DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES	
Juvenile Justice Services	
STATEWIDE POLICY	
SUBJECT:	Escape Prevention and Response
POLICY NUMBER:	DCFS/JJ 200.08
EFFECTIVE DATE:	11/1/2016
APPROVED BY:	Ross Armstrong Deputy Administrator – Juvenile Justice Services
DATE:	Rad
SUPERSEDES:	N/A
APPROVED BY:	Kelly Wooldridge Administrator Division of Child and Family
DATE:	Kelly C Wal
REFERENCES:	ACA: 3-JTS-2G-02, 3-JTS-2G-03, 3-JTS-3A-03, 3-JTS-3A-13, 3-JTS-3A-10
ATTACHMENTS:	Attachment A: Incident Report

#### I. SUMMARY

It is the policy of Division of Child and Family Services Juvenile Justice to take all possible steps to prevent a youth from escaping from any state operated correctional facility. In case of an escape the facilities will ensure a quick and efficient plan of action to apprehend the youth and return to the facility.

## II. DEFINITIONS

As used in this document, the following definition shall apply:

Attempted Escape: Any incident involving a youth who makes a substantial effort or step to but fails to leave the grounds or boundaries of a facility or makes a substantial effort or step to but fails to leave the custody of facility staff when outside the facility.

Escape: Any incident involving a youth who leaves the grounds or fenced boundaries of a facility or leaves the physical custody of facility staff without authorization while off the grounds of the facility regardless of the length or duration of the departure.

<u>Facility:</u> A state facility for the detention of committed youth which is administered by the State of Nevada. This term includes, but is not limited to, the Nevada Youth Training Center, Summit View Youth Center and the Caliente Youth Center.

<u>Planned Escape</u>: A design either in writing or verbally of one or more youth to escape from the facility with sufficient detail in the intended actions and sequences of events intended to facilitate the escape. More than just the verbalized desire to leave the facility.

## **ESCAPE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

<u>Root cause analysis (RCA)</u>: is a method of problem solving used for identifying the root causes of faults or problems.

#### III. ESCAPE PREVENTION

#### A. Assessment and Reassessment

- 1. The facility staff shall be aware of the mental health counselor's risk assessment prior to the youth's arrival to the facility.
- 2. The facility shall develop an objective tool for assessing and reassessing a youth's escape risk throughout his or her stay at the facility and the youth's current escape risk shall be communicated to facility staff. Input from home life staff, mental health staff, education staff, and any other sources shall be incorporated into the assessment.
- 3. The facility shall reassess the escape risk for youth at least once every 30 days or when a significant incident or change in the youth or his or her family occurs.

## B. Minimizing Escape Risk and Opportunity

- 1. The facility shall develop procedures to minimize opportunities for escape that include but are not limited to:
  - a. Increased staff supervision;
  - b. Cottage, room, or bed assignment;
  - c. Removal of footwear;
  - d. Activity restrictions both on and off property;
  - e. Separate procedures and restrictions for cottage, movement, education, dining, etc.
- 2. The facility shall develop strategies to prevent or reduce motivation for escapes that include therapeutic programming and risk assessments.
- 3. The facility shall implement regular perimeter security checks and youth head count.

#### C. Notice of Planned Escape

- 1. Any staff that becomes aware of any information of a planned escape shall notify the shift supervisor immediately.
- Upon notification of a planned escape, the supervisor should contact the facility's Superintendent who will then direct the course of investigation and temporary precautionary measures in consultation with group supervisor staff and mental health staff.

# **ESCAPE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

## D. Staff Training

- The Superintendent and the facility Training Officer shall develop a system to share current trends in escape prevention within juvenile justice and share this material with all staff.
- 2. Training Officer will develop escape risk assessment and escape prevention training curriculum for all new hires and provide required training twice a year thereafter.

### IV. ATTEMPTED ESCAPE

#### A. Immediate Action

- 1. The employee that encounters an attempted escape shall intervene pursuant to the Division's Use of Force policy.
- 2. All youth shall be locked down immediately and the facility secured.
- 3. A headcount of all youth shall be conducted.
- 4. The employee shall notify the shift supervisor immediately. The shift supervisor shall notify the Superintendent or designee.
- 5. The shift supervisor shall cancel all programs, activities and visitation until count clear.
- 6. The Deputy Administrator shall be contacted by the Superintendent or designee no more than one hour after the attempt.
- 7. The Superintendent shall lift the lock down and authorize resuming programming.

#### V. SUCCESSFUL ESCAPE

## A. Immediate Action

- 1. The staff person becoming aware of an escape will notify the shift supervisor immediately and the response team pursuant to facility procedures.
- 2. Pursuant to NRS 63.620, upon the escape of a youth from the facility, the Superintendent shall immediately notify:
  - a. The appropriate law enforcement agencies; and
  - b. The public

- i. The facility shall develop a procedure to indicate how the public will be notified, that procedure must include notification through press, social media, or other appropriate means.
- ii. The notification must include a photo of the youth and his or her physical description.
- 3. The Superintendent will immediately contact the Deputy Administrator, the Chief of Parole, and the Division Public Information Officer.
- 4. An immediate lock down of all youth and head count will occur.
- 5. An attempt to recapture the youth shall be directed by the shift supervisor and in coordination with law enforcement. The shift supervisor shall remain on the property.
- 6. In the event the youth is not immediately located, the Superintendent shall ensure a retake warrant is appropriately requested and granted.

#### B. Additional Communication and Notification

- 1. The Deputy Administrator and Chief of Parole will be briefed on the situation with ongoing communications.
- 2. The parents or legal guardian will be notified within one hour unless there is a reason to believe notifying the parents may increase the risk of prolonged elopement or risk the health and safety of the youth.
- 3. Upon the youth's apprehension, the facility shall immediately notify the Deputy Administrator, the Chief of Parole, and the Division Public Information Officer. The public must be notified of the apprehension in the same manner they were notified of the escape. The parents or legal guardian must be notified of the apprehension in the same manner they were notified of the escape.

# VI. DOCUMENTATION AND REVIEW

- A. All staff involved in the attempted or successful escape must promptly document the event with an incident report in UNITY.
- B. The facility shall maintain logs or other records of perimeter checks and youth count.
- C. The Superintendent and all supervisors shall conduct a briefing of the incident within 24 hours and review the factors that lead to the successful or attempted escape.
- D. The Superintendent will provide the entire facility staff and the Deputy Administrator with a written Root Cause Analysis (RCA) in an After Action Report of the successful or attempted escape with a correction action plan within 30 days of the incident.
- E. Lessons learned from each successful or attempted escape shall be incorporated into the regular training of facility staff.

# **ESCAPE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**

# VII. PROCEDURES

- A. Each facility shall develop Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) consistent with this policy.
- B. The facility's SOPs shall be modified as necessary following a successful escape.
- C. Attempted or successful escapes must be included in the monthly Superintendent's report.