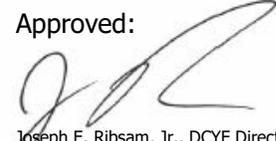


2068 ESCAPE AND ABSCOND	
Chapter: Sununu Youth Services Center	Section: Safety and Security
 <p>New Hampshire Division for Children, Youth and Families Policy Manual Policy Directive: 19-16 Effective Date: April 2019 Scheduled Review Date:</p>	<p>Approved:</p>  Joseph E. Ribsam, Jr., DCYF Director
Related Statute(s): RSA 621 , RSA 621-A , and RSA 642:6 Related Admin Rule(s): Related Federal Regulation(s):	Related Form(s): FORM 2032, and FORM 2086 Bridges' Screen(s) and Attachment(s):

Everyone deserves to be safe. Sununu Youth Services Center (SYSC) shall plan to avoid opportunities for youth escape/abscond as part of the facilities overall approach to ensuring youth and community safety. In the rare circumstances a youth escapes/absconds, SYSC shall respond promptly and in cooperation with all resources available. The safety of the youth escapee/absconder, staff, and community is the primary goal of SYSC's response.

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish the SYSC response to escapees and/or absconders.

Definitions

"Abscond" means when a juvenile probationer or parolee hides, conceals, or absents their self with the intent to avoid legal process or authorized control.

"Authorized Release Plan" means a youth on an approved furlough, off grounds school or work program, campus trust activity, community appointment, practice pass, or staff accompanied community trips.

"DCYF" or the **"Division"** means the Department of Health and Human Services' Division for Children, Youth and Families.

"Escape" means the unlawful departure of a lawfully confined person from official custody. A person is guilty of a felony offense if they escape from the official custody of an arresting officer, a penal institution, "an institution for confinement of juvenile offenders" or other confinement pursuant to an order of a court [see: RSA 642:6].

"SYSC" or the **"John H. Sununu Youth Services Center"** means the architecturally secure juvenile treatment facility administered by the Division for Children, Youth and Families for committed juveniles and detained youth, and for NH youth involved with the NH court system prior to their adjudication.

Policy – Youth Escape

- I. SYSC staff shall notify the Supervisor On-Duty immediately upon learning a committed or detained youth has escaped from SYSC or while on an authorized release plan.
 - A. The Supervisor On-Duty or designee shall:

1. Notify Central Control;
 2. Notify the New Hampshire State Police;
 3. Notify the youth's parent/guardian and assigned JPPO.
- B. The notifications shall include the youth's information from the YouthCenter General Profile Addendum – Face Sheet (form 2032) along with following:
1. Clothing description;
 2. Location and circumstances of last verified sighting;
 3. Direction of travel;
 4. Identification of staff making the report; and
 5. Any additional information that might be helpful in the apprehension of the youth(s).
- C. If staff are in pursuit, the staff's identifying information shall be included in the notifications as follows:
1. The name of the staff;
 2. The title of the staff;
 3. General description of the staff's physical characteristics;
 4. What the staff is wearing; and
 5. Any additional information that might be helpful in the identifying the staff.
- II. The Supervisor On-Duty shall take command of any escape response according to the following:
- A. Remain in the SYSC and coordinate the mobilization and deployment of staff through Central Control;
 - B. Ensure all other youth and staff are safe and secure;
 - C. Determine if there are any facility security breaches;
 - D. Ensure the notification of law enforcement agencies and community groups;
 - E. Ensure the SYSC Administration is notified; and
 - F. Coordinate the return of employees to their assigned duties and the processing of any apprehended youth escapees.
- III. SYSC staff who reported the escape shall ensure that all other youth in their charge are safe and secure.
- IV. SYSC staff may begin pursuing a youth escapee on foot if the youth is on the SYSC campus.

- A. Staff may pursue only if they have appropriate identification, radio, and handcuffs.
- B. If a youth leaves the SYSC campus, staff shall discontinue the foot pursuit immediately.
- C. No staff shall pursue a youth escapee in any vehicle (State or private vehicle).
- D. SYSC staff who are in pursuit of a youth escapee shall use approved behavior management techniques in the apprehension of any youth and ONLY the amount of force necessary to apprehend the youth according to training and techniques approved by the training unit. Applicable policies include, but are not limited to:
 - 1. 2078 Mechanical Restraints;
 - 2. 2080 De-Escalation and Interventions;
 - 3. 2082 Seclusion;
 - 4. 2083 Restraint;
 - 5. 2090 Basic Rights of Committed and Detained Youth; and
 - 6. 2162 Behavior Management for Committed and Detained Youth.
- V. If a youth escapee is apprehended, SYSC staff shall notify Central Control as soon as possible.
 - A. Central Control shall notify the SYSC Medical Department and Supervisor On-Duty or designee.
 - B. The Supervisor On-Duty or designee shall notify the NH State Police.
- VI. SYSC staff shall coordinate the use of the safest and most appropriate method of transport in order to return the youth back to SYSC Admissions, including, but not limited to:
 - A. Local or state police;
 - B. Secure state vehicle; or
 - C. Approved escort.

Policy – Youth Absconder - After Hours Report

- I. After hours reports of youth absconding from probation or parole shall be reported to SYSC Central Control.
 - A. This shall include youth placed in a court-ordered, community-based residential setting (Relative Home, Foster Home, or a Residential Treatment Program) while either on probation or parole.
- II. Central Control shall notify the Supervisor On-Duty or designee.

- III. The Supervisor On-Duty, or designee, shall report the contact information for the reporter and the absconding episode to the active Juvenile Probation and Parole Supervisor/Field Administrator On-Call listed on the quarterly Juvenile Justice Helpline schedule.

Contact information from the Juvenile Justice Helpline shall not be disclosed to any party outside of DCYF.

Practice Guidance

I am an off-duty SYSC employee and I see a youth who I know has escaped or absconded from SYSC, what should I do?

- An off-duty employee shall notify Central Control with any information about a youth escapee and shall not pursue or attempt to apprehend.

The policy speaks to after-hours episodes of absconding, why isn't there anything about absconding episodes during business hours?

- Responding to episodes of absconding during business hours is the responsibility of the community program and Juvenile Justice Services' field staff to which the youth is assigned.