

JUVENILE COURT HEALTH SERVICES

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Subject: PRIVACY OF CARE		Original Issue Date: 1/31/03	Policy # B-107
		Supersedes: 5/8/2021	Effective Date: 2/4/2022
Departments Consulted: Department of Probation	Approved By: (Signature on File) Health Services Administrator (Signature on File) Nursing Director	Approved by: (Signature on File) Medical Director	

PURPOSE

To provide guidelines to maintain a patient's privacy and dignity during healthcare encounters.

POLICY

All clinical encounters are conducted in private and are carried out in a manner designed to encourage the patient's subsequent use of health services, as permitted by security concerns.

PROCEDURE

- Clinical encounters are conducted in private to the extent possible without compromising safety and security.
- Verbal permission is always obtained prior to a breast, rectal, and/or genital examination. Any time a chaperone is needed, the youth's preference for the gender of the chaperone will be discussed.
- In general, probation staff are not to be present during a clinical encounter, or are to remain at a distance to ensure privacy. In the rare case that a probation staff must be present at a closer distance due to security concerns, they are to be reminded about the necessity for safeguarding personal health information and maintaining confidentiality. Additional measures must be implemented to maintain as much auditory and visual privacy as possible.
- During visits to a residential unit, it is essential that the care provider be given a private area for conducting interviews and examinations. If this is not feasible, at a minimum, other youth and care providers must be kept away from the immediate area of the examination to facilitate private communication between the youth and provider. There should also be the availability of going to a private area for a follow-up examination, if indicated.
- Using other youth as interpreters is not permitted.
- If a choice of an assistive communication tool is necessary, it is important to involve the youth in the decision-making process to protect the youth's desire for privacy and communication preference.

DISTRIBUTION: Juvenile Court Health Services Policy and Procedure Manual

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	Medical Director's Initials: (Initials on File)	

AUTHORITY

California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Article 8, Section 1407

REFERENCE

NCCHC Standard Y-A-09

JCHS Policy #C-122 "Chaperones During Physical Examination"

REVIEW DATES

Jan 31, 2003; December 3, 2010; Jan 3, 2013; November 2, 2017; May 8, 2021; February 4, 2022