

# PARENT & ATTORNEY GUIDELINES FOR YOUTH IN CUSTODY



**Washtenaw County Youth Center**  
(Juvenile Detention & Day Programs)  
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## GENERAL INFORMATION

The Washtenaw County Trial Court and Youth Center are committed to the safety and security of its customers, staff and visitors.

If you are the parent or attorney of a youth in the custody of the Juvenile Detention Program, there are strict guidelines regarding contact with youth while they are at the Juvenile Center for court hearings.

Youth in custody of the Juvenile Detention Program are transported to and from court hearings by Juvenile Detention Program youth counselors. At all times during this process youth are in the custody of Juvenile Detention staff.

Transport staff is unable to discuss questions regarding your child's case or possible time of release. The Hearing Officer at the court will make those decisions. **Questions regarding a youth's case should be referred to their assigned Probation Officer or attorney.**

If a youth is remanded to the Juvenile Detention Program during a hearing, the Bailiff will immediately take them into custody until Detention staff is available. Contact with a juvenile will not be permitted once the youth is taken into custody.

## FOR PARENTS

**Who are the people in blue uniforms escorting my child at Court?**

Professional Youth Counselors from the Juvenile Detention Program escort youth to and from the Youth Center building to Court

hearings. They are responsible for maintaining the safety and security of youth in custody at all times.

In accordance with the national American Corrections Association accreditation standards and department policies, Juvenile Detention staff who transport youth must remain with the youth at all times unless the youth in custody are being kept in a designated Holding Area at the Court.

### **What is the Holding Area?**

The Holding Area is a room designated by the Court to maintain the safety and security of youth in custody while are awaiting hearings or being interviewed by attorneys. All security rules apply while the youth is in the Holding Area, including no passing of contraband and no private conversations.

### **Why is my child in leg shackles and handcuffs at Court?**

Youth are physically in the custody of the Juvenile Detention program until the Court orders otherwise. Detention transport staff utilizes leg shackles and handcuffs to ensure the safety and security of the youth, staff and visitors at the Court.

### **Why is my child wearing a colored (orange, yellow, blue or white) jumpsuit?**

The different colored jumpsuits signify different levels and privileges at the Youth Center earned by the youth based upon their behavior in the Detention program.

**Why can't I visit with a youth in the company of Detention staff?**

Court hearings are stressful events for any youth, especially those in custody. To maximize the safety and security of all parties, parents and family are not allowed contact with youth while they are in the custody of Juvenile Detention staff.

Parent/Guardian visitation occurs at the Youth Center during regular visitation hours, on a first come-first served basis. Visitation rules are available upon request or at the Youth Center building. You may also write and send letters to the Youth Center.

**Wednesday Visitation Schedule**

**First Session:**

Registration Period: 4:10 p.m. to 4:20 p.m.  
Visitation Period: 4:20 p.m. to 4:50 p.m.

**Second Session:**

Registration Period: 4:50 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Visitation Period: 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday & Sunday Visitation Schedule**

**First Session:**

Registration Period: 1:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.  
Visitation Period: 1:15 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.

**Second Session:**

Registration Period: 1:45 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Visitation Period: 2:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Can I give my child medication, mail or other items while they are at court?**

No. You are not allowed to give youth any items at Court. Most items are considered

contraband as they could be used by the youth to hurt themselves or others.

Special medication and other approved items can be dropped off at the Youth Center building. However, all of the youth's housing needs will be met by the Juvenile Detention program including food, clothing, bedding, school supplies and other necessary items.

**Can I hug or kiss my child when I see them at Court?**

Because contraband can be passed during physical contact, youth are not allowed to have interaction with parents or guardians while at the Court. You may hug your child during visitation hours at the Youth Center.

**Why are you so concerned with "contraband"?**

Many everyday items can be turned into dangerous objects or ingested to cause injury. The Juvenile Detention program must make every effort to keep residents, staff and families safe and secure. The only way to ensure everyone's safety is to keep potentially harmful items out of the youths' possession so that they do not hurt themselves or others.

**FOR ATTORNEYS**

**How do I speak with a client who is in custody of the Juvenile Detention Program prior to their hearing?**

If time allows prior to the scheduled hearing while the juvenile is at the Court, attorneys may speak with youth in the court building. The Court has designated holding areas that meet the need for private discussion and security. Detention transport staff or Bailiffs will direct you to an approved location. When speaking to a youth at Court, please speak with detention transport staff prior to speaking with the youth and be prepared to show identification. To maintain security, leg shackles and handcuffs will not be removed.

**How else can I speak with my client at Court?**

Contact outside of these specified areas at the Court is prohibited due to safety and security concerns for youth, staff and others.

Attorneys may interview youth at the Juvenile Detention Program at any time, 24 hours per day – seven days per week by presenting proper identification.

The Juvenile Detention Program is located in the Washtenaw County Youth Center Building at **4125 Washtenaw Avenue**, in the Washtenaw County Service Center (corner of Hogback and Washtenaw). Call the Youth Center at **(734) 973-4343** for complete information regarding interview procedures. Staff are available 24 hours per day.