.

Assistant Director: This Probation staff is responsible for the safety and security of the facility and day-to-day operations of the facility.

Director: This probation staff is the manager responsible for the overall operation of the facility.

In addition to the staff listed above, the following are assigned to BJN:

Supervising Detention Services Officer (SDSO) - This probation staff is assigned to supervise the Sr.DSO, DSO and GSNs assigned to your child's living unit.

Senior Detention Services Officer (Sr.DSO) -- This probation staff is assigned as the Lead person in the living unit and provides guidance to the DSO's and GSN's.

Detention Services Officer (DSO) -- This probation staff is assigned to work from 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. This employee cares for your child in the living unit during the day and evening.

Your Child's Admission into SYTF

Upon arrival to SYTF, the Orientation Officer helps your child contact you, letting you know that they have arrived at SYTF. They also explain the facility process to your child and provide them with the orientation information. The youth is informed of how to receive services, the different programs offered at SYTF, and what is expected of them. Your child is provided with an Orientation/Rules and Rights Handbook and assigned to a Deputy Probation Officer. The facility's medical and mental health staff then complete their assessment of the youth. The SYTF school completes their assessment the following morning.

During the intake process your child will be asked to provide information regarding parents, grandparents and/or legal guardians. Information also will be obtained relative to your child's medical and mental health wellbeing, educational needs and/or special needs.

SYTF Partner Agencies

Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)

SYTF has medical professionals that are assigned to the Juvenile Court Health Services. If your child has been prescribed medication, he/she will be given access to their medication by the medical staff. If you have any questions regarding your child's medical health, you may contact the Juvenile Court Health:

SYTF – Barry J. Nidorf	(818) 364-2071
SYTF – Campus Kilpatrick	(818) 889-1353
SYTF – Dorothy Kirby Center	(323) 981-4344

Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)

SYTF has staff that are assigned by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to provide mental health services to your child while they are at the facility. Services include family and individual therapy, screening, crisis intervention, brief treatment, psychotropic medication evaluation and treatment. Services are provided seven (7) days a week.

Your child will receive a mental health screening shortly after admission, to assess his/her needs and/or mental health symptoms. If the screening suggests that your child may have mental health service needs, a more extensive assessment and clinical interview will be conducted. Your child is then referred for individual and/or group counseling and a psychotropic medication evaluation, if appropriate. At any time, your child may self-refer or be referred by a family member, probation staff, teachers, judge and/or attorney.

If you have any questions regarding your child's mental health services, you may contact The Department of Mental Health at:

SYTF – Barry J. Nidorf	(818) 364-2152
SYTF - Campus Kilpatrick	(818) 735-2815
SYTF – Dorothy Kirby Center	(323) 981-4301 x4308

Los Angeles Office of Education (LACOE)

The Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) operates fully accredited high schools in all juvenile institutional settings. All teachers at LACOE hold a California teaching credential. LACOE focuses on improving at-risk youth literacy skills and academic achievement. Educational services are an integral part of the daily program in SYTF. Each child attends school year-round, Monday through Friday, with the exceptions of holidays.

All Schools are fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Credits and diplomas earned are accepted at all high schools, colleges and universities. Earned

High School diplomas will be issued by LACOE. Academic goals are achieved by:

- Immediate and follow-up assessment of the student academic and special education needs.
- Engaging students in project-based learning focused on themes that address academic and mental health needs, incorporation of activities that promote self-esteem and empowering youth to make positive choices and behavior change.
- Designing and implementing Individualized Education Plans (IEP) for students with special needs and Individual Learning Plans (ILPs) for regular education students.
- Small classes-low teacher-student ratios.
- Intensive reading and math instruction supported by after-school tutoring.
- Support from a credentialed, skilled team of teachers, instructional aides, counselors, administrators and other staff who are dedicated to serving a challenging population of students.

