

# Los Angeles County Probation Detention Services Bureau



Parent Handbook



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## **INTRODUCTION**

Your child has been detained in juvenile hall...what is next? Whom should I call? What should I do?

This handbook is intended to provide you with information regarding the Court and Juvenile Hall processes and answer a variety of question frequently asked by parents or guardians.

This handbook was prepared through collaboration between the Detention Services Bureau, the Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Department of Mental Health, Juvenile Court Health Services, and the Los Angeles County Office of Education and parents.

## **THE COURT PROCESS**

A youth may enter juvenile hall if arrested by law enforcement officers for a crime or if referred to court for a "Status Offense".

After a youth is arrested for a crime, law enforcement officers have three options:

1. Counsel the youth and call the parents or guardian to release the juvenile;
2. Ask the parents to sign a ticket promising to return the child to appear in court;
3. Take the youth to juvenile hall for detention. If a youth is taken to juvenile hall, a Deputy Probation Officer will determine if the youth should be counseled and released or placed on informal supervision. If the probation officer concludes that the offense is serious enough, the Probation Officer will refer the matter to the District Attorney to file formal charges on what is known as a "Petition" to the court. However, the Deputy Probation Officer must release the child home, unless the juvenile is a danger to the public, danger to him/herself, is likely to run

away, or has no place to go. Generally speaking, if the youth is detained in juvenile hall, a petition must be filed within 48 hours (excluding non-judicial days), and then have a detention/arraignment hearing by the close of business the day after the petition is filed. You will be notified when and where to appear for the court hearing.

Two common status offenses are:

1. “Truancy” is defined as being absent from school without a valid excuse three times in the school year. Truancy cases are filed with the court by the District Attorney’s office;
2. A youth, who fails to obey reasonable instructions from the parent/guardian and continues to demonstrate out of control behavior, may be referred to as a “habitually disobedient youth”. These cases are filed by the Probation Officer.

There are three primary parts to the legal process a youth goes through known as:

1. Intake - How your child enters the system.
2. Detention - The time it takes for the court to make a decision about your child’s case.
3. Disposition - What the court decides to do with your child’s case.

### **People in Court:**

In juvenile court, there are seven (7) parties that play a role in the court process, these parties are:

1. “Minor” - A young person under the age of eighteen (18) who has been arrested for a crime or has been brought before the court on a status offense. Your child will sit at the counsel table. You will be seated in the audience and may speak if the judge permits you.
2. Defense Attorney - This lawyer’s job is to defend your child from charges brought against them by the District Attorney. This lawyer may be a “Public Defender”, “Conflict Panel

Attorney” or “Private Attorney”. Conversations with the defense attorney are kept confidential (secret). It is the attorney’s job to ensure that your child’s due process rights are protected.

3. District Attorney/Prosecutor - This lawyer’s job is to keep communities safe from crimes by holding juveniles accountable for their behavior and by ensuring that services are provided to the youth to aid in rehabilitation. The District Attorney decides whether to file charges, what charges to file and whether or not to dismiss charges in a plea bargain or agreement involving the defense attorney. The District Attorney also evaluates the evidence in the case to ensure that there is evidence beyond a reasonable doubt to support the charges. If the District Attorney concludes there is insufficient evidence, the District Attorney should dismiss the petition. If the petition is filed, the District Attorney will present evidence to the judge to prove the charges being brought against your child are true.
4. Probation Officer - A Deputy Probation Officer (DPO) is in court and writes down instructions for your child, obtains your signature on documents and helps to get you connected with services. If placed on informal or formal probation, your child may also be assigned to a DPO near where you live to monitor his/her behavior and make certain he/she does what the court tells them to do. The DPO submits periodic reports to the court to indicate how well your child is doing in the community. If your child is not doing well, the DPO might recommend that your child return to court for additional sanctions.
5. Court Stenographer - The stenographer (transcriber) records every word said on the record during a court hearing. If there is a question regarding what someone said, the typed written document can be provided for clarification.
6. Bailiff - The Bailiff is a Deputy Sheriff charged with keeping order in the court. He/she will direct people into the courtroom and is responsible for maintaining security and order in the

court.

