



OREGON YOUTH AUTHORITY

Policy Statement

Part III – Youth Services (Community)



Subject:

Field Office Safety and Security Standards

Section – Policy Number:

A: General Administration – 6.0

Supersedes:

III-A-6.0 (10/23)

III-A-6.0 (06/21)

III-A-6.0 (07/17)

III-A-6.0 (10/08)

Effective Date:

01/29/2026

Date of Last

Review/Revision:

None

Related Standards and References:

- Local Emergency Action Plan
- [Continuity of Operations Planning \(COOP\)](#)
- [OYA policy](#): I-C-7.0 (Safety and Health Program)
 - I-C-7.3 (Hazard Communications Program)
 - I-C-8.1 (Bloodborne Pathogens)
 - I-C-8.3 (Infection Control)
 - I-D-1.5 (Workers' Compensation)
 - I-D-6.0 (OYA Customer Service)
 - I-E-1.0 (Director's Incident Notification and Report)
 - I-E-2.2 (Youth Facility Case File and Medical File Protection and Transfer)
 - II-E-9.0 (Youth Personal Property in OYA Facilities)
 - III-A-4.0 (Searches of Youth and Areas; Processing of Contraband or Evidence in Community Placements)
 - III-A-9.0 (Youth Personal Property in the Community)
 - III-D-3.0 (Medication Management in Substitute Care)

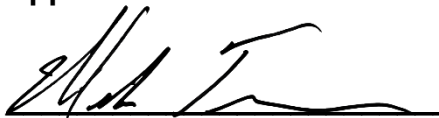
Related Procedures:

- [Community Services Procedures](#):
 - Medication Management
 - State-issued Equipment
 - Central Filing & Maintenance of Paper Case Files
 - Key Control; Lockbox Security
- [Local field office protocols](#)

Policy Owner:

Community Services Assistant
Director

Approved:


Mike Tessean, Director

I. PURPOSE:

This policy identifies general standards for OYA field offices on the use of security, safety, and communication systems to promote a safe and secure work environment.

II. POLICY DEFINITIONS: None

III. POLICY:

OYA is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for youth and staff. Appropriate physical security is designed to safeguard youth and staff, prevent unauthorized access to equipment, offices, and information, and to protect against sabotage, damage, and theft.

OYA has identified diversity, equity and inclusion as an agency priority and initiative, with a goal to build a respectful, diverse, equitable and inclusive environment for youth and staff that is free from harassment, discrimination, and bias. Data shows youth of color and LGBTQ+ youth are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice system. While OYA is only one part of that system, it plays a critical role in addressing the historical and systemic inequities it perpetuates. Staff must strive to maintain field office safety standards while also providing a welcoming environment for all youth and families.

Each field office is unique due to varying building styles and parking structures/areas. However, general guidelines in the following areas assist in the development of a customized safety and security plan for each field office:

- Field office entrance and exit;
- Parking areas;
- Storage of youth personal property and contraband items;
- Security and communication equipment;
- Internal control system;
- Health;
- Emergency plans; and
- Communication system.

When an OYA field office is located in another agency's building, an agreement may be used to address office security and safety.

IV. GENERAL STANDARDS:

A. Field office entry and exit

Most buildings have regular entrances and exits, emergency exits, and special entrances for delivery of mail and freight. Some are linked to other buildings by pedestrian ramps. All of these entrances and exits form the first line of security known as "perimeter defenses." OYA staff can strengthen the perimeter defenses by taking a number of precautions.

1. All OYA staff entering a secure office area must wear an OYA identification badge.
2. Staff must identify youth, visitors, and service delivery personnel prior to allowing entrances.
3. Staff must only use authorized entrances and exits.

Emergency exits must be identified and used only

during emergencies.

4. Public entrances or reception areas must be monitored. Such entrances must be locked when not monitored.
5. When controlled by OYA, office entry keypad codes must be changed upon staff turnover, breach of security, or the field supervisor's discretion.

B. Appropriate lighting will be installed in all entrances.

1. Suspicious matters must be reported to security or local law enforcement when parking in a garage or at a designated parking lot. Examples of such matters include:
 - a) A person trying to gain entry to parked cars;
 - b) Someone carrying suspicious packages into the parking area; or
 - c) A person appearing to seek unauthorized entry into the parking area or office building.
2. Parking areas must be well-lit for staff and visitor safety.

C. Storage of youth personal property and contraband items

1. Field office staff must log and store all contraband seized from youth into a secure locked location, or in the locked trunk of a state vehicle until transferred. This includes, but is not limited to, knives, shanks, clubs, tobacco products, and drug paraphernalia.
 - a) Contraband must be removed from vehicle trunks and placed in a secure location as soon as practicable.
 - b) Staff must follow guidelines established in OYA policy III-A-4.0 Searches of Youth and Areas; Processing of Contraband or Evidence in Community Placements regarding collection, storage, destruction, and handling of contraband and potential evidence.
 - c) Vehicles must be searched for contraband before and after youth transports.
2. Staff must follow guidelines established in OYA policy III-A-9.0 Youth Personal Property in the Community regarding disposition of personal property.

Youth personal property maintained in the field office will be approved, regulated, and monitored through local field procedures.

D. Security and communication equipment

Security and communication equipment must be securely stored and accounted for. Such equipment may include, but not be limited to, restraints, handcuff keys, cell phones/mobile communication devices, and laptops.

