

AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION

Proposed Expected Practices & Definitions – Use of Separation with Juveniles

- The American Correctional Association released proposed changes to the ACA Standards on solitary confinement / room confinement on September 29, 2017.
- The term “separation” has replaced terms in the existing standards referring to separation (e.g. seclusion, exclusion).
- The period for public comment **ended on December 1, 2017**. Read the [Proposed Expected Practices and Definitions](#) here.
- The proposed modifications address juvenile correctional facilities (JCFs) and juvenile detention facilities (JDFs) separately.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Separation is prohibited as discipline or punishment.
- Separation is permitted only as an immediate response to disruptive behavior that threatens the safety and security of the youth or others.
- Youth must be removed from separation once they are able to show emotional and behavioral control. Separation should be as brief as possible.
- A supervisor/behavioral health staff must reevaluate and authorize separation > 4 hours.
- If separation is continued beyond 4 hours, a supervisor/behavioral health staff must review separation at least every 2 hours thereafter.
- Separation should not exceed 24 hours. To extend separation beyond 24 hours, the Superintendent must reassess and authorize separation (and do so every 23 hours thereafter).
- Separation for protective custody requires an individual plan within 4 hours, mandatory out-of-room time, and review every 24 hours.
- Permits separation or Special Management when youth are in danger from other youth or themselves.
- Youth in separation beyond 4 hours must receive education, treatment, medical, and recreation services.
- Supervisor/behavioral health staff must meet with youth within 4 hours of separation to identify the reasons why the youth cannot return to the general population.
- Requires written policies and procedures for behavioral health monitoring of youth in separation, including behavioral health monitoring of youth’s adjustment every 4 hours.
- Trained staff must administer a behavioral health screening within 30 minutes of separation to determine if there are behavioral health reasons to stop separation. Requires notification of behavioral health staff if youth is separated > 2 hours.

This chart includes information on some of the most significant proposed changes to the American Correctional Association's

Juvenile Commitment Facility Standards (JCF)

Standard	Proposed ACA Commitment Standards	Current ACA Commitment Standards	Concerns and
JCF-New Goal	<p>When Separation May Be Used Permits separation “when warranted” for youth who pose a threat to the safety and security of staff, other youth, or themselves.</p> <p>Separation to Protect Youth Permits separation or Special Management when youth are in danger from other youth or themselves.</p> <p>Youth in Special Management should receive similar programming and privileges as other youth.</p>		<p>When Separation M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standard should a separation is warr poses a risk of im <p>Separation to Protec</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth who are in should not be plac for periods longer Youth who preser should never be p increases the risk harm.
4-JCF-3B-10	<p>No Punitive Separation No use of separation as discipline or sanction.</p>	Separation for up to 24 hours for a major rule violation for the safety of the youth, others, or the security of the facility. An administrator who was	<p>No Punitive Separat (Positive) This major standards moves the</p>

Standard	Proposed ACA Commitment Standards	Current ACA Commitment Standards	Concerns and
	Separation only used as an immediate response to disruptive behavior that threatens the safety and security of the youth or others.	not involved in the incident must approve separation beyond 24 hours.	practices. Experience youth as punishment is counter-productive.
4-JCF-3C-01	Behavior Management Plans The treatment team develops behavior management plans for youth with serious behavior problems or who threaten the security and management of the facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treatment teams develop individual plans for youth with serious behavior problems. If a shift supervisor or facility administrator orders immediate placement in a special unit, the treatment team must review this action within 72 hours. High-risk youth or youth who present a danger to themselves may require special management. Special management may include separation. 	Behavior Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Positive) Behavior effective response youth's behavior ; separation. Behavior include clear positive measure youth's s to separation. The standard should not be part management plan emergency respor
4-JCF-3C-02	Separation as Protective Custody <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A plan must be developed within four hours to ensure services in the least restrictive environment possible. 1 hour of out-of-room activity for every five hours of room time (excluding sleeping hours). A facility administrator must approve separation every 24 hours by (no outer limit). The standard lists alternatives to separation that staff may use to minimize harm done to the youth requiring protection. 	Staff can use separation as part of a special management plan for protective custody for up to 72 hours. Separation can be continued beyond 72 hours if approved by the facility administrator.	Separation as Protec Youth who are in dan not be placed in separ longer than three to fo
4-JCF-3C-03	Removal from Separation Youth removed from separation at the point he/she	Administrative, clinical, social work, religious, and/or medical units visit youth in	Removal from Sepai <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current langu