- Integrating the latest computer technology and software into the curriculum.
- Transition counseling to promote a successful return to the community.
- Career/vocational training classes that vary by camp, including construction trades, culinary arts, electrical and auto repair.
- Offering testing for a high school equivalency certificate.
- Enrolling eligible students in college courses on site or through online learning opportunities.

Credits earned by your child while in SYTF can be transferred to your child's Home District School. Partial credits earned by students while in camp are accepted by local school districts. When your child returns to the Home District School, you may obtain their student transcript or High School diploma by contacting the Student File Center at (562) 922-6322. Students meeting all the court school requirements may receive a High School Diploma. Your child may also take the High School Equivalency Test (HiSet) to earn their certificate. When your child is released from SYTF, you will be provided with an unofficial transcript prior to leaving which can be taken to your child's local school for admission. After signing a release for records, LACOE will mail you your child's official transcripts. If your child has trouble speaking, reading, or writing English, he/she will be assessed for proficiency and may be placed in an English Language Development class to assist in developing his/her English skills. If your child was in a Special Education class at his/her school, please contact the Special Education office:

SYTF – Barry J. Nidorf: (818) 367-5943
SYTF - Campus Kilpatrick: (818) 879-6111
SYTF - Dorothy Kirby Center: (323) 263-5106

Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings (MDTs)

You, your child, and your child's entire team will meet to talk about what programs and services will be most helpful for your child, while they are in SYTF. This team will create a case plan. You and your child are the center of the plan and your team is responsible for assisting and supporting implementation of the plan. The people on your team are: the caseworker (Deputy Probation Officer), mental health therapist, school, medical, the Aftercare Deputy (Deputy Probation Officer in the community), you, and your child.

Depending on your child's individual circumstances, there might be other people on the team including but not limited to a social worker from the community or other partners. Whenever decisions are made about changes in your child's program, an MDT meeting takes place. At a minimum, your child will have an Initial MDT, mid-term, and a Transitional MDT before your child is released. Your child might also have an As-Needed MDT meeting to talk about any changes to your child's plan or address areas where your child might be experiencing challenges with reaching their case plan goals.

Visiting at SYTF

The Los Angeles County Probation Department has established the following visiting

requirements to support family reunification and ensure facility safety and security.

Designated relatives can visit youth at BJN on Saturdays and Sundays between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM and Sundays between 1:00 PM and 4:00 PM at CVK and DKC. Only those on the approved list to visit shall be allowed into the facility. These visits are limited to parents, legal guardians, in loco parentis, grandparents, or the youth's child(ren) only. A legal guardian is any person who has been granted guardianship by order of the court. If you are a legal guardian, you must provide verification to the staff at the facility for visiting approval. If you would like to add a family member to the list, please contact your child's caseworker.

You will be subject to a search of your person prior to entering the facility and are prohibited from bringing personal items into the facility for your child. Prior to entering the facility, you will enter through a metal detector and or a wand/vapor tracer screening may be conducted. Visitors suspected of being under the influence of alcohol, vaping and/or a controlled substance will not be allowed entrance into the facility. Please ask for the Supervising Deputy Probation Officer (SDPO), Acting Director (AD) or Director on duty if you have questions regarding this process. Visits may be shortened or postponed based on the safety and security of the facility. A Probation Director, Acting Director (AD) and or Supervising Deputy Probation Officer (SDPO) or designee will make the final decision.

A. Special Visits

Visits by those who are not parents, guardians, grandparents or the youth's child(ren) are considered special visits. Such visits require prior permission that can be obtained through a court order, the SYTF caseworker, SDPO, or the Director. Special visits include supportive adults that are positive role models in the youth's life such as a coach or teacher. The purpose of special visits is to provide additional opportunities for family reunification.

Persons under the age of 21 are not allowed to visit unless authorized by court order, the caseworker, SDPO, Assistant Director, or the Director. The caseworker or designated deputy will be present for the duration of the visit. All other standard visiting rules and procedures apply to special visits.