7. Interpreter - An interpreter is used when the youth, family, or witness prefers to communicate in court in a language other than English. It is important to know what is being said so if you need an interpreter ask the court, an attorney or the bailiff to request one.

### **Parent/Guardian Responsibility:**

You will be informed when and where you need to attend each of your child's court hearings. Court starts at 8:30 a.m. and you are expected to arrive in plenty of time so that when your child's case is called your child will have had time to speak with his/her attorney.

### **Types of Court Hearings:**

Certain cases are open to the public in juvenile court. The clerk posts a list of those cases open to the public each day. Whether the case is open to the public depends on the seriousness of the crime. There is a list of crimes that determines whether the case is open or confidential.

*Initial Hearing* - known as an "Arraignment Hearing". At this hearing, the court or the attorney reads the charges to your child, and explains your child's constitutional rights. If your child does not already have an attorney, the Public Defender or Conflict Panel attorney will be appointed to represent your child. Your child will be asked to admit or deny the charges made against them through the attorney. You may retain a private attorney for your child. You may also retain an attorney to represent you as a parent although there is a limited opportunity for the parent to participate in the proceedings. An attorney appointed to represent your child is not your attorney.

The initial hearing may also include a "Detention Hearing" when your child has been detained in juvenile hall, the judge will decide at this hearing if your child will be released or will remain detained until the next court hearing.

*Pre-plea Hearing* - The court has already ordered a report from probation which has a recommendation as to the disposition plan in

the event your child has been found to have committed a crime. At this hearing, your child may admit a charge or charges. Your child's attorney will consult with your child to determine if your child wants to admit a charge or accept an informal disposition of the case where appropriate. If your child wants to have a trial, that trial will be scheduled at a later date. If your child is in custody, they have the right to a trial within fifteen (15) court days of the detention hearing, excluding non-judicial days.

*Disposition Hearing* - At this hearing, the judge considers the "Pre-plea" or "Disposition Report" written by a Deputy Probation Officer that considers the youth's social history (school, family, criminal history, victim's statement and recommendation). Based on this report and arguments presented by the attorneys in court, the judge decides what to do with the youth. The judge may place the youth on an informal program of supervision, diversion, home on probation, in a Placement facility, in a probation camp or with the Division of Juvenile Justice (a prison for youth).

## **THE JUVENILE HALL PROCESS**

Your child has been detained at one of two Juvenile Halls in Los Angeles County:

### **Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall**

16350 Filbert Street

Sylmar, CA 91342

Movement Control: (818) 364-2011

Superintendent: (818) 264-2001

### **Central Juvenile Hall**

1605 Eastlake Avenue

Los Angeles, CA 90033

Movement Control: (323) 226-8611

Superintendent: (323) 226-8601



## **Juvenile Hall Staff**

1. Group Supervisor Nights (GSN) -- This probation employee is assigned to work 10:00 p.m.- 6:00 a.m. This employee cares for your child in the living unit during the night.
2. Detention Services Officer (DSO) -- This probation employee 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.
3. Senior Detention Services Officer (Sr.DSO) -- This probation employee is assigned as the Lead person in the living unit and provides guidance to the DSO's and GSN's.
4. Supervising Detention Services Officer (SDSO) --This probation employee is assigned to supervise the Sr.DSO, DSO an GSN assigned to your child's living unit.
5. Division Director – The probation employee is assigned to manage a Division. A Division consists of several living units and the Division Director supervises the Supervising Detention Services Officers (SDSO) assigned to the Division. There is a Division Director on duty seven (7) days per week at each of the juvenile halls. If a Supervisor cannot resolve issues arising with your child, do not hesitate to ask for the Division Director on duty.
6. Assistant Superintendent – This probation employee is responsible for the safety and security of the facility and day-to-day operations of the juvenile hall.
7. Superintendent – This probation employee is the Administrator responsible for the overall operation of the juvenile hall.

