

Youth Justice Policy Determination 2.6: Escorts and Transfers

1. Policy Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this policy is to provide guidelines for escorting young people outside a detention centre and for transferring young people between youth detention centres or interstate.

2. Authority / Responsibility

- 2.1. The authority for this Policy Determination is contained within Regulation 30 of the [Youth Justice Regulations](#).
- 2.2. The authority for the transfer of a young person to another detention centre is contained within section 168A of the [Youth Justice Act](#).
- 2.3. This Policy Determination applies to all staff of a detention centre and all delegates of the Superintendent's powers under section 168A of the [Youth Justice Act](#).
- 2.4. The Superintendent is responsible for management of this Policy Determination.

3. Policy Statement

- 3.1. The escort of a young person from a youth detention centre may be necessary for the health, wellbeing, safety or secure custody of the young person, or other young people, and may involve a transfer to another detention centre.
- 3.2. In all instances, the young person must be escorted in a manner which ensures the safety of the young person, Escorting Officers and the community in general. At all times, Escorting Officers must maintain the dignity and respect of the young person.

4. Transfer between Detention Centres

- 4.1. Transfers between detention centres are permitted by section 168A of the [Youth Justice Act](#). Transfers occur regularly due to operational requirements, such as overcrowding or concerns for safety and security of the young person or others, to allow a young person to be closer to family and other supports, and to move young people in the event of any emergency.
- 4.2. Unless the Superintendent believes there is a risk to safety or security requiring urgent transfer or in the event of any emergency, where possible, young people in detention should not be transferred without attempting consultation with the young person and adults involved in the young person's welfare, such as their:
 - (1). Legal representative;
 - (2). Parent or legal guardian, if this person/s is available;
 - (3). Youth Justice Case Worker;
 - (4). Care and Protection Case Manager.
- 4.3. An attempt at consultation includes circumstances where reasonable attempts have been made to contact the young person's parent or legal guardian but without success.
- 4.4. This consultation must take place in a fair and transparent manner.

5. Escorting Officers

- 5.1. All staff escorting young people must be trained in escort procedures, use of approved restraints and the use of force. Refer to [Youth Justice Policy Determination 2.4: Use of Approved Restraints](#) and [Youth Justice Policy Determination 2.5: Use of Force](#).
- 5.2. The Team Leader or shift manager will designate a person to be 'in charge' of escorting a young person. If there are two people assigned to the escort, the person with seniority will assume the role of Escorting Officer in Charge.
- 5.3. If the Escorting Officer in Charge has concerns regarding the security arrangements for an escort, they must communicate these concerns to the Team Leader or Shift Manager prior to commencing the escort.
- 5.4. The Team Leader or Shift Manager may determine that it is more appropriate for an escort to be conducted by escorting officers in civilian clothing. Where this is approved, Escorting Officers must dress in neat and tidy civilian clothing.
- 5.5. Escorting officers must carry their Territory Families identification card at all times.

6. Security arrangements for escort

- 6.1. The Team Leader or shift manager is responsible for ensuring that a young person who is being escorted outside of a youth detention centre is supervised in accordance with the risk associated with the escort.
- 6.2. Young people must be provided with the opportunity to change into clothing of their choice prior to any escort.
- 6.3. Escorting Officers must ensure that the relevant paperwork is prepared and authorised before commencing the escort.

7. High or extreme risk escorts

- 7.1. If an escort is deemed to be a high or extreme security risk escort, the Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent must ensure that appropriate security arrangements are in place prior to the escort commencement. The Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent may conduct a briefing with all people involved in the escort.
- 7.2. Additionally, the Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent must liaise with the Northern Territory Police Duty Superintendent regarding a high or extreme risk escort.

8. Use of Approved Restraints

- 8.1. The use of restraints during an escort must be in compliance with [Youth Justice Policy Determination 2.4: Use of Approved Restraints](#). If the risk assessment does not indicate that restraints are required at the commencement of the escort, an approved restraint should be available during the escort in case the security situation changes.

9. Use of force

- 9.1. At times force may need to be used during an escort. The use of force must be in compliance with [Youth Justice Policy Determination 2.5: Use of Force](#).

10. Searches

- 10.1. When entering a detention centre on admission, or re-admission following a transfer from another centre or a leave of absence, a young person will undergo a screening or pat down search.
- 10.2. All searches must be conducted in compliance with [Youth Justice Policy Determination 2.1: Searches](#).

11. Long distance road escorts

- 11.1. The Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent must consider all other escort options before approving a long distance road escort (meaning anything longer than three hours). Long distance road escorts are to be a last resort only.
- 11.2. The Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent is to determine arrangements on an individual basis for long distance escorts conducted by road, including appropriate security arrangements.
- 11.3. The Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent must ensure that appropriate accommodation and meal arrangements are in place before the commencement of the escort. Drinking water must always be available to the young person and a meal must be provided at least every four (4) hours.
- 11.4. Escorting Officers must ensure that regular breaks are scheduled at appropriate locations to prevent driver fatigue and allow for the use of hygiene facilities. At least one hygiene break must be included where the escort is anticipated to take longer than three (3) hours. Youth Justice Officers must ensure that the young person is appropriately supervised during all breaks.
- 11.5. Prior to a long distance road escort, the young person should be reviewed by the Primary Health Care Provider to ensure that the young person is fit for escort and that any health care needs can be met during the escort.