B. Visiting Hours and Instructions

Visiting hours are final and shall not be changed unless ordered by the Court, facility Director, or his/her designee. You are encouraged to call the facility prior to visiting to verify if your child is still housed at SYTF. It is also recommended that prior childcare arrangements be considered, as children should not be left unattended in vehicles during visiting.

C. Visiting Requirements

All visitors must bring current government-issued picture identification to be allowed entrance into the facility. Acceptable forms of identification include:

- Valid driver's license with photo
- Valid state identification with photo
- Department of Justice Identification with photo
- Passport with photo
- Military identification with photo
- Photo identification card issued by Immigration and Naturalization Service
- Certificado de Matricula Consular identification cards (honored for only 60 days from the date of issuance)
- In the event an ID is questionable, it will be reviewed by the SDPO or Director. Photocopied, non-picture, altered, laminated, or expired identifications will not be accepted.

D. Additional Visiting Requirements

Visitors may only bring keys attached to a key ring along with photo identification into the facility. Keys must remain in the visitor's pocket or on his or her lap during visits. Keys may not be placed on the table or in the youth's hand.

Visitors with disabilities who have wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, or other medically necessary equipment will be escorted to an appropriate location for visiting.

Visitors with medical devices/implants shall be required to present a letter signed by their physician detailing the specific type of device and its location on the visitor.

Visitors with excessive tattooing that cannot be covered with clothing (e.g., on the face or neck) may be escorted to a designated visiting location.

Medication that is not a life-or-death necessity is not allowed into the facility. Probation Deputies will escort visitors to the entrance of the facility if medication needs to be taken. Nitroglycerin tablets and inhalers are exceptions and are allowed. Youth shall not handle or use the visitor's medication.

Visitors must remain in designated area during visiting.

E. Dress Code

Visitors must adhere to the following dress code:

Visitors must be appropriately attired. No tank tops, muscle shirts, short skirts, or other revealing attire is permitted. Clothing shall not display any gang affiliation, display sexual or lewd comments/pictures, or have the potential for being offensive to others. Closed-toe shoes must always be worn. Inappropriately dressed visitors can be provided the opportunity to conduct their visit on a future date; they will not be allowed to enter the facility.

F. Items Not Allowed During Visitation

For the safety, security, and well-being of your child and all staff, the following items are prohibited (not allowed) to be brought into the facility. Possession of any of the items listed below during your visit may result in the termination of your visit:

- Writing instruments (such as, pens, pencils, markers);
- Metal (such as, handcuffs, paperclips, staples, pointers, laser pointers);
- Sharp instruments (such as, knives, scissors, boxcutters, tweezers);
- Wood (such as, rulers);
- Glass;
- Accessories (such as, backpacks or fanny packs, purses, wallets);
- Money or prepaid phone cards;
- Electronic devices (such as, cellular phones, pagers, cameras, MP3/CD/DVD players/iPod);
- Smoking items (such as, cigarettes, cigars, pipes, vape, lighters or matches);
- Beverages (such as, alcohol, water, soda);
- Snacks (such as, chewing gum, chips, candy);
- Controlled Substances (such as, unauthorized and/or illegal drugs);
- Hygiene (such as, mouthwash, toothpaste or toothbrushes);
- Firearms or any objects that can be used as a weapon; and
- Oleoresin Capsicum Spray (O.C. Spray)

Please be aware you may not provide your child with any personal items during visiting. Please contact your child's caseworker to make arrangements for the delivery of any approved items.

Programs/Activities

The Probation Department has many programs for your child while in SYTF. Programs and activities vary by facility and consist of helping your child work on their behavior and make progress in school. There is a library where they can choose and exchange books to read. Educational Services is an education and tutoring program that can assist them with reading or writing. Career education programs are available in the school, and there are programs to help your child earn school credits faster, if they qualify. Mental Health clinicians are also

available to meet with them regularly to work on anger management, sadness, goal setting, impulse control, and substance abuse. Mental Health clinicians work with your family and provide family therapy sessions. Your child will also participate in skills-building group sessions and programs to work on becoming the person they want to be.