If you have a problem that needs to be resolved, contact Movement Control (telephone numbers are listed in above chart) and ask for the Officer of the Day (O.D.). The “O.D” is a Supervisor and should be able to address any issues arising with your child.

## **Your Child’s Admission into Juvenile Hall**

When your child arrives at the facility they will be interviewed by a DSO or GSN. This is referred to as the “Intake Procedure”. If your child has any visible signs of physical distress or injuries, they will be examined by staff from the Juvenile Court Health Services prior to being admitted to the juvenile facility.

During the Intake Process, your child will be asked to provide information regarding parents, grandparents and/or legal guardians. This information will be used to list those individuals who will be visiting with the youth. Information will be obtained relative to your child’s medical and mental health well-being, educational needs and/or special needs (physical disabilities or hearing impaired).

After the Intake Process is completed your child will have a physical examination completed by medical professionals assigned to the Juvenile Court Health Services. Your child will also have a dental examination.

## **JUVENILE HALL PARTNER AGENCIES**

### **Juvenile Court Health Services (JCHS)**

The juvenile hall has a Medical Unit which is staffed by medical professionals assigned to the Juvenile Court Health Services. Your child will receive a physical exam by a physician within 3-7 days after admission. If immunization records are not available, we will start the immunization process. It is important that you bring a photocopy of your child’s immunization records to the facility where your child is housed. Contact the Nurse Manager at the juvenile facility if:

1. Your child wears eyeglasses or contacts; or

## 2. Your child is taking prescribed medication.

If your child has been prescribed medication, they will be given access to their medication by the hall's medical staff. If you have questions regarding your child's medical health you may contact the Juvenile Court Health Services Nurse Manager at the appropriate juvenile facility:

- Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall: (818) 364-2071
- Central Juvenile Hall: (323) 226-8779

After the medical process, your child will have a mental health screening and assessment completed by a clinician assigned to the Department of Mental Health.

### **Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (DMH)**

The juvenile hall has staff assigned by the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health to provide mental health services to your child while they are in juvenile hall. Services include: 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 their possible at-risk behavior and/or mental health symptoms. If the screening suggests that your child may have mental health needs, a more extensive assessment and clinical interview will be conducted. Your child is then referred for individual 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, judges and/or attorneys. If your child has had a recent or prior traumatic experience that may affect their behavior in the facilities, please reach out and inform Movement Control (phone number on page 5) or the Department of Mental Health.

- Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall: (818) 364-2152
- Central Juvenile Hall: (323) 226-8826

## **Los Angeles Office of Education (LACOE)**

While at the juvenile facility, your child will be enrolled in school managed by staff assigned to the Los Angeles County of Education. LACOE focuses on moving at-risk youth toward literacy and academic achievement. Each child attends school year round, Monday through Friday, with the exception 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—maximum 17 to 1 student to teacher ratio.
- 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.
- 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 the juvenile facility can be transferred to your child's Home District School. Partial credits earned by students while in the juvenile facility 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 General Educational Development (GED) exam to earn their GED. When your child is released from juvenile hall, you will be provided with an unofficial transcript prior to leaving juvenile hall 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, they will be assessed for proficiency and may be placed in an English Language Development class to assist in developing their English skills. If your child was in a Special Education class at their school, please contact the Special Education office at the appropriate juvenile facility:

- Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall: (818) 367-5943
- Central Juvenile Hall: (323) 226-8452

### **VISITING AT JUVENILE HALL**

It is the policy of the Los Angeles County Probation Department that the following visiting requirements shall be adhered to during approved visiting hours at both juvenile halls. Safety and security

require these strict rules and regulations.

Please note that regular visits are limited to parents, legal guardians, grandparents and the youth's child(ren) only. A legal guardian is any person that has been granted guardianship by order of the Court. If you are a Legal Guardian, you must bring such verification to the facility in order for the visit to be approved.

