

Release, Transfers, and Continued Care

705.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy provides guidelines so the Department may appropriately address the health issues of youths who are being released or transferred to another facility (15 CCR 1432; 15 CCR 1437).

705.2 POLICY

The Department will assist youths in meeting their health care needs following release or transfer to another facility, as provided in this policy.

705.3 TRANSFERS

Health care information that should be transferred with a youth to a receiving facility includes, as applicable (15 CCR 1408; 15 CCR 1432):

- (a) Summaries or copies of health care records, including:
 1. Any current or recommended treatment plans.
 2. Current medications.
 3. Any known or suspected communicable diseases.
 4. Information regarding any health care issues that may affect the youth's security or ability to participate in programs.
- (b) Necessary medication and health care information shall be provided to the transporting staff, together with the precautions necessary to protect staff and youth passengers from disease transmission during transport.
- (c) Other instructions regarding the continued care of the youth, as deemed appropriate by the youth's qualified health care professionals.
- (d) Documentation that no health care record exists at the facility, when applicable.
- (e) Written health care clearance for youths transferred within the facility detention system.

The Contracted Medical Services Provider, in cooperation with the Chief Probation Officer or their assigned designee, shall develop procedures to assure that a health assessment:

- (a) Is received from the sending facility prior or at the time of transfer;
- (b) Is reviewed by designated health care staff at the receiving facility; and, that any missing but required assessments are scheduled within 96 hours.

Confidentiality of health records is to be maintained. Written authorization by the youth and/or the youth's parent/guardian is generally required for transfer of health care records outside the Department (15 CCR 1408). If authorization cannot reasonably be obtained, the Watch Commander, after consultation with a qualified health care professional, may transfer health care information necessary for (45 CFR 164.512(k)(5)):

- The provision of health care to the youth.

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- The health and safety of others, including other youths and transporting and law enforcement personnel (e.g., active tuberculosis).
- The administration and maintenance of the safety, security, and good order of the receiving facility.

705.3.1 TRANSFER OF NON-CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

San Diego County Probation Department facilities have medical clinics which are staffed 24 hours a day. Should circumstances develop such that the facility does not have on-site health care staff, the Division Chief shall ensure policy and procedures are developed that address forwarding non-confidential information on medications and other treatment orders prior to or at the time of transfer (15 CCR 1408).

705.3.2 TRANSFERS TO TREATMENT FACILITIES

In circumstances when psychiatric needs exceed the treatment capability of the facility, the Division Chief in coordination with the Contracted Medical Service Provider and their Medical Director shall ensure provisions exist for the timely referral and transportation of the youth to a licensed mental health facility (15 CCR 1437; 15 CCR 1437.5).

705.4 RELEASES

Information on upcoming medical or mental health appointments, including the name, address, and phone number of the provider, should be provided to the youth's parent/guardian.

- (a) Communicate the importance of continuing any current medication and, when reasonably practicable, arrange for a sufficient supply of current medication to be provided to the youth's parent/guardian until the youth can be seen by a health care provider after release (15 CCR 1408).
- (b) Provide the youth with appropriate community referrals, such as health care clinics or other community health professionals.

Upon request, health care information should be transferred to physicians or receiving health care facilities in the community with appropriate written authorization as set forth in 15 CCR 1408.5.

705.5 REFERENCE

For further guidance, see Institutional Services Procedure Manual section titled: **Release Transfers and Continued Care**