Standard	Proposed ACA Commitment Standards	Current ACA Commitment Standards	Concerns and
	<p>has demonstrated emotional and behavioral control and is assessed as being able to reenter population.</p> <p>Review & Authorization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervisor/behavioral health staff must meet with youth within 4 hours in an effort to identify the reasons that youth are unsafe to return to the general population. Supervisor/behavioral health staff must authorize separation. Supervisor/behavioral health staff “review” separation > four hours and again every two hours thereafter. <p>Staff Intervention</p> <p>Staff must meet with youth to assist in de-escalation <i>if</i> youth sustains escalated behavior.</p> <p>Education and Services</p> <p>Youth isolated > 4 hours receive education, treatment, medical, and recreation services.</p>	<p>separation once daily.</p> <p>Suicidal youth are under continuous one-to-one observation until evaluation by a mental health professional.</p>	<p>that a youth may l demonstrates emo as being able to re standard should cl requirement does otherwise eligible separation.</p> <p>Review & Authoriza</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Positive) We sup and review by a s separation increas ACA should spec supervisor/behavi separation – no tin The term “behavio interpreted. A beh should be required separation. The standard shou <i>authorize</i> separati just review. Staff should remo any point once the immediate physic that occurs in betv <p>Staff Intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff should work separation to help

Standard	Proposed ACA Commitment Standards	Current ACA Commitment Standards	Concerns and
			<p>those who display sustained period c</p> <p>Education and Servi</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Positive) Recogn not receive treatm education. • This standard sho all youth in separa <p>Family and Attorney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ACA Standar provide notice to j youth's attorney c of separation. • Staff should enga input and support incidents involvin • In the case of you illness, the facility to the protection a hours of the youth • These requiremen youth deemed to l violence" and you custody.
4-JCF-3C-04	<p>Max Duration Before Superintendent Approval</p> <p>Separation should be as short as possible and should not exceed 24 hours. Further evaluation and</p>	<p>Separation should not exceed 5 days unless permitted by law. Administrator reviews confinement for periods of > 24 hours every 24</p>	<p>Max Duration Befor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Positive) These c reductions in the a

Standard	Proposed ACA Commitment Standards	Current ACA Commitment Standards	Concerns and
	authorization from Superintendent needed to extend separation past 24 hours (no outer limit)	hours.	<p>spend in separation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 hours is out of time in separation and with the pract youth cannot calm hours, a different • Because superviso decisions made by superintendent sho authorize the use o shorter period of t • As written, the sta extensions of 24 h could spend week
JCF-New #2	Separation in Behavior Management Programs Separation may be used as part of a behavioral management program, consistent with other expected practices.		Separation in Behav <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Positive) Behavior effective response youth's behavior a separation. • However, separati individual behavior Separation should response to quell o tool to address the behavior. In fact, c can actually incre

Standard	Proposed ACA Commitment Standards	Current ACA Commitment Standards	Concerns and
JCF-New #6	Separation for Acts of Violence In cases of acts of violence, standard requires four hours of separation and an evaluation of youth's readiness to return to programming.		Separation for Acts of Violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not all youth who require separation experience physical harm. The standard requires acts of violence not necessarily. We are in the position that staff must be able to prevent immediate harm. "Act of violence" definition is not clear. The standard should provide a clear definition for this standard to prevent youth from being threatened immediately.
4-JCF-4C-46	Healthcare Assessment and Contact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualified healthcare professionals or health-trained persons receive immediate notification when a youth is placed in separation. These staff will complete an assessment immediately. Youth in separation receive a daily visit from a qualified healthcare professional or health-trained person. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualified healthcare professionals or health-trained persons receive immediate notification when a youth is placed in separation. These staff should complete an assessment. Youth in separation receive a daily visit from a qualified healthcare professional or health-trained person. 	Healthcare Assessment and Contact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This standard does not specify the type of assessment or who should complete it. The standard should specify that youth have medical support from these "visits." For example, a staff member opening the door or window should not constitute a visit.
JCF-New #8	Behavioral Health Screening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires staff to use a behavioral health screening tool within 30 mins. of separation. Any staff that has received training can administer the screen. The screening tool is designed to identify 		Behavioral Health Screening See below.

Standard	Proposed ACA Commitment Standards	Current ACA Commitment Standards	Concerns and
	behavioral health reasons not to place the youth in separation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavior health staff are notified when youth in separation more than two hours. 		
JCF-New #9	Behavioral Health Monitoring <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires behavioral health monitoring of youth in separation, including behavioral health monitoring of youth's adjustment every 4 hours (except sleeping hours). • Facility must provide appropriate behavioral health care. 		Behavioral Health M <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Positive) Collaborative health and direct c successfully reduc • The current langu staff to screen, mo necessary. However JCF-New #8 requ play an active role of separation. Stat youth who are in s intervention, indiv based approaches.