The Developmental State System (DSS) offers your child a structured program of activities, including incentives and consequences to support positive behavior change. The activities and programs in SYTF are intended to help your child develop better relationships with family and friends, while learning better ways of solving problems and resolving differences. The DSS framework helps motivate your child to be consistent in displaying good behavior by rewarding him/her when they follow the rules and providing consequences when they do not. Each day, your child will receive points for meeting behavioral expectations in each period of the program. Staff, school personnel, Mental Health and medical personnel all provide feedback that factors into your child's points. They also earn points for participating in programming and recreation throughout the week. When they meet the minimum amount of daily points required, they earn what is called a "made day". Made days are required to help your child advance through the stages of the SYTF program.

Daily Schedule

Your child will be housed in a unit/cottage with other youth. SYTF utilizes the following daily schedule:

	WEEKEND	MONDAY - FRIDAY
6:00AM - 8:00AM	WAKE UP/ GROOMING/BREAKFAST	WAKE UP/ GROOMING/BREAKFAST
8:00AM - 9:00AM	NURSE CLINIC/MINDFULNESS CIRCLE UP	NURSE CLINIC/MINDFULNESS CIRCLE UP
9:00AM - 10:00AM	RELIGIOUS SERVICES	PROGRAMMING
10:00AM - 1:00PM	PROGRAMMING/LUNCH	PROGRAMMING/LUNCH
1:00PM - 4:00PM	VISITATION/RECREATION	PROGRAMMING/FREE TIME
4:00PM - 5:00PM	OUTDOOR RECREATION	OUTDOOR RECREATION
5:00PM - 6:00PM	DINNER/DAYROOM	DINNER/DAYROOM
7:00PM - 7:30PM	NURSE CLINIC/CIRCLE UP	NURSE CLINIC/CIRCLE UP
7:30PM - 9:00PM	FREE TIME/DAYROOM	FREE TIME/DAYROOM
9:00PM - 10:00PM	READING/WRITING	READING/WRITING

This general schedule may change based on rainy weather, special programs or events scheduled for the youth and may vary by SYTF facility.

Religious Services

Catholic and Protestant church services are held every Saturday and Sunday morning. Your child may inform staff if he/she is of a different religion and staff will contact the assigned Protestant Chaplain at their assigned facility to get in touch with someone from your child's faith to assist him/her. If your child has any questions regarding religious programming, they can also contact the Chaplain.

Contact numbers for the Chaplains are as follows:

Protestant Services – Wendy Langhans, website chaplains-eagles.org; Director of Administration of the Chaplains Eagles; Chaplain Richard Padilla (562) 807-6464

Catholic Services – Thomas B. Bleich (213) 438-4820, Coordinator Office of Restorative Justice Archdiocese of Los Angeles

Ombudsman / Concerns by Parents and Legal Guardians

All youth shall have fair and equal access to all available services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits. No one shall be subject to discrimination, harassment or placed in the Healing Opportunities and Positive Engagement (HOPE) Center on the basis of actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin (country your family came from), color, religion, gender, sexual orientation (heterosexual, lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgendered, and intersex), gender identity, gender expression, mental, physical disability, or HIV status. If you have concerns or prefer to speak with someone outside of camp, please fill out a “grievance” (complaint) form or call the Ombudsman at (877) 822-3222. The office of the Ombudsman was established by the Chief Probation Officer and has been directed to do the following:

- Ensure the voice of youth under the care and custody of the Probation Officer is heard and acts on their behalf.
- Create an avenue for youth to file complaints regarding their placement care and services without fear of retribution from those who provide their care and services.
- Document complaints
- Act as an independent forum for the investigation and resolution of complaints made on behalf of youth placed in probation care and make appropriate referrals.
- Ensure probation youth receive information on their rights when placed under probation supervision.
- Give feedback on actions and recommendations to every complainant as soon as possible, but no later than ten (10) business days from the date of the initial complaint.
- Maintain a toll-free telephone number (877) 822-3222 your child may call from within California to express their concerns and complaints.