You will be subject to a search of your person prior to entering the facility and are prohibited from bringing personal items into the juvenile hall for your child. Prior to entering the juvenile facility, you will enter through a metal detector and/or a wand screening may be conducted. Additionally, you will be tested for controlled substances by placing your finger on a Vapor Tracer unit before entering the juvenile facility. Your visit may not be granted if you test positive on the Vapor Trace Machine. 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 Services Officer (SDSO) 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 or designee will make the final decision.

## Visiting Hours and Instructions

Juvenile Hall Address/Phone Number	Visiting Hours	
	After Court Monday through Friday (20 minutes only)	Saturday and Sunday
<b>Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall</b> 16350 Filbert Street Sylmar, CA 91342 Movement Control: (818) 364-2011 Superintendent: (818) 264-2001	Until 7:00 p.m.	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
<b>Central Juvenile Hall</b> 1605 Eastlake Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90033 Movement Control: (323) 226-8611 Superintendent: (323) 226-8601	5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. or earlier if time permits	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Visiting hours are final and shall not be changed unless ordered by the Court, Superintendent or their designee. You are encouraged to call the juvenile facility prior to visiting to verify if your child is still housed at that facility. Please note there are no provisions for childcare at the juvenile halls and children may not be left unattended during the visit.

## Visiting Requirements

In order to gain entry into the juvenile facility, all visitors must bring a current government issued picture identification. 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 identification is questionable, it will be reviewed by the SDSO or Director.

Photocopied, non-picture, altered, laminated, or expired identifications will not be accepted.

### **Additional Visiting Requirements**

Visitors may only bring two (2) keys attached to a key ring with no attachments along with photo identification into the facility. These items must remain in your pocket or on your lap during visits and 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.

If you are prescribed Nitroglycerin tablets or an inhaler, you will be allowed to take these items into the juvenile facility during your visit. Your child is not to handle or use this medication. If you are prescribed medication that is not a life or death necessity, you will not be allowed to bring this medication into the juvenile facility. If you need this medication, you will be escorted to the entrance of the



facility to take your medication and be allowed to return to complete your visit.

You are not allowed to walk about the dayroom or juvenile hall during the visit. You must remain in the designated visiting area, if you leave the visiting area, your visit may be terminated.

### **Special Visits**

Visits by those who are not parents, guardians, grandparents or the youth's child(ren) are considered special visits. These visits are conducted at times other than the stated visiting hours. Special visits require prior permission that may be obtained through a Court Order, from the juvenile facility Superintendent or their designee, or the Deputy Probation Officer. Special visits include those who are adult siblings or 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 twenty-one (21) are not allowed to visit unless authorized by a Court Order. This is also considered a "special visit" which, as indicated above, requires prior permission. All other standard visiting rules and procedures apply to special visits.

### **Baby and Me**

In an effort to promote family reunification, your child will be allowed supervised visits with their children. Baby bonding visits can be scheduled outside of regular visitation hours and do not require the facility administrator's special approval. Contact Movement Control at the facility where your child is housed and ask for the Supervisor or Division Director in your child's unit for information relative to bringing your grandchild to visit their parent in the juvenile facility.

## **Dress Code**

You must be appropriately dressed and shoes must be worn at all times. Clothing considered inappropriate includes:

- White t-shirts as outer wear, strapless tops, spaghetti strap tops, transparent (i.e., see-through) outfits, halter tops, tank tops;
- Short skirts or short dresses (higher than mid-thigh), shorts, tight fitting clothing, low cut tops or clothing exposing mid-section of stomach;
- Clothing bearing inappropriate messages and/or insignias, bandanas, sunglasses, hats, broaches, stickpins, open-toed shoes, or shoes with heels higher than two inches.
- Clothing displaying any gang affiliation, sexual or lewd comments/pictures.

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.

## **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, handcuff keys, 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 pens, 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, including illegal substances and/or contraband which may subject you to criminal prosecution.

## **PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES**

The Probation Department has many programs for your child while in juvenile hall. Programs and activities vary by juvenile 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 assist them with reading or writing. There are programs to help your child earn school credits faster, if they qualify. Mental Health clinicians are also available to meet with your child regularly to work on anger management, sadness, goal setting, impulse control, and substance abuse.