1. Each field office must maintain a master inventory of all security and communication equipment. The master inventory will be verified on a regular basis. Staff authorized to carry security equipment must be trained to do so.
2. Staff must carry mobile communication devices that have working cameras for documentation of possible evidence, accidents, and youth identification photographs.

E. Internal controls in the field office

1. Staff must appropriately use door-locking systems to maintain security.
2. Staff must control access to field office and state vehicle keys and access cards.
 - a) At no time may youth use or have in their possession staff-issued keys or access cards.
 - b) Keys and access cards must be stored in a manner that would make any loss or removal immediately apparent.
 - c) Keys must be inventoried on a regular basis.
 - d) Staff must immediately notify their supervisor if a key or access card is lost. Loss of a key or access card may result in changing the corresponding locks.
3. Staff must control intercom and telephone use.

F. Health

1. Staff must provide secure storage, handling and accountability of youth medications and medical supplies waiting for transport.
2. Disposal of youth medications must follow procedures set forth in the OYA general field procedure Medication Management.
3. First aid and bloodborne pathogen kits must be properly stocked and easily accessible.
4. Clearly labeled hazardous (including bio-hazardous) material storage containers must be available in designated storage areas.

- a) Bloodborne pathogen kits, bags and proper cleaning material must be available to clean blood or other bodily fluids.
 - b) Clean-up gloves and refuse bags must be available for handling contaminated clothing.
- 5. If exposed to bio-hazardous material or potential bloodborne pathogens, staff must follow guidelines delineated in OYA policy I-C-8.1 (Bloodborne Pathogens).
- 6. Staff must follow guidelines delineated in OYA policy I-C-7.3 Hazard Communications Program when storing, disposing, and handling hazardous chemicals. Hazardous chemicals are used according to Safety Data Sheets (SDS).
 - a) SDS must be available for all chemicals in the office.
 - b) Onsite chemicals must be properly labeled and stored.
- 7. Each office must follow the local safety committee process as delineated in OYA policy I-C-7.0 Safety and Health Program.

G. Emergency Action Plans

Each field supervisor must ensure safety of their offices by maintaining a coordinated emergency response with appropriate local community agencies.

- 1. Emergency contact telephone numbers must be posted and available for easy staff access. During an emergency, the response agency must be contacted immediately.
- 2. Fire evacuation routes must be clearly posted near exits.
- 3. Fire evacuation and earthquake exercises must be routinely held and documented.
- 4. Emergency equipment (fire extinguishers and defibrillators)
 - a) Emergency equipment must be tested according to the guidelines set forth by the manufacturer to maintain sound working order.
 - b) Fire extinguishers must be visually inspected on a monthly basis. This inspection will be noted on the extinguisher's tag.
 - c) Emergency equipment must be readily accessible during an emergency.

5. Staff must follow OYA general field procedure Critical Incident Reporting and OYA policy I-E-1.0 Director's Incident Notification and Report when appropriate.

H. Communication system

Each field office must maintain a communication system to ensure pertinent information is passed between all levels of staff throughout the workday.

1. Staff must use sign-out boards or a similar tracking method to indicate their presence or absence in the office. If absent, a notation of their whereabouts must be indicated.
2. Staff must use a daily electronic calendar (e.g., Outlook) to indicate their schedule and whereabouts. Calendar entries must be kept current to ensure coworkers and supervisors are aware of staff availability and location. Staff are encouraged to make their calendar viewable to all agency employees to support timely scheduling.
3. Staff cell phone numbers must be easily accessible.
4. Staff must acknowledge receipt of voicemail, text messages, web messaging (e.g., Teams) and email within one business day, in accordance with statewide and OYA policy I-D-6.0 OYA Customer Service.

Staff unable to reply to voicemail and email within one business day must update their voicemail greeting and email autoreply with details about when they will return, and an alternate contact who can provide assistance.

5. Staff emergency contact telephone numbers must be current and confidentially maintained.
6. Field office staff meetings must be held on a regular basis and documented.
7. A central filing system for youth information must be available and accessible to all staff.

Youth case files must be maintained and transferred in accordance with OYA policy I-E-2.2 Facility Youth Case File and Medical File Protection and Transfer.

I. Field office safety and security peer reviews and quarterly inspections

1. Each field office safety committee member must conduct a quarterly safety inspection at all offices in their unit.

2. Once every two years, each field office must also complete a peer review safety inspection, conducted jointly by the assigned safety committee member and a peer reviewer from another office.
3. All inspections must be documented on the OYA Hazard Identification Inspection – Field form and submitted to the safety committee coordinator.
4. The safety committee coordinator must post all completed inspection forms on OYANet.

V. GENERAL FIELD OPERATING PROCEDURE REQUIRED: YES

The OYA general field procedure provides specific guidelines for the following topic areas:

- A. Key and access card control;
- B. Security and communication equipment storage and tracking;
- C. Youth personal property - long-term and short-term storage;
- D. Youth personal property - inspection and accounting;
- E. Central filing system; and
- F. Field office safety and security peer reviews.

VI. LOCAL OPERATING PROTOCOL REQUIRED: YES

Local field offices must maintain an operating protocol which provides a process for the following topic areas:

- A. Staff communication throughout the workday and after hours;
- B. Local emergency response agencies contact list or protocol;
- C. Youth property - long-term and short-term storage;
- D. Youth property - inspection and accounting;
- E. Key and access card control; and
- F. Accident reporting.