Federal Legislation: Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA)

It is the mission of the Los Angeles County Probation Department to provide healthy, safe, and secure custodial care for the youth in camps. The SYTF Bureau is compliant with the Federal mandate PREA and has a zero-tolerance policy for sexual abuse, sexual harassment, and staff sexual misconduct. The Department will not tolerate sexual abuse of any kind in its facilities. This includes any form of sexual activity between staff, community-based organizations, volunteers, and youth. Sexual misconduct is also prohibited between youth regardless of consensual status and is subject to administrative and criminal disciplinary sanctions.

All youth that come into custody will receive a PREA orientation and assessment.

If youth witness sexual abuse/harassment or experience sexual abuse/harassment, the youth can report the abuse to:

- A Deputy Probation Officer they trust
- A Supervising Deputy Probation Officer
- Fill out a grievance form or request to see the nurse
- Write a letter to the Director or the Senior Director over the facility
- Talk to the Chaplain, parents, teacher, attorney, or any trusted adult
- Call the Ombudsman at (877) 822-3222

How to Obtain Medical Services and Medications for Your Child Upon Release

Prior to your child's release, a Release Packet will be completed which includes information about your child's medical and mental health services while they were residing the facility. If your child was taking medication while completing their program and needs to continue to take that medication, a 30-day prescription will be provided prior to your child being released. In addition, you will be provided any follow-up appointment information. For additional assistance, you may contact the aftercare Probation Officer or seek assistance during the transitional MDT process:

If your child needs mental health services, you can receive assistance with locating a local service provider by contacting the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health:

Telephone Number: (800) 854-7771

This is a Hotline open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Website: <https://dmh.lacounty.gov/for-providers/>

This is an interactive map that list providers by service areas

If you would like to apply for Medi-Cal benefits for your child, you can contact the Los Angeles County Department of Public Social Services to find your local office to apply in person or to obtain an application to submit by mail.

Telephone Number: (877) 597-4777

Website: <http://dpss.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/dpss/main/programs-and-services/health-care/>

From this website, you can print an application.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

The following are commonly asked questions and are prepared for parents of children housed in the camps.

Question: What happens to my child during the intake process?

Answer: SYTF will ensure your child's safety with 24 hours, 7 days a week supervision. Your child will be evaluated by medical services and mental health providers. When your child first arrives, he/she went through the intake procedure. During intake, your child was asked to provide additional information to the Intake Officer who uses this information to assist with determining what bed area your child will be placed in, when your child attend school, and understand any medical or other special needs your child may have.

Question: What if my child needs to take medication or has other medical needs?

Answer: While your child is at SYTF, his/her medical needs will be taken care of by Juvenile Court Health Services staff. Each youth is screened for mental health, medical, and educational needs. If your child has been prescribed with medication, he/she will be provided with the medication by Juvenile Court Health Services staff. If there are special circumstances, you will be contacted by the Juvenile Court Health Services staff. If you need to make us aware of any medication(s) or any special needs your child may have, please contact Juvenile Court Health Services staff, SYTF Supervisor on duty or facility Director.

Question: Can I call my child on the telephone or leave a message for them to call me?

Answer: For security reasons, your child is not able to receive incoming calls or messages. We have no way to verify who is calling and perhaps representing themselves as a child's parent or guardian. If you have an emergency that requires that you communicate with your child, you should call the facility, identify yourself as a parent/guardian, and ask to speak to the Supervisor on duty or facility Director.

Question: Can my child call me?