The Behavior Management Program (BMP) offers your child a structured program of activities, including incentives and consequences to support positive behavior change. The activities and programs in juvenile hall are intended to help your child develop better relationships with family and friends, while learning better ways of solving problems and resolving differences. The BMP framework helps motivate your child to be consistent in displaying good behavior by rewarding them when they follow the rules and providing consequences when they do not. The BMP uses a point system to reward your child for good behavior and the points earned can be traded to obtain items at the “Al Jones Store” (the store named in honor of a former Probation Director). The points your child earns can be used to buy snack items (such as cookies and potato chips), personal items (such as lotion and shampoo), and/or activities (such as movie nights or time in the game room.)

## **DAILY SCHEDULE**

Your child will be housed based on age, maturity level, and the seriousness of the crime they are being detained for. Additional determinations will be made for youth with disabilities, special needs, medical and mental health needs, and security concerns. Typically, your child will be housed in a unit with their own room. Your child will adhere to the following schedule while detained in the juvenile facility.

## MONDAY – FRIDAY

## SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

6 AM	WAKE UP	7 AM	WAKE UP
7 AM	BREAKFAST/UNIT CLEAN UP	8 AM	BREAKFAST/UNIT CLEAN UP
8:15 AM	SCHOOL	9 AM	PROGRAM/REC/EXERCISE/ CHURCH
11:50 AM	RETURN FROM SCHOOL	11 AM	PROGRAM/REC/EXERCISE
12 PM	LUNCH/ NURSE'S CLINIC	12 PM	LUNCH/ NURSES'S CLINIC
1 PM	SCHOOL	1 PM	VISITING
2:40 PM	RETURN FROM SCHOOL	4 PM	PROGRAM/REC/EXERCISE
3 PM	PROGRAM/REC/EXERCISE	5 PM	DINNER
5 PM	DINNER	6 PM	PROGRAM/REC/EXERCISE
6 PM	PROGRAM/REC/EXERCISE	7 PM	FREE TIME
7 PM	FREE TIME	8 PM	SHOWERS
8 PM	SHOWERS	9 PM	LIGHTS OUT
9 PM	LIGHTS OUT		

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

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Catholic and Protestant church services are held every Sunday morning. Your child may inform staff if they are 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 them. Your child should ask staff if they want to talk to the Chaplain about a problem or have any questions regarding religious programming.

Contact numbers for the Chaplains are as follows:

- Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall
  - Protestant Chaplain: (818) 364-2061

- Catholic Chaplain: (818) 364-6878
- Central Juvenile Hall
  - Protestant Chaplain: (323) 226-8788
  - Catholic Chaplain: (323) 226-8530

## **OMBUDSMAN / CONCERNS BY PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS**

All youth in juvenile hall 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 juvenile hall, 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 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.

- Maintain a toll-free telephone number (877) 822-3222 your child may call from within California to express their concerns and complaints.
- 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.

### **FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER (FRC)**

Parents, grandparents and/or legal guardians are encouraged to visit the Family Resource Center (FRC) which is located at each juvenile hall. The FRC provides family need assessments, referral services and information brochures and pamphlets on family issues and topics. Our goal through the FRC is to provide you and your child with services and resources that will assist in your child's successful transition back into the community.

Contact Numbers:

- Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall: (818) 364-6885
- Central Juvenile Hall: (323) 226-8700

### **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 juvenile halls. The Detention Services 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:

- Any Probation staff
- Mental Health staff
- Fill out a grievance form or request to see the nurse
- Talk to the Chaplain, parents, teacher, attorney, or any trusted adult
- Call the Ombudsman at (877) 822-3222

### **HOW TO OBTAIN MEDICAL SERVICES AND MEDICATION FOR YOUR CHILD UPON RELEASE FROM JUVENILE HALL**

Prior to your child's release, a Discharge Summary will be completed which includes information about your child's medical and mental health services while they were detained in juvenile hall. If your child was taking medication while in juvenile hall 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.

