

**OKLAHOMA COUNTY JUVENILE BUREAU
POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL**

CHAPTER SEVEN - COURT SERVICES – PROGRAMS, PLACEMENTS, AND TRANSFERS

POLICY 7.4-2: RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY PLACEMENTS AND EMERGENCY PLACEMENTS

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I. POLICY:

The Oklahoma County Juvenile Bureau (OCJB) does not have the authority to make residential community placements or emergency placements without the order of the court **(2-7102) (2-7103)**. However, officers of the OCJB will provide referrals and recommendations to youth, their parent/legal guardian/custodian, and the court in order to ensure adequate treatment of persons alleged to be in need of residential community placement or emergency placement and to meet the individual needs of the youth and families it serves **(2-7101) (2-7106)**.

II. DEFINITIONS:

- A. **Emergency Placement:** These centers assist young people who are in need of crisis intervention and stabilization for trauma, emotional, behavioral, or substance abuse issues. The services are provided in a secure residential setting for up to five (5) days, if needed.
- B. **Residential Community Placement:** Hospital setting that offers a safe, structured environment for children and young people who meet the legal admission criteria. Oklahoma does not have "long-term" residential care. However, these treatment centers provide a longer period of residential care than emergency placements.

III. PROCEDURE:

- A. A youth is in need of residential community placement or emergency placement if he/she is a danger to him/herself, a danger to others, or in imminent danger of becoming a threat to the safety of him/herself or others due to a mental health or substance abuse issue.
- B. Responsibilities of the OCJB in the Placement of Youth in Residential Community Placements and Emergency Placements:
 - 1. The OCJB maintains a list of available residential community placements and emergency placements for youth that have

been approved by the Department of Human Services (DHS) and/or the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (ODMHSAS) **(2-7106)**.

2. Officers shall take steps to locate available placements when the youth they serve are in need.

a. When an officer of the court becomes aware that a youth is in need of residential community placement or emergency placement, and the parent/legal guardian/custodian of the youth is willing to place his/her child voluntarily, the officer shall:

i. Inform the parent/legal guardian/custodian of the presenting issue(s) and request the input and assistance of the youth and the parent/legal guardian/custodian in securing appropriate placement;

ii. Provide the parent/legal guardian/custodian with appropriate referrals for residential community placement or emergency placement;

iii. Assist the parent/legal guardian/custodian in locating facilities with open beds and scheduling screening/intake appointment(s); and

iv. Inform the parent/legal guardian/custodian that he/she is responsible for transporting the youth to the intake appointment and must attend the appointment.

(a) In the event that the youth is detained in the Oklahoma County Juvenile Detention Center, detention staff will transport the youth to the intake appointment. The parent/legal guardian/custodian must meet the youth there and attend the intake appointment.

b. In the event that the parent/legal guardian/custodian is not willing to participate in or facilitate the process of placing a youth who is in need of residential community placement or emergency placement, the officer shall:

i. Verify that the parent/legal guardian/custodian is unwilling to fulfil their role in the placement process;

- (a) Recommendations to the court to consider the removal the youth from his/her home shall be submitted only after all efforts to allow the parent/legal guardian/custodian to fulfill his/her role have failed.
 - ii. Request an accelerated court date, if necessary;
 - iii. Make a recommendation of either residential community placement or emergency placement to the court; and
 - iv. Facilitate the orders of the court.
- C. Responsibilities of the OCJB when a Youth is placed in a Residential Community Placement or Emergency Placement **(2-7107)**:
 - 1. Officers shall have a minimum of one (1) person-to-person contact with a youth in placement each month, unless:
 - a. The youth is under interstate compact supervision; or
 - b. The placement facility is more than five hundred (500) miles, round trip, from the base station.
 - i. In this situation, the Officer shall have person-to-person contact with the youth at least one (1) time bi-monthly and telephone contact with the youth, as well as the placement authority, at least two (2) times per month in the month(s) that the youth is not visited.
 - 2. Officers shall have ongoing communication with the parent/legal guardian/custodian of the youth while the youth is in a residential community placement or emergency placement and shall provide counsel in preparation for the youth's return to the home.

Approved:


Jim Overstreet, Chief of Court Services

11/5/15
Date