Juvenile Detention Facility Standards (JDF)

Standard	Proposed ACA Detention Standards	Current ACA Detention Standards	Concerns and I
JDF-Goal	<p>When Separation May Be Used Permits separation when warranted for youth who pose a threat to the safety and security of staff, other youth, or themselves.</p> <p>Separation to Protect Youth Permits separation or Special Management when youth are in danger from other youth or themselves. Youth in Special Management should receive similar programming and privileges as other youth.</p>		<p>When Separation M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include language to specify that sep youth's behavior] physical harm <p>Separation to Protec</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth who are in should not be plac for periods longer • Youth who preser should never be p increases the risk harm.
3-JDF-3C-06	<p>No Punitive Separation No use of separation as discipline or sanction.</p> <p>Separation only used as an immediate response to disruptive behavior that threatens the safety and security of the youth or others.</p>		<p>No Punitive Separat (Positive) This major standards moves the / practices. Experience youth in isolation as p ineffective, and count</p>
3-JDF-3C-07	<p>Removal from Separation Youth removed from separation at the point he/she has demonstrated emotional and behavioral control and is assessed as being able to reenter population.</p> <p>Review & Authorization</p>	Youth in separation must be visited at least 1x/day from administrative/clinical/social work/religious/medical units.	<p>Removal from Sepai</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current langu that a youth may l demonstrates emc as being able to re recommend that tl

Standard	Proposed ACA Detention Standards	Current ACA Detention Standards	Concerns and Issues
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supervisor/behavioral health staff meet with youth within 4 hours in an effort to identify the reasons for them being unsafe to return to the general population; Separation longer than 4 hours is reviewed by supervisor/behavioral health staff every two hours thereafter (true even after acts of violence); <p>Staff Intervention Staff meet with youth to assist in de-escalation if youth sustains escalated behavior.</p> <p>Education and Services Youth isolated beyond 4 hours receive education, treatment, medical, and recreation services.</p>		<p>clarify that such a not serve as a barrier being removed from</p> <p>Review & Authorization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Positive) Requiring a supervisor helps brief as possible. However, the standard to authorize separation just review. The standards should be removed from separation no longer pose a risk – regardless of whether between two-hour <p>Staff Intervention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff should work separation to help those who display sustained period of <p>Education and Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Positive) Recognizing not receive treatment education. This standard should all youth in separation <p>Family and Attorney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACA Standard

Standard	Proposed ACA Detention Standards	Current ACA Detention Standards	Concerns and I
			<p>provide notice to youth's attorney of separation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff should engage input and support incidents involvin • In the case of you illness, the facility to the protection a hours of the youth • These requiremen youth deemed to l violence” and you custody.
3-JDF-3C-11	Max Duration Before Superintendent Approval Separation should be as short as possible and should not exceed 24 hours. Further evaluation and authorization from Superintendent needed to extend separation past 24 hours.	Separation for up to 24 hours for a major rule violation for the safety of the youth, others, or the security of the facility. Superintendent must approve separation beyond 24 hours.	Max Duration Befor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Positive) These c reductions in the a spend in separatio • 24 hours is out of separation permitt the practices in ot • Because superviso decisions made by superintendent sho authorize the use o shorter period of t • As written, the sta extensions of 24 h could spend week
3-JDF-3E-01	Behavior Management Plans Requires behavior management plans for youth with	High-risk youth, who cannot control their assaultive behavior, present a danger to themselves, or who are	Behavior Managemen

Standard	Proposed ACA Detention Standards	Current ACA Detention Standards	Concerns and I
	a sustained pattern of serious behavior problems.	in constant danger of being victimized by other youth may require special management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Positive) Behavior effective response youth's behavior ; separation. Behav include clear posi measure youth's s • However, the stan separation should behavior manager used an emergenc harm.
3-JDF-3E-04	Medical & Behavioral Health After 24 Hours Requires daily face-to-face contact with personnel from administrative, medical, and behavioral health services if separation has been authorized > 24 hours.	Youth placed in separation visited at least once each day by personnel from an administrative, clinical, social work, religious or medical units. Suicidal youth are under continuous/continuing observation.	Medical & Behavior <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This standard doe contact with beha unless separation contrary, all youth immediate service immediately. This increased risk of s separation. • Behavioral and m play an active role separation through planning, or traum