



Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association

Representing Oregon's County Juvenile Departments

www.ojdda.org

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OJDDA

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The Oregon Juvenile Department Directors' Association (OJDDA) is providing information on the current practices of juvenile detention facilities regarding HB 2706, which prohibits juvenile detention facilities from imposing isolation upon detained juveniles except under specific circumstances. Limits period of time isolation may be imposed. Requires hearing before hearing board before expiration of 12 consecutive hours of isolation.

OJDDA supports limiting the use of isolation for long periods of time and believe that current statute is appropriate for juvenile detention facilities.

There are currently 11 juvenile detention facilities in Oregon, which include: Deschutes, Douglas, Jackson, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, NORCOR and Yamhill.

Under current statute, there is a clear distinction between isolation and roomlock:

Isolation is the confinement in any room which lacks toilet facilities, furniture, reading and recreation materials or access to light and air comparable to that in other rooms used for the detention of juveniles. Use of this is to not exceed 6 hours.

Roomlock is confinement of a juvenile in any sleeping room, other than an isolation room. Use of this is to not exceed 12 hours, excluding sleeping hours, without a hearing.

Several juvenile detention facilities have rooms that partially meet the definition of isolation as described under the current statute but none of these rooms lack light or air comparable to what other rooms used for the detention of juveniles have (some may lack a toilet, furniture or reading and recreation material). All facilities have policies around the use of isolation, however the current use of isolation is rare or non-existent and would only be used as the last resort in dealing with imminent situations involving juveniles.

Juvenile Detention Facilities:

- Use room lock as defined in current statute for discipline of violations of the rules of conduct or behavior of the facility and provide the required hearing if this exceeds 12 hours.
- Use the least restrictive interventions to address situations of youth misconduct.
- Use force only as reasonably necessary and justified to prevent a youth from harming themselves or others, posing an immediate threat to the safety, security and order in the facility, to prevent escape from the facility, or when there is the imminent danger of significant property destruction.

Practices and policies of juvenile detention facilities are currently more restrictive around the use of isolation and roomlock than current statute.

For further information, please contact Lara Smith, (503) 804-9750.