

KERN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Detentions Bureau Policies and Procedures

TITLE: **SUSPECTED JUVENILES IN CUSTODY**

C-2200

EFFECTIVE:	REVIEWED:	REVISED:	UPDATED:
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APPROVED BY: Detentions Bureau Chief Deputy Cindy Cisneros

REFERENCE:

POLICY

Juveniles will not be booked into or housed within any Detentions Bureau facility. The shift supervisor will refuse to book any arrestee whom the shift supervisor reasonably believes to be a juvenile. Any incarcerated person in-custody determined to be a juvenile will be immediately transferred to Juvenile Hall or, in the case of contract incarcerated people, to the custody of the agency for whom the incarcerated person is being housed.

DIRECTIVE #1

An incarcerated person claiming to be a juvenile after having been booked as an adult will not be administratively separated or transferred based solely on the unsubstantiated claim of juvenile status.

However, this directive does not prevent the administrative separation or other special housing (e.g., protective custody) of such incarcerated people if otherwise warranted by the circumstances or classification criteria.

Procedure A: Identification and Disposition of Juvenile Arrestees

The arresting officer shall have the primary responsibility of determining if an arrestee is a juvenile. If the arresting officer determines the arrestee is a juvenile, they shall transport the arrestee to Juvenile Hall or otherwise lawfully resolve the arrest.

Any staff who, despite the arresting officer's determination, reasonably believes that an arrestee is a juvenile will advise the shift supervisor prior to the arresting officer's departure.

Prior to the arresting officer's departure, the shift supervisor will:

- Review any information readily available (e.g., identification, interview of the arrestee, identification system, etc.) to determine if the incarcerated person is an adult or a juvenile;
- If there is a compelling reason to believe that the arrestee is a juvenile, refuse the booking;
- If there is not a compelling reason to believe the arrestee is a juvenile, process the arrestee as an adult;
- Generate a JMS incident indicating the basis for the decision.

Any arrestee booked as an adult will be considered an adult until proven otherwise.

Procedure B: Identification of Juvenile Incarcerated People

Any incarcerated person who claims or is reported to be a juvenile will be given a reasonable opportunity to substantiate the claim. This may be accomplished by:

- Requesting family members or other out-of-custody person to bring documentation that demonstrates juvenile status (e.g., birth certificate, government identification, etc.) to the facility for review by the shift supervisor;
- Presenting any documentation that the incarcerated person has in their possession for review by the shift supervisor;
- Petitioning the court of jurisdiction (via their attorney or, if pro per, themselves) for a judicial determination of their juvenile or adult status.

Any staff who receives a claim that an incarcerated person is a juvenile will advise the shift supervisor. The shift supervisor will review any documentation provided and determine if the incarcerated person is an adult or juvenile.

- The shift supervisor will generate a JMS incident indicating their determination of the incarcerated person's status. Copies of any documentation used to make the determination will be placed in the incarcerated person's file.

Any staff receiving a court order or other judicial determination that an incarcerated person is a juvenile shall immediately ensure that the juvenile incarcerated person is separated from adult incarcerated people and advise the shift supervisor.

Procedure C: Disposition of Juvenile Incarcerated People

Upon determination (documentary or judicial) that an incarcerated person is a juvenile, the shift supervisor will:

- Ensure that the juvenile is immediately separated from other incarcerated people in such a way that the juvenile cannot hear or see adult incarcerated people;
- Assign a staff member to continuously monitor and be responsible for the safety of the juvenile;
- Advise the on-duty classification deputy of the incarcerated person's juvenile status and direct the classification deputy to process the incarcerated person's release for transfer to Juvenile Hall or, in the case of a contract incarcerated person, to the custody of agency for whom the juvenile is being held;
- Arrange for the juvenile to be transferred to Juvenile Hall or the appropriate contract agency as soon as possible.