

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES DIVISION OF YOUTH SERVICES JUVENILE INSTITUTIONS	
Subject: Safety Delay	Policy Number: 13
Number of Pages: 5	Section: VII
Attachments	Related Standards & References
Safety Delay Protective Separation Form	
Effective Date: 9/1/17, Updated 11/1/2017	Approved: DocuSigned by: <i>James Maccarone</i> 2C316EF5186B4A2...

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Mississippi Department of Human Services, Division of Youth Services, that Safety Delay shall only be implemented in response to behavior of youth that threatens the safety of self and/or others, and when it is the safest course of action after implementation of other preventative safety measures have proven ineffective at preventing threat of harm. Once safety of all youth is established, safety delay is to cease. Safety Delay is not to be utilized as punishment or for the convenience of the facility.

II. DEFINITIONS

As used in this policy and procedure, the following definitions apply:

Safety Delay: A preventative procedure that limits interaction of specified youth for a period of time in response to behavior that threatens the safety of self and/or others.

Non-Restrictive Separation: Temporarily moving youth to another appropriate location on campus where they are still able to access services.

Protective Transfer: Transferring youth in separate groups when attending services and/or activities on campus to eliminate direct contact of youth whom are threatened with and/or threaten to engage in harm to other youth.

Protective Separation: Temporary Placement of a non-aggressive youth in a room in which the door is closed and locked during the hours of non-sleep to ensure the safety of youth and protection from harm.

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III. PROCEDURE

- A. Youth or group of youth may be placed on Safety Delay when circumstances warrant separating specified youth from one another due to threat of safety. Once safety of youth is established, Safety Delay is to be immediately terminated and youth are to resume scheduled activity. If safety of youth cannot be achieved, staff should follow the appropriate facility procedures. If any of the youth involved are an imminent danger to themselves, said youth should be placed on Safety Alert (see Policy XIII.12 Suicide Prevention).
1. Safety Delay is meant to serve only as a preventative safety measure to protect youth from threat of immanent harm. Utilization of Protective Separation when on Safety Delay is not to exceed one hour.
 2. When warranted, a Juvenile Care Worker (JCW) may place youth on Safety Delay. JCW must immediately notify the JCW Supervisor. The following information must be entered into the Unit Log Book:
 - a. Name of the youth placed on Safety Delay
 - b. Date/Time of the initial Safety Delay
 - c. Name of the staff implementing Safety Delay
 - d. Specific description of the behavior(s) necessitating Safety Delay and preventative measures taken prior to implementing Safety Delay.
 2. The JCW Supervisor shall be notified whenever youth are placed on Safety Delay and Protective Separation is being utilized. The JCW Supervisor must discuss the circumstances warranting Protective Separation with the youth and staff to determine whether Protective Separation is necessary. If approved, the Supervisor must sign the Safety Delay: Protective Separation Form and the JCW will add the name of the JCW Supervisor to the entry in the Unit Log Book. If the JCW Supervisor does not believe that Protective Separation is warranted, Protective Separation is to be terminated and youth must be released from the room(s) and the name of the JCW Supervisor releasing the youth will be documented in the Unit Log Book and on the Safety Delay: Protective Separation Form.
 3. The Unit Log Book must reflect review and approval from the JCW Supervisor every 10 minutes during implementation of Safety Delay: Protective Separation.
 4. Routine observations shall be conducted to ensure the safety of youth placed on Safety Delay: Protective Separation. Staff are to communicate with each youth on Safety Delay every 10 minutes to reassure youth that staff are working to make sure the environment is safe for the youth.

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5. If safety of youth on Safety Delay: Protective Separation cannot be established within the time frame permitted (one hour), an Incident Report shall be completed. (See Policy VII.2: Incident Reporting). At this time, JCW(s) and JCW Supervisor must follow approved facility security and controls (See Policy VII.1- Use of Force and VII.10-Behavior Management Isolation).
 6. Use of force shall be a last resort and only the minimum force necessary shall be used to implement Safety Delay procedures (See Policy VII.1- Use of Force). If Use of Force is utilized, facility staff must defer Safety Delay to BMI for the specified youth (See Policy VII.10- Behavior Management Isolation).
 7. Protective Transfer should be utilized to transfer youth on campus while youth is/are on Safety Delay.
- B. Every effort shall be made to avoid the placement of youth in Protective Separation when on Safety Delay. Preventive actions shall be documented in the Unit Log Book. Prior to using Protective Separation when on Safety Delay, staff shall first utilize less restrictive techniques:
1. Verbal Intervention -including talking with youth to de-escalate the situation.
 2. Non-restrictive separation of youth- Temporarily moving youth to another appropriate location on campus where they are still able to access services and activities
 3. Protective Transfer-Transferring youth in separate groups when attending services and/or activities on campus to eliminate direct contact of youth whom are threatened with and/or threaten to engage in harm to other youth
- C. The following services are continued, when applicable, while the youth are placed on Safety Delay: regular meals, access to water, hygiene items, clothing, sleep, health and mental health care services, school, recreation services, correspondence, and phone calls/visitation with parents/guardian.
- D. Staff shall ensure that all rooms are properly ventilated, free from objects that may cause harm, and are at an appropriate temperature.
- E. Safety Delay may take place on any housing unit in the facility. However, the use of such placement must be appropriate and consistent with the protocol outlined in this policy. All instances of Safety Delay shall be properly documented in the Unit Log Book and, when necessary, on the Safety Delay: Protective Separation Form. This information is to be maintained on each housing unit.
1. Upon review of the situation, the JCW Supervisors must ensure that the youth know why Safety Delay is being implemented and should be sure to communicate to the youth that Safety Delay will be terminated once the safety of all youth has been established.

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2. Documentation in the Unit Log Book, and, when necessary, on the Safety Delay: Protective Separation Form, should include the reason the youth is/are placed on Safety Delay, preventative measures taken prior to implementation of Safety Delay, the date and time the youth is/are placed on Safety Delay, and the date and time Safety Delay is terminated.
 3. Once the safety of all youth has been established, Safety Delay is to be terminated.
- F. If any youth on Safety Delay is/are exhibiting unusual behavior and/or becomes unresponsive to questions or directions, the JCW shall inform the JCW Supervisor who shall notify the on-call QMHP for emergency evaluation and/or suicide prevention as indicated.

Documentation:

1. The following information shall be documented and highlighted in the Unit

Logbook:

- a. Name of youth on Safety Delay
 - b. Date/Time of the start of Safety Delay
 - c. Name of the staff placing the youth on Safety Delay
 - d. Specific description of the behavior(s)/circumstances necessitating Safety Delay
 - e. Preventative measures taken prior to implementation of Safety Delay
 - f. Name of the JCW Supervisor approving the placement of youth on Safety Delay
 - g. Date/Time of termination of Safety Delay
 - h. Name of the JCW Supervisor approving termination of Safety Delay
2. The following information shall be documented in the Safety Delay: Protective Separation Form
 - a. Name of youth on Safety Delay: Protective Separation
 - b. Date/Time of the start of Safety Delay: Protective Separation
 - c. Name of the staff placing the youth on Safety Delay: Protective Separation

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- d. Specific description of the behavior(s)/circumstances necessitating Safety Delay: Protective Separation
- e. Preventative measures taken prior to implementation of Safety Delay: Protective Separation
- i. Name of the JCW Supervisor approving/disapproving the placement of youth on Safety Delay: Protective Separation
- j. Date/Time of termination of Safety Delay: Protective Separation
- k. Name of the JCW Supervisor approving termination of Safety Delay: Protective Separation.