12. Air escorts

- 12.1. The Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent is to determine, on an individual basis, the arrangements for escorts conducted by aeroplane, including appropriate security arrangements.
- 12.2. Except in an emergency, prior to an air escort, the young person should be reviewed by the Primary Health Care Provider to ensure that the young person is fit for escort and that any health care needs are met during the escort.

13. Transfer by Ambulance

- 13.1. If a young person is required to be transported to hospital by ambulance, the Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent must be notified immediately.
- 13.2. The Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent is responsible for determining the risk of the escort. The Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent may deem it appropriate for the young person to be accompanied by one or two escorting officers in the ambulance, or it may be determined that escorting officers are to follow immediately behind the ambulance and recommence direct supervision once at the hospital.

Hospital Admissions

- 13.3. A young person who is admitted to hospital under escort remains in the custody of the Superintendent. The young person must remain under the supervision of an escorting officer.
- 13.4. After a careful assessment of the environment, consideration of the risk status of the young person and consideration of the sensitivity of the health assessment or treatment, or if requested by a treating health professional, an escorting officer may permit a young person to be examined and/or treated outside of the officer's view.
- 13.5. The Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent must arrange for the person with parental responsibility (and/or family where appropriate) for the young person to be notified of the young person's admission. The Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent may give approval for the young person to receive visits in hospital. The

Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent must inform the Escorting Officer of approved visitors and visiting schedule.

14. Escape or attempted escape during escort

- 14.1. If a young person attempts to escape, or escapes custody during an escort, the Escorting Officer in Charge must notify the Officer in Charge of the youth detention centre immediately and enact the attempted escape or escape procedures. Refer to [Youth Justice Procedure 6.0: Incident Management Plans for Youth Detention Centres in the Northern Territory](#).

15. Escorting girls or young women

- 15.1. Girls and young women should be accompanied by at least one female escorting officer during escorts.

16. Pregnant young women

- 16.1. When planning an escort for a pregnant young woman, the Primary Health Care provider should be consulted regarding what is appropriate for the particular young person, considering the stage of pregnancy and current health of the young person. Escorting officers must give due consideration to the advice provided.
- 16.2. The use of approved restraints on pregnant young women is restricted in accordance with [Youth Justice Policy Determination 2.4: Use of Approved Restraints](#).

17. Interstate Transfers

- 17.1. In accordance with the [Youth Justice Act](#), the Minister for Territory Families and a Minister of a corresponding State or Territory may agree that:
 - (1). A young person may transfer from a youth detention centre in another State or Territory to the Northern Territory; or
 - (2). A young person may transfer from a youth detention centre in the Northern Territory to a youth detention centre in another State or Territory.
- 17.2. The Minister for Territory Families may request that the Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent of a youth detention centre provide a report to assist the Minister in deciding whether or not to order the interstate transfer of a young person to another State or Territory, or to accept a transfer of a young person into the Northern Territory. The Manager Youth Justice Operations—Superintendent is responsible for the drafting of a report to inform the Minister in relation to an interstate transfer, if requested.
- 17.3. Where an interstate transfer is approved, the Minister for Territory Families will make an interstate transfer order for the young person. This order will specify the details of the youth detention centre in the relevant State or Territory and who is responsible for escorting the young person—which may be Northern Territory Police Officer or Territory Families Youth Justice Officer/s.
- 17.4. If a young person is being transferred from another State or Territory to the Northern Territory, the transfer order issued by that State or Territory will provide for the interstate Escorting Officers to escort the young person to the relevant Northern Territory youth detention centre.

18. Information Sharing

- 18.1. If a young person is being escorted to a court, police station or hospital, any concerns, instructions or known information relevant to the wellbeing of the young person are to be communicated to the responsible officer or treating medical professional.

- 18.2. The information may include whether the young person:
- (1). Requires medication;
 - (2). Is considered at risk;
 - (3). Has a history of violent or aggressive behaviour;
 - (4). Has been diagnosed with a serious medical condition or allergies; or
 - (5). Any other relevant information.

Legislative Basis and Related Documents

[Youth Justice Act](#)

[Youth Justice Regulations](#)

[Youth Justice Policy Determination 2.1: Searches](#)

[Youth Justice Policy Determination 2.4: Use of Approved Restraints](#)

[Youth Justice Policy Determination 2.5: Use of Force](#)

Current Version v1.1

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Update:	Legislative amendments commenced 28 March 2019, addition of transfer process (removed from Accommodation Determination), and change of title			
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Previous Versions:

Version	Active from:	Update
Version 1.02	March 2018	Update title and links for Youth Justice Procedure 6.0
Version 1.01	January 2018	Update to position titles and policy determination references.
Version 1.0	January 2018	New Youth Justice Policy Determination approved by Deputy Chief Executive Officer Operations