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 twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (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 and mail it to the address below:

Northridge Regional Medi-Cal District #90  
P.O. Box 10810  
Canoga Park, CA 91309

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ's)**

The following are commonly asked questions and are prepared for parents or legal guardians of children housed in the juvenile halls.

Question: What is happening to my child and are they safe?

Answer: When your child first arrived at the juvenile facility, they underwent what is referred to as the Intake Procedure. During Intake, your child was asked to provide additional information to the Intake Officer who uses this information to determine which housing unit your child will be placed in, if your child is eligible to attend school and also understand about any medical or other special needs your child may have (for example, if your child is physically disable or hearing impaired). Additionally, your child was asked to provide relationship information regarding relatives such as: mother, father, legal guardianship and grandparents. In

most cases, you should have already received a telephone call from the Intake Officer during this process.

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

**Answer:** While your child is in the juvenile facility, their 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, they 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 (Refer to page 10 for phone numbers). After hours, you can always call Movement Control (Refer to page 8 for phone numbers).

**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 Movement Control (Refer to page 8 for the phone numbers), identify yourself as a parent/guardian, and ask to speak to the OD or the Director on duty and explain the situation.

**Question:** Can my child call me?

**Answer:** Yes. All youth are given two (2) free phone calls upon one hour of admission. During their stay, telephones are provided for outgoing calls that your child can use at certain times during the day (typically in the early evening hours). 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 Movement Control (Refer to page 8 for phone numbers), ask for the OD, identify yourself as a parent/guardian and the OD will assist you.

**Question:** Can I visit my child?

**Answer:** Yes. Please refer to the “Visiting A Juvenile Hall” section on page 13 for instructions regarding visiting. Please be aware your child may be transferred to another facility without prior notice to you. In order to avoid any confusion, you are advised to verify their location by telephone prior to visiting. Call Movement Control (Refer to page 6 for phone numbers), identify yourself as a parent and tell the person you need to verify if your child is still at the facility.

**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 refer to the section “Special Visits” on page 16.

**Question:** What if my child returns to the juvenile hall after visiting

hours are over?

**Answer:** In some cases, your child may have a court appearance at a court that is offsite. Your child may arrive back at the juvenile facility after visiting hours, so it is best to call and see if your child has in fact arrived at the juvenile facility before you visit. Please call Movement Control (Refer to page 8 for phone numbers), identify yourself as a parent of child who had an offsite court appearance and ask if your child has returned to the juvenile facility. If your child is not returned or is not anticipated to be returned before visiting hours are over you can visit the following day during regular visiting hours. If your child has returned to the juvenile facility and visiting hours are still in effect, you can visit your child that day.

**Question:** How many people can visit at one time?

**Answer:** Visits are typically limited to two (2) people at one time, although you are allowed to have more than two visitors a day. For example, if the parents visit from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. and leave, the child's grandparents can enter at 2:00 p.m. and stay until visiting is over. Exceptions may be made in special circumstances, such as a grandparent who uses a wheelchair that may need assistance from a family member.

**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 Morrison's (food service staff) at the juvenile hall. Juvenile facilities are not allowed to accept outside food.

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 hall or camp, Your child cannot write to anyone in jail or prison unless it is to their guardian or parent.

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

Answer: No. For security reasons your child may not receive anything other than mail.

*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. Juvenile halls have 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. Please refer to section "Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) on page 11 for further information.

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

Answer: Call Movement Control during school hours (8:00 a.m.

to 3:00 p.m.) and identify yourself as a parent/guardian and ask to be transferred to the school.

**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 Movement Control and ask to speak with the O.D.

**Question:** What will my child's daily schedule be like? Will they 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 on page 19 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 they 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 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.







## **Juvenile Hall Facilities**

### **Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall**

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

### **Central Juvenile Hall**

1605 Eastlake Ave.  
Los Angeles, CA 90033  
(323) 226-8611

**Adolfo Gonzales**  
Chief Probation Officer

**Karen Fletcher**  
Chief Deputy

**Mark Garcia**  
Bureau Chief