



Guidelines for OCR Contract Attorneys re: Youth in Detention/Facilities during COVID-19 Pandemic

The OCR is committed to supporting our contract attorneys and the youth whose best interests you represent during this difficult time and have compiled some guidelines and considerations for practitioners as follows:

- The OCR has concerns about youth in detention facilities that are not allowing visits/attorney contact. There are current concerns about conditions and protocols regarding this youth that may be exacerbated by current events. Please advocate for these visits even if they need to occur behind glass, via phone, or via video.
 - Things to address with the youth:
 - Double check hygiene protocols – able to wash hands frequently? Use hand sanitizer? Unrestricted access to soap and sanitizer?
 - Are they able to keep 6 feet from other youth/staff?
 - Inquire about any concerning symptoms and what medical care is being given
 - Do they know anyone who has had COVID-19? (determine their exposure if possible and ensure the appropriate people know)
 - Have they been quarantined or isolated? Why? What does that look like?
 - Have the same number of staff?
 - Routine changed?
 - Getting outside time?
 - Getting education time?
 - Getting treatment/medication as needed?
 - Having contact with family/professionals?
 - Things to address with the facility:
 - Mandatory COVID-19 precautions being followed/allowed for both staff and youth? (e.g. frequent handwashing, use of hand sanitizer, protective equipment, etc.) Are the youth allowed unrestricted access to soap and sanitizer?
 - What is the plan to observe social distancing within the facility?
 - Are they doing medical screening in the facility? COVID-19 testing in the facility?
 - Have they had any positive tests for COVID-19 for either staff or residents? Or any exposure that they know of?
 - What is the quarantine/treatment protocol?
 - Is this being followed for every youth that exhibits symptoms or only those with a positive test?
 - Is this being done if the youth has had contact with someone who is COVID-19 positive?
 - If a youth is quarantined, what does that look like at this facility?

- How/when is a youth taken to urgent care?
 - Other medical protocols?
 - What is the emergency plan for the facility?
 - Have staff to youth ratios been changed?
 - What contact is allowed and how?
- Similarly, for children/youth in residential facilities you should consider the questions above for the youth/child and facility. In addition:
 - Ensure staffings occur, even if via phone or video chat
 - Ensure the child/youth continues to get necessary therapy
 - Explore how family therapy is being accommodated and ensure contact can occur in an appropriate way