



**JUSTICE CABINET  
DEPARTMENT OF  
JUVENILE JUSTICE  
POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

**REFERENCES:  
505 KAR 1:120  
3-JTS-4C-27, 28, 41; 5C-06  
4-JDF-4C-26, 27, 39; 5B-05  
3-JCRF-4C-14, 15; 5C-03  
4-JCF-4C-12; 4D-01,06  
1-JBC-4C-27, 28; 5C-07  
NCCHC Y-E-08**

**CHAPTER: Health and Safety Services**

**AUTHORITY: KRS  
15A.065**

**SUBJECT: Behavioral Health Emergencies**

**POLICY NUMBER: DJJ 405.5**

**TOTAL PAGES: 2**

**EFFECTIVE DATE: October 5, 2018**

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**, COMMISSIONER**

**I. POLICY**

Behavioral health emergency care shall be available 24 hours a day, seven days per week by direct employment or by contract for services.

**II. APPLICABILITY**

This policy shall apply to group homes, youth development centers, and detention centers.

**III. DEFINITIONS**

Refer to Chapter 1100.

**IV. PROCEDURES**

**A. PROTOCOL FOR DEALING WITH MENTAL HEALTH EMERGENCIES**

1. In the event of a mental health emergency, the facility staff shall first ensure the safety of the youth. The youth shall be determined to be medically stable prior to proceeding with mental health issues.
2. An incident may be considered an emergency when the youth demonstrates danger to self or others, has evidence of an injury, or is agitated to the point of not having self-control. Staff shall monitor the youth in order to maintain safety as the notification process proceeds.
3. In youth development centers and detention centers with a Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP), the QMHP shall assess the situation, either by phone or after a visit to the facility, and determine a course of action. The QMHP may elect to notify the psychiatrist or Regional Psychologist for consultation in determining the course of action. The QMHP shall inform the Superintendent of the planned interventions.

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4. In detention centers and group homes without a QMHP, the Superintendent or designee shall assess the situation and consult with the Regional Psychologist or contract mental health provider in determining a course of action.
- B. Each program shall prepare a plan to provide emergency mental health care by outlining the necessary actions to be taken by staff in the following situations:
1. Emergency transportation;
  2. Use of one or more designated hospital emergency department(s) or appropriate mental health facilities;
  3. Emergency on-call medical and mental health services;
  4. On-site emergency first aid and crisis intervention;
  5. Security procedures that provide for the emergency transfer of youth when appropriate; and
  6. Procedures for notification of a transfer to the court the next business day.
- C. In the event of a behavioral health emergency the QMHP, Superintendent, or Chief of Mental Health Services shall contact the parent or caregiver to advise them of the situation of the respective youth.

**V. MONITORING MECHANISM**

Monitoring shall be accomplished by the Chief of Mental Health Services or designee(s), the Quality Assurance Branch, and the Division of Program Services.