

Creating a Closed-Caption Circuit Television Policy within the Probation

Department

The December 11, 2024, Order amending the Stipulated Judgment (Amended Order) between the California Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Los Angeles County Probation Department (Department) requires the Department to implement a Closed-Caption Circuit Television (CCTV) Review Protocol, and the Office of Inspector General (OIG) to review CCTV footage from two randomly selected days per month to see if the Department is complying with this CCTV Review Protocol. However, the Probation Department has not yet finalized its CCTV Review Protocol, so it is unavoidably out of compliance with this requirement. Despite the lack of this Review Protocol, the OIG reviews Department CCTV footage at least two days per month to see if documentation on use-of-force incidents aligns with CCTV footage and to review footage for any inappropriate use of force.

In their monthly report for March 2025¹, the OIG reviewed two cases from Los Padrinos and two cases from Barry J. Nidorf via CCTV footage and found that all four

¹ [Office of Inspector General Monthly Report for March 2025 on Internal Affairs Bureau Investigations, Closed-Caption Television Review, and Searches at Barry J. Nidorf and Los Padrinos Juvenile Halls](#)

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cases demonstrated deficiencies in the Department's processes and documentation related to use of force. The OIG found that the Department's physical incident reports (PIRs) did not reflect accurate use of Oleoresin Capsicum (OC) spray after reviewing the CCTV footage, and these inconsistencies in the PIRs, as well as inappropriate use of OC spray, were not identified by supervising staff. The OIG also found that sections of safe crisis management incident review packets were missing, and that there were inaccuracies in those reports as well.

CCTV footage provides departments with the opportunity to investigate and determine the truth behind incidents of concern. CTV footage can be used to confirm or deny allegations, can be used to ensure that policies are being followed, and can be used to confirm both youth and staff are being protected. It is important that the Department develops a CCTV Review Protocol related to the review of CCTV footage, especially for use-of-force incidents. It is also important that part of this Review Protocol include random audits of the CCTV footage and that all staff are adequately trained on the policy. A CCTV Review Protocol would enable the Department to not only comply with the requirements of the California DOJ Stipulated Judgement, but also to improve practices related to use of force and documentation.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Probation Officer to report back, in writing, in 60 days with the following:

1. A plan to develop a Closed-CaptionCircuit Television (CCTV) Review Protocol that includes the following:
 - a. Consideration of best practices from other jurisdictions related to CCTV policies and procedures in juvenile facilities;

- b. The use of internal random audits of CCTV footage to ensure accurate documentation of any incident, like uses of force; and
 - c. A protocol for reviewing CCTV footage after an injury is sustained by a youth, service provider, or staff member to ensure protocols were properly followed and the incident was documented appropriately.
2. A plan and timeline to implement the protocol and train employees on it.

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