Answer: Yes. Telephones are provided for outgoing calls that your child can use during casework time with the assigned Deputy Probation Officer. In order to allow time for all youth to make calls, the amount of time your child may speak with you may be limited.

Question: Who can I call if I am worried and want to make sure my child is okay “just because?”

Answer: If you have any concerns about your child, you can call the facility, ask for the Supervisor, identify yourself as a parent/guardian and the Supervisor will assist you.

Question: What are the visitation guidelines?

Answer: Visiting days and times are specifically scheduled for each facility. Visiting hours varies, but at CVK and DKC, it is on Sundays from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. BJNI conducts visiting on Saturdays and Sundays between 1:00 pm and 4:00 pm. Please call the facility prior to visiting to ensure your child was not transferred to another facility. You can also arrange for special visitation, please contact your child’s caseworker or on duty supervisor.

Question: Can other family members visit, such as an uncle, brother, or sister?

Answer: Yes. Visits by supportive adults and persons other than those on the approved visiting list are referred to as “Special Visits.” Please contact your child’s caseworker to arrange for special visits.

Question: Can I bring my child things from home or other things like food or snacks when I visit?

Answer: Your child’s dietary needs will be assessed by a nutritionist and met by Food Service Staff at the facility. The facility is not allowed to accept outside food. You may contact your child’s caseworker to make arrangements for the delivery of any approved personal items.

Question: Can my child send and receive mail?

Answer: Yes. Parents are encouraged to send their children letters and photos from home. For security reasons, items are checked prior to being given to the youth. Items must be appropriate for youth (for example: sexually suggestive or explicit are not permitted). Your child can receive mail and send mail but is

not allowed to write to another juvenile facility such as a hall, camp, or any other detention center. Your child cannot write to anyone in jail or prison unless it is to their guardian or parent and approved by their caseworker.

Question: Can I send my child anything other than letters through the mail?

Answer: Please arrange with your child's caseworker for approved items.

Note: Remember that you cannot hand deliver anything for your child, even if it is something that would normally be allowed to be sent via the mail. This is for security reasons.

Question: I heard that my child will be attending school while he/she is detained. Is this correct?

Answer: Yes. SYTF has year-round school. Your child will normally go to school five (5) days a week (Monday through Friday) except during school vacation or if your child already graduated. If your child is a High School graduate, he/she are eligible and highly encouraged to participate in college courses on site or through online learning opportunities.

Question: If I want to talk with someone about my child's schooling, whom do I call?

Answer: Call the facility directly and identify yourself as a parent/guardian and ask to be transferred to the school. You can also contact the Los Angeles County Office of Education regarding any questions you may have regarding your child's educational needs. If you have any other questions, please call the facility and ask to speak with the supervisor on duty.

Question: Are there religious services provided for my child?

Answer: Yes. Catholic and Protestant services are held every Sunday morning. If your child request services from a different religion, please contact his/her caseworker or ask to speak with the supervisor on duty.

Question: What will my child's daily schedule be like? Will he/she just be locked up all day along?

Answer: Your child will be attending school, provided meals and snacks, participate in recreation and other activities and provided medical/mental health services as needed (please also refer to the "daily schedule" section for specific activities).

Question: What if I have legal questions about my child's case?

Answer: For legal issues, you can contact your child's attorney (If your child does not have a private attorney, then he/she will be represented by a county appointed

attorney called a public defender.)

Question: Can my child's juvenile records be sealed?

Answer: Sealing records will not happen automatically, and not all records may be sealed including some Department of Motor Vehicle convictions. Your child must file a petition to request this in court. Ask your child's attorney or caseworker for assistance.

Question: Can my child's juvenile court record be used against him or her as an adult?

Answer: Under the Three-Strikes Law, certain serious or violent felonies committed as a juvenile can be counted as strikes and given future consideration. This can happen even if your child's juvenile court record has been sealed. You can contact your child's attorney for further information.