



# AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION

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There is broad support among professionals in the juvenile corrections field to address the issue of separation for juvenile offenders. The American Correctional Association has convened a group of juvenile corrections practitioners to critically analyze existing accreditation standards dealing with the issue of separation of juveniles, with the purpose of re-issuing revised standards consistent with the latest science and exemplary practices.

The American Correctional Association commends the efforts of the Center for Children's Law and Policy, the Justice Policy Institute, the Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators, and the Center for Juvenile Justice Reform in their efforts to end solitary confinement of youth in our country through the "Stop Solitary for Kids" campaign.

ACA recognizes that isolating a youth for extended periods can have serious psychological and developmental consequences, exacerbate mental illness and increase the risk of suicide. Our association has long held the position that any type of incarceration should be the least restrictive as is possible. We recognize that temporarily placing a youth into his or her room when the youth is out of control until the youth calms down is not isolation (or separation as ACA refers to it) or solitary confinement. We further understand that placing a youth in separation to prevent immediate harm to the youth or others should be the singular reason for the use of separation.

ACA stands ready to assist organizations, individuals, and juvenile correctional systems in reducing the use of separation of juvenile offenders.

Sincerely,

Mary. L. Livers, Ph.D.  
President

James A. Gondles, Jr., CAE  
Executive Director